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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, October 11th, 2021

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 DEMPSEY, President
- THOMAS HALLINAN, Vice President
- CAROL SCRIMALLI - absent
- THOMAS EHNOT - absent
- VINCE AMICO
- JANET BRIER
- ELIZABETH ZANGARDI
- MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor
- TIMOTHY BURKE, Mayor
- VITO RUGGIERO, Borough Manager

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. McDonald

4 Zangardi.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Ehnot.

7 Mr. Dempsey.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

11 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Amico.

12 MR. AMICO: Here.

13 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Brier.

14 MS. BRIER: Here.

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Mayor Burke.

16 MAYOR BURKE: Here.

17 MR. RUGGIERO: Number three, public
18 comment on agenda items.

19 MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone from the
20 public like to comment on the agenda items?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Seeing none.

23 MR. RUGGIERO: Number four is a
24 motion to approve and pay the open bills.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a

1 motion.

2 MR. AMICO: I'll make that.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion. Do I
4 have a second?

5 MR. BRIER: I'll second it.

6 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
7 second. Anyone on the question?

8 MS. BRIER: Is Mark coming?

9 MR. RUGGIERO: He's not.

10 MS. BRIER: Oh, okay. I didn't get
11 a chance to take a peek really. It looks
12 like -- how about NEIC? That's the one that we
13 were reimbursed for, right?

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Right.

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Correct.

16 MS. BRIER: And the roofing, the 32
17 grand.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: The roofing it was
19 insured. I had the insurance company come and
20 they reimbursed us for the whole roof of
21 \$86,000. They sent us the first traunch of
22 money and the remainder which was that 32,000
23 would be sent to us once the completion -- the
24 roof was completed which it has been.

25 So we updated the invoice. I spoke

1 to the owner of Zenobi Roofing and he said do
2 not worry about paying me until you get the
3 money.

4 MS. BRIER: Okay, so I won't be
5 signing checks this week.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: No, not until we get
7 the money from the insurance company.

8 MS. BRIER: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: You're welcome.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone else on the
11 question? All those in favor signify by saying
12 aye.

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
17 so moved.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Number five is a
19 motion to adopt Resolution 2021-4, to implement
20 a reimbursement structure for our Quick
21 Response Service also known as QRS. This
22 agreement will cover all paid ambulance
23 providers.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a
25 motion.

1 MR. AMICO: I'll make that motion.

2 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
4 second. Anyone on the question?

5 MR. AMICO: Yeah, I'll speak to that
6 real quickly. This allows us and -- and,
7 Chief, if I mess it up, please correct me. But
8 this allows us to bill when our -- when the
9 fire member goes out on a call with an
10 ambulance crew, we now -- the Borough can bill
11 the ambulance company and the ambulance company
12 will reimburse us for services provided.

13 MS. BRIER: What service do we
14 provide?

15 CHIEF DENAPLES: We provide quick
16 response service. So with our three fire
17 apparatus, the ladder truck, the engine, and
18 rescue truck, they are all certified through
19 the Pennsylvania Department of Health -- as non
20 transporting BLS ambulances essentially.

21 So they carry oxygen, automatic
22 defibrillator, bleeding control items, okay, so
23 if they get there and somebody is in cardiac
24 arrest, for instance, they could put the
25 defibrillator on. They could shock them. They

1 could do CPR, stuff of that nature.

2 Then we have trauma type calls. So
3 when we go out with the ambulance now like
4 Councilman Amico said, we can -- if the
5 ambulance transports that patient to the
6 hospital, they're able to get insurance
7 reimbursement.

8 We have a fee schedule set up in
9 that ordinance. And we'll be able to get
10 reimbursement from the ambulance company for
11 our services.

12 MS. BRIER: So if we show up but
13 don't provide any services --

14 CHIEF DENAPLES: Still if we're
15 there and they transport if we're -- because
16 we're attached to that call.

17 MS. BRIER: Okay. So it's every
18 call we go out on basically.

19 CHIEF DENAPLES: Yep, provided it's
20 not a patient refusal, okay, where the patient
21 doesn't go. They sign off or if they transport
22 the patient and the patient doesn't have any
23 insurance and they are not able to collect,
24 then obviously --

25 MS. BRIER: Right.

1 CHIEF DENAPLES: But we have a
2 schedule set up in our fee schedule where if we
3 just respond and they collect, it would be \$100
4 back to the Borough. If one of our
5 firefighters drives the ambulance to the
6 hospital because they need more hands in the
7 back per se, then it's \$150 back to the Borough
8 if they collect on it.

9 MS. BRIER: Okay. And that's both
10 ambulance services --

11 CHIEF DENAPLES: So what we're going
12 to need to do is, we're going to need to get
13 with the four paid services and set this up
14 with them so they, you know, set up like a
15 reimbursement schedule and plan with the
16 Borough.

17 So we're going to have to -- we're
18 going to set up a meeting with Olyphant because
19 they come into Dunmore occasionally,
20 Commonwealth, Cottage Hose Company, and
21 Pennsylvania Ambulance.

22 MS. BRIER: What's Cottage, Chief?

23 CHIEF DENAPLES: Cottage is up in
24 the Carbondale area. And they also cover some
25 in Archbald. And they provide advanced and

1 basic life support. They don't come down here
2 often. But a couple times a year we get them
3 on calls when there is nobody else available.

4 MS. BRIER: Okay, thanks.

5 CHIEF DENAPLES: No problem.

6 MR. HALLINAN: Chief, one question.

7 CHIEF DENAPLES: Sure.

8 MR. HALLINAN: How do you stop them
9 jumping calls?

10 CHIEF DENAPLES: Stop the ambulances
11 from jumping calls?

12 MR. HALLINAN: Right.

13 CHIEF DENAPLES: That's a very hard
14 thing. That's been going on for several years,
15 probably what, two decades, Vito -- or maybe
16 longer, 30 years in Lackawanna County. And
17 it's really an exclusive to Lackawanna County.
18 You don't hear that anywhere else.

19 MS. BRIER: What does that mean?

20 CHIEF DENAPLES: The only way you
21 would be able to do that -- more than one
22 ambulance comes because they're kind of like
23 fighting for turf per se. The only thing you
24 could do is set up a strict ordinance or rule,
25 that's something that you know --

1 MR. RUGGIERO: Chief, if I may, I
2 became a paramedic in 1995. And it was in the
3 height of when this ambulance wars were going
4 on. And what would happen back then is two
5 ambulances would pull up to a house and
6 somebody would take their stretcher and bring
7 it in because it turned into they would just
8 throw the patient on the stretcher and go the
9 hospital.

10 That's really today they went to
11 this global positioning. That's why I think,
12 Chief, when he talks about Cottage Ambulance
13 and having this implemented into our ordinance,
14 if Cottage Ambulance is coming back from Mercy
15 Hospital and they're driving through the
16 Borough and they're advanced life support and
17 they have their global positioning head on in
18 their ambulance, meaning if somebody calls 911
19 they say who the closest ambulance is.

20 If Cottage is driving up Blakely
21 Street and they are the closest ambulance, they
22 would get dispatched as the paramedics to go
23 there to assist another ambulance. So I don't
24 know if there is pretty much, Councilman
25 Hallinan, as far as call jumping today because

1 Lackawanna County is a municipal designee as
2 far as advanced life support goes like Luzerne
3 County used to me. Right now it's all that
4 global positioning.

5 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you. Thank
6 you, Chief.

7 CHIEF DENAPLES: No problem.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone else on the
9 question?

10 MR. RUGGIERO: Thanks, Chief.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor
12 signify by saying aye.

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
17 so moved.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: There's going to be
19 an amendment to the agenda. We're adding a
20 number six. And number six is the motion to
21 accept the quote presented by M. Mayo Striping
22 for the thermoplastic pavement markers at the
23 following locations:

24 Green Ridge Street and Quincy
25 Avenue, Green Ridge Street and Clay Avenue, and

1 Green Ridge Street and North Webster Avenue.
2 And what this would be is thermoplastic
3 crosswalks across Green Ridge Street.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: And since this is an
5 amendment to the agenda, I'll give the
6 opportunity to anybody from the public that
7 wants to comment on it prior to looking for a
8 motion. Seeing none.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: On the question,
10 Mr. President, the cost of the thermoplastic --
11 first a comparison, regular paint you would
12 have to -- every year would have to be redone;
13 thermoplastic based on the traffic over it
14 would be two to three years. There's a \$630
15 difference. The paint is \$2,250 and the
16 thermoplastic is \$2,880.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. I'll look for a
18 motion on that.

19 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make a motion
20 that we take Mayo Thermo Plastic.

21 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second it.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: And that's the -- what
23 was that called?

24 MR. HALLINAN: Thermoplastic instead
25 of -- versus paint.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: Thermoplastic
2 pavement markings, 2,880 would need to be
3 approved.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: Got it. Okay. I have
5 a motion and a second. Anyone on the question?

6 (No response.)

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

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

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

14 MR. RUGGIERO: Number seven now
15 would be Treasurer financial report,
16 Councilwoman Brier.

17 MS. BRIER: Yeah, I anticipated Mark
18 being here. I apologize.

19 MR. DEMPSEY: We have a copy it.

20 MS. BRIER: Looks like we're \$60,000
21 under budget -- or over budget. I apologize --
22 under budget year to date. That would be
23 January through September. So that's a good
24 thing.

25 We budgeted 10,867,000 through

1 care -- not health insurance but health care
2 for our employees. So we are receiving a
3 dividend back from our provider. I think it
4 was the tune of about 400 grand, right?

5 MR. RUGGIERO: I think it was
6 400,000.

7 MS. BRIER: Okay. And we received
8 part of that this year so far. That's my
9 understanding.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: We got half of it.

11 MS. BRIER: Yeah, if Mark was here
12 he'd be able to, you know, he's very good with
13 that. And he knows what's going on. So we'll
14 have him talk about that maybe at the next
15 meeting. That's all I have. Thanks.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Anyone
17 else on the Treasurer Report?

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Number eight, public
19 comment.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone like to address
21 Council tonight?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Seeing none.

24 MR. RUGGIERO: Number nine, public
25 officials.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: We'll start off with
2 Chief DeNaples, do you have anything?

3 CHIEF DENAPLES: I have nothing
4 tonight. Thank you.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Vito?

6 MR. RUGGIERO: No.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Attorney Perry?

8 ATTY. PERRY: Nothing.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Mayor Burke?

10 MAYOR BURKE: Nothing tonight.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: Beth, would you be
12 able to provide us an update from the Sewer
13 Authority on the escrow fund?

14 MS. ZANGARDI: Yep. We have a
15 meeting this Thursday coming up at 5:00. And
16 then we closed out I think it was 37 of the
17 accounts -- class actions. And out of the
18 class actions, there's approximately off the
19 top of my head I don't have the exact numbers
20 with me, but there is approximately four
21 lawyers who have a combined total of about
22 six -- ten clients together.

23 And we're just now right now with
24 that set of lawyers, we're negotiating interest
25 payments what we're going to -- what they want

1 in interest and what we're willing to pay.

2 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay.

3 MS. ZANGARDI: And then our hope is
4 that we have this closed out by December, 2021,
5 everything closed out, done, everybody paid
6 off. That's our ultimate hope. Jason Shrive
7 also is stepping down. He's not doing it full
8 time. So that's all I have so far. I'll let
9 you know more next meeting.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: That meeting is
11 Thursday at 5 p.m., is that Scranton City
12 Council --

13 MS. ZANGARDI: Correct, Scranton
14 City Council. 5:00 is Executive Session. 5:30
15 is the regular meeting.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Anything
17 else -- oh, I'm sorry.

18 MS. BRIER: I was just going to ask
19 Beth, the 37 entities that agreed to the class
20 action settlement, what about the ones who
21 didn't?

22 MS. ZANGARDI: Well, there's -- the
23 37 is the class action. And then there's
24 the -- I want to say there's 10 for the local
25 attorneys. And then there's a couple like

1 minimal, Janet, of less than five who -- what
2 our hope is we can just say you're the last
3 holdout. Will you take this or even give them
4 what we're giving the other seven or ten.

5 But that's -- that would be
6 determined this Thursday. But I'll definitely
7 get the exact numbers for you next meeting.

8 MS. BRIER: Okay. Thanks.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Beth,
10 anything else under your public comment?

11 MS. ZANGARDI: We have a feral cat
12 problem. And they're mad. And I got another
13 few phone calls because I said, you know, we
14 have got a feral cat problem.

15 So I would like to at some point and
16 I don't know how it's going to work out, but
17 I've been mulling this around in my head. If
18 we have an ordinance on the book that says it's
19 a \$500 fine, take that \$500 fine, fix the feral
20 cats and then release them.

21 And the cycle goes and then the
22 feral cat problem would decrease. That's my
23 hope. I know it's not that important but it is
24 if they're in your house and your garage on
25 your car and in your kitchen and in your

1 backyard. And happy birthday to my husband.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Happy birthday.

3 MR. RUGGIERO: Twenty-one again.

4 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you everybody.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

6 MS. BRIER: Where are they? Where
7 are you getting the complaints from?

8 MS. ZANGARDI: Butler Street on the
9 other side of -- up from Mel down from Dudley
10 Street, Drinker Street is one, Jefferson Avenue
11 by -- behind Price Chopper is another one, up
12 in Warren Street area is another one -- oh, and
13 Oak Street is another one that I know of off
14 the top of my head.

15 What happens is, your heart is in
16 the right place. But it's a problem when they
17 reproduce and you don't get them fixed. That's
18 a problem, you know? So again, this is just
19 the beginning thought processes. Oak Street is
20 really --

21 MS. BRIER: There's some
22 organization that traps cats and neuters them.

23 MS. ZANGARDI: Well, I talked to
24 Throop Borough. And they trap theirs and they
25 organize it with Nay Aug. But they pay for

1 them and that's as far as I got.

2 And I'm mentioning this here because
3 the door is just a little open, you know, I
4 mean, obviously there is more to look at and
5 more to work on. But if we have that
6 ordinance, I mean, jeez, one fine would pay for
7 a lot of feral cats -- fixing.

8 They buy boxes for them so they
9 sleep in the winter and they're safe and warm
10 in the winter. That's all. Thank you. I'm
11 good.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Mr.
13 Hallinan, do you have anything?

14 MR. HALLINAN: I have nothing.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. Amico?

17 MR. AMICO: Yeah, just real quick,
18 I'd like to thank Chief DeNaples and Vito for
19 explaining the QRS billing. They went way into
20 the weeds which is what I was hoping they would
21 do because just to explain how that process
22 works. So that's it. Thank you very much,
23 gentlemen. I appreciate your help. Thank you.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Mrs.
25 Brier?

1 MS. BRIER: Just thanks to Vito and
2 to Tom Hallinan for getting those crosswalks
3 and, you know, your expertise, Tom, in terms of
4 who can do it and who can't do it and the state
5 road, etc. So I think it will be helpful.

6 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

7 MS. BRIER: That's all I have.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Mrs. Brier. I
9 don't have anything tonight. So with that, I
10 will look for a motion to adjourn.

11 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
12 motion.

13 MR. HALLINAN: Second.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor?

15 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
19 so moved and we are adjourned.

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

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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