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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, November 8th, 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 - absent
- 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 MR. DEMPSEY: We have Boy Scout
2 Troop 66 with us here tonight. And I would ask
3 them if everybody would please rise and those
4 troop members would lead us in the Pledge of
5 Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance.)
7

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, gentlemen.

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. McDonald
10 Zangardi.

11 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

12 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Scrimalli. Mr.
13 Ehnot. Mr. Dempsey.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Mr. Hallinan. Mr.
16 Amico.

17 MR. AMICO: Here.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Mrs. Brier.

19 MS. BRIER: Here.

20 MR. RUGGIERO: Mayor Burke.

21 MAYOR BURKE: Here.

22 MR. RUGGIERO: Controller Genovese.

23 MR. GENOVESE: Here.

24 MR. RUGGIERO: Solicitor Perry.

25 ATTY. PERRY: Here.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: Number three, public
2 comment on agenda items.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone from the
4 public care to comment on the agenda items
5 only?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Seeing none.

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

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. I'll look for a
11 motion to approve and pay the open bills.

12 MS. BRIER: I'll make it.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion. Do I
14 have a second?

15 MR. AMICO: I'll second it.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
17 second. Anyone on the question on the bills?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. DEMPSEY: Hearing none. All
20 those in favor?

21 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
25 so moved.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: Number five is a
2 motion to move forward with Phase I, ESA
3 Brownfields Community Wide Assessment Grant
4 through Lackawanna County. This grant provides
5 funding to conduct environmental site
6 assessments on any property in the county that
7 the county does not own, in this case which
8 would be our Dickson City property for the
9 benefit of the land owner. This is the first
10 step in any site development/reuse at no cost
11 to the Borough.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. I'll look for a
13 motion.

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

15 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion. Do I
16 have a second?

17 MS. BRIER: Second.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
19 second. Vince, do you want to go over on the
20 question?

21 MR. AMICO: Yeah, just real quickly,
22 we received information from the county -- I
23 always mispronounce this, Community and
24 Economic Development last month. And they just
25 provided us with the opportunity to receive

1 grant money to the have a Phase I study down at
2 our Dickson City property.

3 And basically what a Phase I study
4 does or provides for the municipalities, it
5 allows the land to be studied and see if there
6 is any environmental issues with the land. And
7 this is a benefit to the Borough whether we,
8 you know, whether we keep the property, sell
9 the property, lease the property or do nothing
10 with the property.

11 At least it allow us to know what
12 potential environmental problems we may or may
13 not have on this property. And again, as the
14 ordinance is written, it's of no cost to the
15 Borough.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mr. Amico.

17 MR. AMICO: Thank you.

18 MS. BRIER: I just want to say too
19 if anyone wanted to look into the letter that
20 is giving us this opportunity, it should be in
21 your packet. And if not, we could get you to
22 the letter. It actually shows -- it has a map
23 of the site in Dickson City.

24 I know it's been in the news lately
25 just because they're having those issues with

1 the road collapsing right near our property.
2 But this is property -- I don't know how long
3 has the Borough owned it?

4 MR. DEMPSEY: Before my time.

5 MS. BRIER: Yeah, a long, long time.
6 But it's 245 acres. So it's, you know,
7 potentially something that could really benefit
8 the Borough. How much?

9 MR. RUGGIERO: Since 2005 according
10 to the Lackawanna County Assessment office.

11 MS. BRIER: 205 acres. That's --
12 205 acres.

13 MR. RUGGIERO: 237 acres we obtained
14 in 2005.

15 MS. BRIER: Oh, in 2005. Thank you.
16 So if anyone needs to see that, you know, we
17 have it.

18 MR. RUGGIERO: Councilwoman Brier,
19 what I could do is put this on our website
20 tomorrow.

21 MS. BRIER: Thank you.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. Anyone else on
23 the question? All those in favor signify by
24 saying aye.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and
4 so moved.

5 MR. RUGGIERO: Number six is the Boy
6 Scouts of America, Dunmore Troop 66
7 proclamation.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Vito, will you read
9 it?

10 MR. RUGGIERO: WHEREAS, the Mayor
11 and Council of the Borough of Dunmore,
12 Lackawanna County, Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania, wish to recognize and extend
14 public tribute to the Boy Scouts of America,
15 Dunmore Troop 66 on their dedication to their
16 community on an outstanding job in their
17 pursuit to clean up their home town, and

18 **WHEREAS**, since its inception in
19 1910, the Boy Scouts of America provides the
20 nation's foremost youth program of character
21 development and value-based leadership
22 training, which helps people be "Prepared For
23 Life." This Scouting organization is composed
24 of approximately 2.2 million youth members
25 between the ages of 5 and 21 and approximately

1 800,000 volunteers in local councils throughout
2 the United States and its territories, and

3 WHEREAS, almost 75 years ago, Troop
4 66 started the Foundation of Scouting in the
5 Borough. Built on values that are still just
6 as relevant today, they continue to help our
7 youth grow to their full potential just as they
8 did in 1910.

9 Scouting's main focus was and still
10 is to help our youth continue to develop
11 academic skills, self-confidence, ethics,
12 leadership skills, and citizen skills that
13 influence their adult lives. To date, Troop 66
14 has produced over 70 Eagle Scouts that not only
15 have become military and community leaders but
16 great citizens, and

17 WHEREAS, each year Boy Scouts of
18 America, Troop 66 helps our community without
19 asking for or requiring any recognition. They
20 provide food, daily living necessities, and
21 Christmas presents to our homeless veterans,
22 hold flag retirement ceremonies, replace all
23 veteran flags at our local cemeteries, complete
24 numerous clean-up projects in our parks, and
25 most importantly continue to infuse character

1 building activities throughout our home town,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Borough owes a great
4 deal of appreciation to all the volunteers that
5 has continued to cultivate our children,
6 especially the dedication of Scoutmaster
7 Dominic Pace, Troop 66 leader for over 25
8 years. His time, dedication, mentorship,
9 traditions and character building should not
10 and will not go unnoticed, and

11 WHEREAS, when few residents noticed
12 that some areas within the Borough needed some
13 landscaping attention, they approached Troop 66
14 with an idea and that's all it took. One
15 Saturday in September, and approximately five
16 hours, Troop 66 made those targeted areas look
17 amazing, and

18 WHEREAS, the Borough of Dunmore
19 wants to acknowledge the determination of Troop
20 66 and publically wanted to thank them for
21 their continued hard work and dedication in our
22 community, and

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY
24 THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY M. BURKE and the DUNMORE
25 BOROUGH COUNCIL, that SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13,

1 2021, be designated as BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA,
2 DUNMORE TROOP 66 Day in the Borough, and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, together
4 with the citizens of the Borough of Dunmore, we
5 extend sincere congratulations to the Boy
6 Scouts of America, Dunmore Troop 66 and offer
7 our gratitude, praise, and continued success
8 within our community, adopted this 8th day of
9 November, 2021.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

11 MR. RUGGIERO: I'm sure Council will
12 be available for a picture and everything
13 after. Congratulations. Number seven,
14 Treasurer/financial report. Mr. Burton?

15 MR. BURTON: Good even, Council. I
16 will be brief. There was once again, not much
17 activity for the month of October. Our net
18 operating loss for the month was 473,000.

19 This was largely due in part to our
20 summer annual loan through FNCB Bank that is
21 normally made in November which we made at the
22 end of October due to time constraints with the
23 refinancing of the bonds. So that kind of
24 skews the numbers up a little bit.

25 Normally during the month of October

1 we have our landfill fee for the third quarter
2 which normally offsets the three pay periods
3 that we have in the month. And due to the fact
4 that we made the \$333,000 payment in October
5 instead of November, we resulted in a net loss
6 of 473 for the month.

7 And if we back out again once -- the
8 recurring theme of the Peoples loan payoff and
9 the ARPA funding, net loss through the month of
10 October is about \$72,000. As far as the month
11 is concerned, our tax collection remained
12 light.

13 We're at about approximately 95
14 percent of our collections through the year
15 through October 31st. We did receive \$11,000
16 state Recycling Performance Grant through
17 October as well as the landfill assessment of
18 \$747,000 for third quarter, 2021. There was no
19 draw again on the TAN.

20 As far as experiences were
21 concerned, there's three pay periods through
22 the month of October, 10,500 payment to Valley
23 Refrigeration for the AC and heating unit at
24 the Borough Building; our \$40,000 MMO payment;
25 and a large FNCB loan of \$330,000. And that is

1 where we're at through October.

2 MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Mark.

3 MS. BRIER: I just want -- I just
4 want to commend Mark and Vito for -- and let
5 everyone here know as well that we did -- the
6 refinancing finally went through. It's taken
7 about 18 months.

8 But we will save a million dollars
9 over the life of the rest of the loans which
10 are through 2034. And it was tremendous effort
11 on behalf of Vito and Mark because they -- the
12 bond issue folks require a lot of information.
13 And they also uncovered a situation where we
14 had a tax issue with one of our loans that we
15 had to resolve and that took a long time as
16 well.

17 But now, all of our loans are
18 cleaned up. We'll have one payment that we'll
19 have to make every year. Mark also just
20 finished the preliminary budget. So he and
21 Vito are doing a ton of work to save the
22 Borough money and to get us on more fiscally
23 sound footing. I just want to thank you.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mark.

25 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Mark.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: Number eight is
2 public comment.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone like to address
4 Council tonight on anything not just agenda
5 items? Going once, going twice, seeing none.

6 MR. RUGGIERO: Number nine, public
7 officials.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. Mayor Burke, do
9 you want to lead us off?

10 MAYOR BURKE: Thank you, Boy Scouts,
11 for all your great work and Mr. Pace,
12 Mr. Durkin, and all the parents, thank you for
13 keeping these guys in line. And you've done a
14 great job. I'm so proud of all of you guys.
15 That's all I have for tonight.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mayor
17 Burke. Mr. Genovese?

18 MR. GENOVESE: I'd like to stand for
19 a second.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, sir.

21 MR. GENOVESE: I'd like to
22 congratulate Mr. Pace and Mr. Durkin. You may
23 not know it, but I was an Eagle -- I am an
24 Eagle Scout. I was a Scoutmaster and I had 25
25 boys under my leadership including

1 Mr. Zangardi who obtained the rank of Eagle.

2 And as you mentioned before, they've
3 gone on to be engineers, priests, commanders in
4 the Navy and so on and so forth. And if you
5 don't think it means something, it does because
6 you'll find out when you go for a job and
7 you're an Eagle Scout and the guy interviewing
8 you, you might be a little less in the criteria
9 but he might only got first class. And they
10 have lot of respect for you.

11 There used to be one out of ten boys
12 who became Eagle Scout. And now I believe it's
13 less. But if you do one thing -- live by that
14 motto (inaudible) you'll never go wrong. And
15 I'm so proud to see you guys. Congratulations.

16 MR. DEMPSEY: Chief DeNaples, do you
17 have anything?

18 CHIEF DENAPLES: I have nothing.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: I know I saw Mr.
21 Judge. Didge, do you have anything?

22 MR. JUDGE: No, nothing.

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. Ruggiero?

24 MR. RUGGIERO: No, I just want to
25 say thank you to Mr. Pace. I called him many

1 times today when I was authoring this
2 proclamation. And it really opened my eyes and
3 it's a really unique thing to give 25 years of
4 your life to something that you're so
5 passionate about. So, Mr. Pace,
6 congratulations.

7 And, guys, just by talking to
8 Mr. Pace, you're under some good leadership and
9 in good hands so congratulations.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Attorney Perry.

11 ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

13 Mrs. Zangardi -- did I miss anybody? I always
14 skip someone. Mrs. Zangardi.

15 MS. ZANGARDI: I just want to say
16 thank you for your service to the Boy Scouts.
17 And I work with Joe Kirby. Yes, but anyway I
18 wanted to say thank you for your service. And
19 I really appreciate it. And I know Joe is very
20 active in it. So thank you very much. We
21 appreciate it. And Joe has my number so I'm
22 going to start volunteering with you guys a
23 little bit.

24 MR. AMICO: I have a few things,
25 first off, as everybody else said, I'd like to

1 echo my congratulations to the Boy Scouts. And
2 it's an honor to have you guys here. It means
3 a lot.

4 Normally we don't have a crowd
5 anywhere near this big. And when there is a
6 big crowd in the audience, it's usually because
7 there's a contentious issue. So it's awesome
8 to have people here that are happy to be here
9 and our serving our community. So thank you
10 very much.

11 And I would like to congratulate
12 Mayor-elect Conway and Councilpersons-elect
13 Oven and O'Malley, looking forward to working
14 with you guys next year. And this is -- again,
15 I'm not sure if this is in your packet; but
16 November 20th, so next Saturday there is a
17 second annual food drive at Fidelity Bank.

18 And this is in honor of Father Sica
19 and the food will be going to the ICC food
20 bank. It's a fantastic cause. And Mr.
21 Hallinan spearheaded that last year. And he's
22 spearheading it again this year. Again, it's a
23 great cause. So if you could participate in
24 that, that would be fantastic. That's all I
25 have. Thank you.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mr. Amico.
2 Mrs. Brier?

3 MS. BRIER: Vito, can we put that on
4 the website as well?

5 MR. RUGGIERO: Absolutely.

6 MS. BRIER: And I happened to be
7 over at Dunmore Corners this afternoon buying
8 candy, of course. And there's a raffle for the
9 fire department. And that's for?

10 CHIEF DENAPLES: That is going to a
11 charitable organization. The union was
12 handling that. So that's where that money is
13 going.

14 MS. BRIER: Okay. Is that the only
15 place they are selling the raffle tickets?

16 CHIEF DENAPLES: It's the only place
17 I know of.

18 MS. BRIER: Okay. I mean, it's a
19 beautiful, beautiful basket. But if anybody
20 wants to support that -- the fire department.
21 That's good.

22 And I just again want to reiterate
23 how proud and happy we are to have you guys
24 here and in the Borough and to have this, like,
25 great troop of young men who are really making

1 a commitment to our community. So thanks again
2 guys.

3 I mean, you have no idea what it
4 means to the community to have you here and
5 doing the work you're doing. It's good stuff.
6 Good citizens. That's all I have, Mike.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Again,
8 I'll echo what everybody else said. When I
9 went out into the hallway I saw people. I was
10 mortified. I thought something was going on.
11 I knew you guys were coming, but I didn't see
12 any scouts out there, just a lot of adults and
13 that's never a good thing when you're sitting
14 in these seats.

15 I'm thrilled to have you guys here.
16 Thank you so much for the work that you did.
17 It was absolutely fantastic. I actually drove
18 by and looked at it, really good job, really
19 happy you did that. We have a couple of large
20 properties too so if you are ever looking for
21 community service, we have a large field here.
22 We have large fields up there.

23 We're happy to provide you guys with
24 whatever you want, refreshments. So if you
25 ever need community service, this is the spot

1 to come. Thank you so much. We really
2 appreciate having you here.

3 Also like to thank -- congratulate
4 Mr. O'Malley, Mrs. Oven -- I thought I saw her;
5 and our future Mayor, Max. Congratulations.
6 And our friend here Tommy Hallinan on another
7 reelection. Even though he's not here, he
8 still leaves post-it notes. He always has a
9 job for us to do.

10 So I'm glad Mr. Amico took that one
11 off my plate for the annual Thanksgiving food
12 drive for Father Sica. So please try to make
13 that. I don't think I have anything else. I
14 don't have anything else.

15 MR. RUGGIERO: Congratulate
16 mister --

17 MR. DEMPSEY: Oh, and Mr. Genovese,
18 he always gets left out.

19 MR. GENOVESE: I attend one meeting
20 a year. And I didn't know the Boy Scouts were
21 going to be here and I'm thrilled.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: That's why we always
23 forget him.

24 MR. GENEVESE: Troop 66, they don't
25 want me to come anyhow.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. With that being
2 said, I'll look for a motion to adjourn.
3 Please stick around to get pictures with your
4 proclamation and everything. So I'll look for
5 a motion to adjourn.

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

7 MR. DEMPSEY: A second?

8 MS. BRIER: Second.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: All those in favor?

10 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Ayes have it and so
14 moved. We are adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
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11 Maria McCool, RPR
12 Official Court Reporter
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