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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, January 12, 2015

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

DUNMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
1414 Monroe Avenue
Dunmore, Pennsylvania

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

MICHAEL MCHALE, President

PAUL NARDOZZI, Vice President

SAL VERRASTRO

TIMOTHY BURKE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

MICHAEL DEMPSEY

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

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MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings.

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ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

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MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

7

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

8

MR. BURKE: Present.

9

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

10

MR. VERRASTRO: Present.

11

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

12

MR. DEMPSEY: Present.

13

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

14

MR. HALLINAN: Present.

15

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardoizzi.

16

MR. NARDOZZI: Present.

17

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

18

MR. MCHALE: Here.

19

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Prior to number

20

three, I'd like to announce we had an executive

21

session this evening. Also at six personnel

22

matters, there will be the singular issue --

23

there will be the issue of -- the initial issue

24

of appointment of the Borough's representative

25

to the Scranton Sewer Authority. Public

1 comment on agenda items.

2 MR. MCHALE: Is there any comments
3 on agenda items tonight?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number four
7 motion to approve the minutes.

8 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that
9 motion.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second.

11 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
12 second. On the question.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
20 moved.

21 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five, a
22 motion to approve and pay the open bills.

23 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
24 motion.

25 MR. BURKE: Second.

1 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
2 second. On the question.

3 (No response.)

4 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
5 signify by saying aye.

6 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

7 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
10 moved.

11 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six
12 personnel matters. The first being the Borough
13 of Dunmore's appointee to the Scranton Sewer
14 Authority for a five year term.

15 MR. HALLINAN: I'd like to make a
16 motion that we appoint Mike McHale to the Sewer
17 Authority.

18 MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

19 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
20 second. On the question.

21 MR. HALLINAN: On the question, I'd
22 like to just add that the reason I'm voting for
23 Mike McHale for this is I think I see what he's
24 done for the Borough. As you know, the
25 Scranton -- Dunmore/Scranton Sewer Authority is

1 either going to be sold, leased, whatever. I
2 just want to make sure that Mike McHale who
3 understands the numbers knows what's going on
4 down there to keep the Borough residents
5 informed so we can make the, you know, our
6 input be known on the Sewer Authority. So
7 that's why I'm backing Mike McHale for this.

8 MR. VERRASTRO: This is a nonpaying
9 job so everybody knows. He's doing this --
10 it's an additional duty he's going to take on.
11 So thank you, Mike.

12 MR. NARDOZZI: Yeah, it's for a five
13 year term. So I echo what Tommy said as far as
14 what Mike has done here budgetwise financially.
15 The other good part about having Mike McHale
16 on the Sewer Authority is Mike instantly comes
17 back and reports to all Council because he's a
18 member of Council.

19 So it's more of a hands-on for him
20 and for us. And we would be able to know
21 pretty much every meeting what is going down in
22 the Sewer Authority because obviously they're
23 looking to do something down there. And I
24 would be against -- and I'm just personally
25 saying I would be against any sale or lease of

1 the Sewer Authority only because I think it
2 will adversely affect our rates in Dunmore and
3 Scranton.

4 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else on the
5 question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
8 signify by saying aye.

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
13 moved.

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Other personnel
15 matters.

16 MR. MCHALE: None.

17 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Before public
18 comment, Mr. Hetman from Lackawanna County.

19 MR. HETMAN: Are we on?

20 MR. MCHALE: We are.

21 MR. HETMAN: Great. Good evening
22 ladies and gentlemen, Gerard Hetman from
23 Lackawanna County's Community Relations
24 Department. To begin this evening, I would
25 just like to thank Council particularly

1 Solicitor Cummings for accommodating me last
2 month on the conflict of schedule I had to
3 attend another meeting on another matter at the
4 same time that your meeting started.

5 I saw many of you as I walked in I
6 think the meeting just concluded as I arrived.
7 So my thanks to everyone for accommodating me
8 in that situation particularly where the
9 Solicitor who read my announcements. I
10 appreciate that from all of you.

11 This month we have a few things as
12 the year starts, some of which follow into the
13 same department, first, Lackawanna River
14 Corridor Association is doing their annual what
15 they call Shiverfest. It's like a winter
16 version of Riverfest. It's a winter, canoe
17 races. It's going to be this Saturday, January
18 17th.

19 It accommodates both canoe and kayak
20 racers. And there's a race in the morning.
21 And then there's what they call Thaw Party in
22 the afternoon. And it's again another good
23 event run by the Lackawanna River Corridor
24 Association. I know there are many Borough
25 residents that are active in the organization

1 and who participate in the Riverfest. This is
2 kind of the same way of thinking just a little
3 bit colder.

4 Second program that we'll leave a
5 flier for is what we call Learn to Ski and
6 Ride. This a program that was run several
7 years ago by Lackawanna County's Parks and
8 Recreation Department when Montage Mountain Ski
9 Resort was owned and operated by Lackawanna
10 County.

11 As that's no longer the case even
12 though it's under private ownership,
13 Commissioner's Office and those of us who come
14 to meetings still getting questions from folks
15 that remember the old program. They say is
16 there anyway we can get some type of lesson
17 package like that the way it was a few years
18 back.

19 So last year and now this year for
20 the second ski season, the private ownership
21 does offer basically the same package for
22 roughly the same price as it had been. They
23 just ask us to help promote it through the
24 Parks and Recreation Department.

25 So we're just mentioning it here.

1 And we'll leave the flier for that. Lastly,
2 the Penn State Extension Office in Lackawanna
3 County and Luzerne County runs three programs
4 at this time of the year.

5 The first Dining with Diabetes
6 Program which helps those with type two
7 diabetes learn how to prepare and cook meals
8 that accommodate their special dietary needs.
9 And then also they offer a series of strength
10 training classes for older adults and their
11 definition of older adults is 40 and up. It's
12 not our office, it's the extension.

13 But it's a good program for anyone.
14 I know several folks who've done it and it
15 really helps them out a lot. And the older you
16 go I think the more beneficial it is just with
17 daily tasks, simple things like chores and
18 housework, yard work. It's a great benefit to
19 anyone who participates.

20 And then lastly, they run what they
21 call -- I don't know if we have any commercial
22 vegetable growers here in Dunmore Borough.
23 Every year Penn State Extension runs a program
24 for those in Lackawanna and Luzerne County with
25 that type of business. Maybe if you do some

1 backyard gardening it could be useful also.
2 But again, those all take place at different
3 times, different places. All three of those
4 programs run through Penn State Extension in
5 Lackawanna County. We'll leave the fliers for
6 all of those. So that's all we have.

7 MR. NARDOZZI: I have one question.

8 MR. HETMAN: Sure.

9 MR. NARDOZZI: Is the county going
10 to run their golf program again this year?

11 MR. HETMAN: Yes, actually that just
12 came out this week. And we can get that to
13 you. I just didn't bring one this evening. I
14 apologize for that.

15 MR. NARDOZZI: In the past they did
16 the end of February?

17 MR. HETMAN: I think that is the
18 same time frame. I apologize for not having
19 that for you. We just got that sent to us
20 actually at the end of last week.

21 MR. NARDOZZI: That's good. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. HETMAN: Not a problem. That's
24 all we have.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

1 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Gary Duncan,
2 Neighborhood Watch.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton
4 Street, Dunmore. First, Happy New Year to
5 everybody, especially on a night like tonight
6 just to still come out and be a participant in
7 the community. Just a few things, I hope
8 everybody got their e-mails. Carol, I still
9 have to get an updated e-mail account from you
10 so I could get the information from the
11 Neighborhood Watch out to you.

12 And I think everybody else got them
13 from last month when I sent them. I know Vito
14 is not here tonight. But I want to thank again
15 the three Council members who attended our last
16 meeting from December.

17 And I asked at our last Council
18 meeting if Mr. Lorince could attend the
19 Neighborhood Watch Meeting which will be
20 happening next Monday night. It will be
21 January 19th at 7:00 right here in the
22 community room. Everybody that is here tonight
23 is invited. But I would look forward to
24 Mr. Lorince coming for some questions that the
25 group had from the last one. That's all I have

1 tonight. Thanks very much.

2 MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

3 MR. DUNCAN: Does anybody need a
4 copy of the minutes from the last meeting?

5 MR. NARDOZZI: Yeah, if you don't
6 mind. I got the e-mail.

7 MR. DUNCAN: Anybody else?

8 MR. VERRASTRO: If you have extras
9 I'll take it.

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Is there any
11 announcements from Representative Farina's
12 office?

13 MR. VALVANO: Good evening, Council,
14 David Valvano from Representative Farina's
15 Office. Last month, Councilman Verrastro asked
16 if there was any funding out there for the
17 traffic light being -- the Borough has a pretty
18 significant, you know, contribution when your
19 traffic lights have to be maintained.

20 I contacted PennDOT. I got some
21 information from George Roberts on some grant
22 funding that is available and passed it along
23 to Councilman Verrastro and to Vito he has a
24 copy. I also just gave President McHale
25 information on the DCNR Grant that's opening up

1 in two days, January 14th, for Parks and
2 Recreation. So he has a copy of that. He
3 could share it with the rest of the Council.

4 Also Representative Farina on the
5 third Friday of every month is going to have an
6 American Legion Service Officer here at our
7 district office from 10 to 4 for anyone who has
8 any type of veterans issue. Jeff Saunders
9 will be here to help veterans with anything
10 they need filling out any forms and whatnot.

11 We'll also have a Medicare rep here
12 to answer any of the seniors' Medicare
13 questions on the first and third Wednesday of
14 every month from 1 to 4. And I'd also like to
15 thank Council for the gentleman Mike Falzone
16 who helped with our office and getting it set
17 up. He did a fantastic job. He should be
18 commended. And Happy New Year to everybody.

19 MR. NARDOZZI: Dave, one quick
20 question, it's great to see you coming to our
21 meetings because like for the same reason we
22 put Mike on the Sewer Authority we can
23 actually -- if something is going on we're
24 going to know right here. Is that going to be
25 a standard practice for the office?

1 MR. VALVANO: Yeah. You're stuck
2 with me.

3 MR. NARDOZZI: There's nothing wrong
4 with that.

5 MR. VERRASTRO: I'd like to thank
6 you for the information.

7 MR. VALVANO: No problem.

8 MR. VERRASTRO: If we can get the
9 full 50 percent or even 25 it will be a help to
10 us.

11 MR. VALVANO: Right. An open line
12 of communication we would like to see that
13 continue as well. So thank you.

14 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

15 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven,
16 public comment on other matters.

17 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to address
18 Council tonight?

19 MS. DEMPSEY: Michele Dempsey,
20 Jefferson Township. I -- Happy New Year. I
21 haven't seen everybody in a while. Just so --
22 just a quick question. It was stated at a
23 prior meeting -- a prior council meeting that
24 if the host municipality agreement passed that
25 some of the funds be used towards an

1 environmental lawyer. And I was just wondering
2 what the status of this might be.

3 MR. MCHALE: We as a Council last
4 meeting said that we would put the equivalent
5 of one cent of the tipping fees towards costs
6 associated with the landfill which equates to
7 about \$25,000 a year.

8 MS. DEMPSEY: So that's not specific
9 to an environmental lawyer?

10 MR. MCHALE: Nope. That's what
11 Council voted on last week -- or last meeting I
12 should say.

13 MS. DEMPSEY: Okay. I just thought
14 at that one meeting that it was specifically
15 towards an environmental lawyer.

16 MR. BURKE: I mentioned an
17 environmental engineer. That's what Attorney
18 Jones told me would be a good way to put the
19 money.

20 MS. DEMPSEY: That's great. That's
21 very helpful but different.

22 MR. VERRASTRO: It's for whatever is
23 needed. If any question comes up, we're
24 putting money aside to address whatever
25 concerns we have that may come up.

1 MS. DEMPSEY: Just for the record,
2 the money that one time we were told would be
3 used toward environmental lawyer is not being
4 used for an environmental lawyer.

5 MR. MCHALE: It's not yet.

6 MR. VERRASTRO: It could be an
7 environmental lawyer but we're not going to
8 limit it to just an environmental lawyer.

9 MR. MCHALE: We have an engineer's
10 report that we're waiting on. I'm going to
11 speak personally, that's what -- I would like
12 to see what they say first and get their
13 recommendations on where we go next personally,
14 not Council.

15 MS. DEMPSEY: So that 25,000 would
16 be if he needed an engineering fee and at the
17 same time an environmental lawyer was needed,
18 no more than 25,000 be expended in a year.

19 MR. MCHALE: You said that. I
20 didn't say that.

21 MS. DEMPSEY: I'm just wondering.

22 MR. MCHALE: No.

23 MS. DEMPSEY: I'm just trying to
24 clarify.

25 MR. MCHALE: It will be at the

1 majority of Council if they choose to move
2 somewhere -- we've handled our finances well
3 over the last several years. So if we need to
4 expend funds where we want to expend funds we
5 have a little bit of cushion.

6 MS. DEMPSEY: It's possible.

7 MR. MCHALE: Yep.

8 MS. DEMPSEY: But it's --

9 MR. VERRASTRO: We're talking about
10 putting a minimum of that 25 -- approximately
11 25,000 per year into something so it's there.
12 It may not be used for 10 years. It may have
13 to be used in two weeks.

14 MS. DEMPSEY: So if -- okay, I'm
15 just concerned especially with no sort of
16 environmental protection in the agreement of
17 not having a lawyer specifically designated
18 because I thought that's what had been
19 discussed. Okay. Thank you.

20 MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Anybody
21 else like to speak tonight?

22 MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson
23 Avenue, Dunmore. I want to follow up on
24 Michele's question. So there's obviously been
25 a bunch of people in the Borough concerned

1 about the landfill issue. Would it be all
2 right to work with Council and have some kind
3 of general framework that if there was an item
4 we thought was worthy of the Borough's
5 consideration for evaluation of using that
6 money that there'd be like a kind of process we
7 can use?

8 Like right now who would we -- how
9 would we go about that, like, hey, this is
10 something maybe the Borough -- would we e-mail,
11 call? Can we come up with some kind of process
12 so we know what is going on?

13 MR. MCHALE: I have no problem with
14 that, Pat. I think every time you texted me or
15 e-mailed me I answered you.

16 MR. CLARK: Yeah, just so it's
17 formal so we know like, hey, this might be
18 worthy if the Borough look at that money and
19 use it for that.

20 MR. MCHALE: Of course, of course.

21 MR. CLARK: So we would have some
22 type of resident or The Friends of Lackawanna
23 saying here's a consideration for you guys to
24 look at.

25 MR. MCHALE: Sure.

1 MR. CLARK: And then if the majority
2 agrees that would be something you would look
3 at.

4 MR. VERRASTRO: It's just like what
5 you're doing. Being that it's going to be an
6 expenditure we would have to come to a meeting
7 and we would have to vote on doing it and --

8 MR. CLARK: Sure.

9 MR. VERRASTRO: -- so it's basically
10 what we're doing now.

11 MR. CLARK: Okay. We can
12 communicate and say here's the details, here's
13 the resources we're looking for; yes or no
14 and --

15 MR. MCHALE: I think -- and knowing
16 you the short time that I do, I think you could
17 say we haven't put a barrier on anything that
18 you've asked for.

19 MR. CLARK: No. I just want to know
20 the process going forward.

21 MR. MCHALE: Of course, we're open,
22 Pat.

23 MR. CLARK: Thank you.

24 MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Anybody
25 else like to speak tonight?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. MCHALE: Seeing nobody.

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

4 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Nardozzi, do you
5 want to start tonight?

6 MR. NARDOZZI: I just have one
7 thing. I just want to remind everyone that
8 next week, I believe Monday is Martin Luther
9 King's federal holiday. And the DPW will be
10 off so all collections will be one day behind
11 schedule for everybody. That's all I have, Mr.
12 Chairman.

13 MR. MCHALE: Quickly, before I
14 forget -- not that I would forget, if you guys
15 could keep -- Mr. Ruggiero is not here tonight.
16 His son had major surgery and got out about a
17 half hour ago. We're still waiting to hear how
18 he's doing. But at 12 years old to have major
19 reconstructive knee surgery, just keep him in
20 your thoughts and prayers if you would.

21 On a much lighter note, tonight we
22 did have the salt trucks go out at about 5:00,
23 6:00 when I texted you guys. And my road was
24 pretty icy. So we just figured get them out
25 tonight. We're going to try to get them out at

1 5 a.m. tomorrow as well, not that it's horrible
2 out there, but it seems to be freezing as quick
3 as we put it down. So the guys are out as we
4 speak just so you guys know. Mr. Hallinan,
5 would you like to go next?

6 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, as you all
7 know we as a Council for the -- we waived the
8 \$150 garbage fee this year. In no way was that
9 amnesty because I have people asking me and I
10 just want to clarify that for everybody. We
11 are going to go after -- there is over 300 --
12 close to \$300,000 in outstanding fees.

13 So as the Borough, it would be lax
14 on our part to not go after this money. I
15 mean, the people that paid it wouldn't be fair
16 to them. So we're going to go after this and
17 actively collect it. And, I mean, it's a lot
18 of money \$300,000 that, you know, should be
19 here helping the Borough or whatever endeavors
20 we're looking at.

21 And some people think they just
22 don't have to pay. And again, we're not here
23 to embarrass anybody. We're not going to, you
24 know, do anything like that. But we're going
25 to go after it and due process as we're led by

1 the Solicitor and Mr. Ruggiero will help us
2 with that. Correct, Tom?

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes, sir.

4 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you. So that's
5 I just want you to know that's one thing. Vito
6 is in our prayers. His son's at CHOP, which I
7 lived there for two years. Let me tell you
8 it's a wonderful place. You pray you never
9 have to go there. And I hope everything is
10 good with young Frankie. Thank you.

11 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Hal. Attorney
12 Dempsey.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: I don't have anything
14 tonight, Mr. Chairman.

15 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro, do you
16 want to go next?

17 MR. VERRASTRO: I like to thank
18 everybody for coming tonight. Also if possibly
19 we can do it if we can send a letter to Leonard
20 Verrastro thanking him for the service that he
21 gave the Borough for the last five years.

22 MR. MCHALE: Absolutely.

23 MR. VERRASTRO: I just think we
24 should do that. We always do anyway. I just
25 thought I'd bring it up. And thank you for

1 coming. Nothing else.

2 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

3 MR. BURKE: I have nothing tonight,
4 Mike.

5 MR. MCHALE: Mrs. Scrimalli.

6 MS. SCRIMALLI: Just tonight I'd
7 like to thank everyone for coming, wish
8 everyone a very Happy New Year. And regarding
9 your appointment on the Scranton Sewer
10 Authority, Mike, I do look forward to your
11 input.

12 I think the changes that you could
13 probably make would be very welcome. And I do
14 want to thank Mr. Verrastro -- Mr. Leonard
15 Verrastro for his years of service. And that's
16 all I have tonight. Thank you.

17 MR. MCHALE: Real quickly let me
18 follow up on what Carol said about the Sewer
19 Authority. I did not seek that position,
20 believe me. I do thank Leonard as well for his
21 service. It's easy to take position. But the
22 way that I look at this appointment is going to
23 be a voice of this Council.

24 I think even though it's an
25 independent body that, you know, you can do

1 what you want. I think it's the majority of
2 Council who is going to dictate any way that I
3 vote. And I could promise you that in public
4 on the record.

5 So secondly and finally, there was
6 an editorial by our Scranton Times over our
7 backdoor dealings with getting a computer lab.
8 Which it's tough. I don't want say much
9 because last time I commented on the Scranton
10 Times I got called a baby by the Scranton
11 Times, not even the comments.

12 But to tell you the name of the
13 family is Peter Sabia's family. I'm looking at
14 you, Kyle, because I know you're going want to
15 know this. His daughter Lisa came to us when
16 Vito came up with the idea of the computer lab
17 and offered their service.

18 They did not want to be known. But
19 they did not want us to be dragged through the
20 mud both by the printed media and I understand
21 a radio host had an hour or two on it as well.
22 Can't thank them enough. I hate to scare away
23 people who like to donate to their hometown.

24 A lot of people do it without a lot
25 of fanfare. These people did not want it. But

1 they gave us the authority to release their
2 name and I thank them. Publicly there will be
3 a plaque on the wall in there.

4 I think there's upwards of 15 to 20
5 computers going in there. As you walk out
6 today it was recarpeted. This room will be
7 recarpeted as well by the way this week. And
8 the tables are in already. I don't know if
9 they are in the room yet. Chris, are they in
10 the room yet?

11 MR. KEARNEY: They're coming
12 tomorrow at 8:00.

13 MR. MCHALE: Coming tomorrow at 8:00
14 to be delivered. It's all wired up. So thank
15 you again for the Peter Sabia family and
16 specifically daughter Lisa who is graciously
17 giving the hardware and the upkeep of the
18 machines. So did not want to be public but
19 they allowed us to do so. And I thank them for
20 it. That's all I have. Anybody else quickly?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. MCHALE: Look for a motion to
23 adjourn.

24 MR. NARDOZZI: So moved.

25 MR. MCHALE: Second?

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MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
3 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
4 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
5 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
6 ability.

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11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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