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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, December 12th, 2022

TIME:

6:00 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 :

VINCE AMICO - President

JANET BRIER - Vice President

MICHAEL DEMPSEY

THOMAS HALLINAN

ELIZABETH ZANGARDI

WILLIAM O'MALLEY, III

KATHERINE OVEN

GREG WOLFF, Borough Manager

ANDREW GENOVESE, Controller

MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MR. WOLFF: Roll call, Mayor

4

Conway.

5

MAYOR CONWAY: Here.

6

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Zangardi.

7

MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

8

MR. WOLFF: Mr. O'Malley.

9

MR. O'MALLEY: Here.

10

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Dempsey.

11

MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

12

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Amico.

13

MR. AMICO: Here.

14

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Brier.

15

MS. BRIER: Here.

16

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Mackrell Oven.

17

MS. OVEN: Here.

18

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Hallinan.

19

MR. HALLINAN: Here.

20

MR. WOLFF: Number three, public

21

comment on agenda items only.

22

MR. AMICO: Would anyone from the

23

public like to comment on agenda items?

24

MS. NARO: Good evening. I'm

25

Melanie Naro, 106 Varley Street in Dunmore. I

1 had the privilege of serving on Council for  
2 four years in the 80s. And I always when I  
3 talk, I always thank Council because it's a  
4 thankless job.

5 Your social life, your personal life  
6 is remarkably changed. Your husband and wives  
7 are probably going to kill you, your children.  
8 But it's the most rewarding job too. So I  
9 thank you as a citizen for you stepping up  
10 because we all love this town. And it's the  
11 greatest town in Lackawanna County in my  
12 opinion.

13 I thought there would be more people  
14 because I read in the paper that you're going  
15 to raise taxes. And when I was on Council I  
16 was president. And I was the top. And  
17 unfortunately we had seven people. And it was  
18 four-three and I always was the tiebreaker.

19 And I just want to tell you that I'm  
20 here to support raising taxes. When we raised  
21 taxes I think they were 33, 35. My  
22 brother-in-law Tucker Hennigan came to Council  
23 and said, look, it's Christmastime. We need to  
24 pass this budget. I'm going to make a motion  
25 that we raise taxes to 53 mills.

1                   And I gasped. Okay, I knew the  
2                   minority was going to vote no so I was going to  
3                   be the tiebreaker. And people complained and  
4                   we all know what happened. We raised taxes and  
5                   people grasped. But they paid them because  
6                   we're Dunmoreans. We didn't lay anybody off at  
7                   Christmastime. And that was the right thing to  
8                   do.

9                   I look at this Council and you're a  
10                  team. You're working together. And that's  
11                  what this town needs. We have a lot of smart  
12                  people in this town, very successful business  
13                  people. We need to start coming together as a  
14                  community, start brainstorming how we could  
15                  raise money.

16                 I'm volunteering my time. And I  
17                 have a lot of time on my hand these days. And  
18                 so I'll be the first one to volunteer and help  
19                 you. I have a lot of ideas, some good, some  
20                 bad, some crazy, believe me, the stuff I come  
21                 up with at night. But I'm asking you the best  
22                 thing that happened to me was not winning the  
23                 election because my life improved tremendously.

24                 I miss the people. I miss the  
25                 workers. But I didn't miss the headaches. So

1 I applaud you. I hope each and every one of  
2 you votes yes today because it's for the best  
3 thing for Dunmore. And we have time to fix it.  
4 Thank you.

5 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

6 MS. BRIER: Thanks, Melanie, really  
7 appreciate it.

8 MR. AMICO: Chief DeNaples. And I  
9 don't know what headaches you're talking about.

10 CHIEF DENAPLES: Good evening,  
11 Council. I just want to bring some commentary  
12 and some concerns I have about item number 13  
13 on the agenda, motion to appoint Fire Chief  
14 Chris DeNaples as a code enforcement officer.

15 So here's my perspective. I've been  
16 with the Borough as Fire Chief for 15 years  
17 back when Melanie was the President of Council.  
18 And I take great pride in this job. I'm trying  
19 to do an effective and efficient job every day  
20 coming in here from the day I started and I'll  
21 continue to do that.

22 I just have some concerns, you know,  
23 Joe Lorince is currently the zoning and code  
24 enforcement officer. And, you know, I had a  
25 discussion with him today. Today was the first

1 day I chatted with him. We looked at a couple  
2 addresses and showed me some paperwork. And  
3 one of the questions I posed to him was, I  
4 said, "Joe, how much of this job is code  
5 enforcement? How much of it is zoning?

6 And the majority of that is code  
7 enforcement from what Joe was telling me,  
8 probably about 75 percent. Joe is in a  
9 full-time position. Me and Greg had a couple  
10 discussions today. And Greg point-blank told  
11 me, you know, you'll have somebody help you  
12 with the secretarial duties like Joe does and,  
13 you know, you're going to have Attorney Perry  
14 to help you with the other stuff like Joe does.

15 And, you know, we'll look at this as  
16 it goes. My concern is that something is going  
17 to be lacking. It's a full time Fire Chief  
18 position. It's a full time zoning and code  
19 enforcement position. It's 75 percent of it is  
20 code enforcement.

21 Again, I know there's going to be  
22 that secretarial help. But Joe was even  
23 looking for somebody else from what he told me  
24 for quite a while for that code enforcement  
25 component. So what I'm here to say is, that

1           there may be something lacking somewhere.

2                       I'm not saying definitely but I want  
3           this panel to know that from me directly. And  
4           again, I did have a couple conversations with  
5           Greg today. And he did say, you know, we'll  
6           offer you the help that we could, okay, as best  
7           as we possibly can. We'll look at it as it  
8           goes.

9                       And I acknowledge and I appreciate  
10          that. It's just I believe it would be a  
11          monumental task to do two full time very  
12          important jobs, especially -- I want to add a  
13          couple more things. When I met with Councilman  
14          Amico and Greg back on the 18th of November,  
15          besides from that code enforcement component  
16          thing, the Fire Department, myself, and Vince  
17          and Attorney Perry was involved worked very,  
18          very hard to get this fire safety inspection  
19          program together, okay?

20                      We started it. We got it in motion.  
21          And then there was some issue with it, the  
22          personnel issue that I really don't think this  
23          is the forum to get into. However, that was  
24          stopped and the union was no longer interested  
25          in doing that.

1                   So now that's going to be on me to  
2 do that as well. One other component that may  
3 come up here next year or somewhere in the  
4 foreseeable future is going through some  
5 ordinances, okay, and putting better language  
6 in ordinances.

7                   So now we got, you know, the  
8 additional duties as reviewing and possibly  
9 updating with help of some other people,  
10 ordinances, okay, code enforcement, fire safety  
11 inspections and being the Fire Chief.

12                   So that's all I have to say  
13 regarding that. I appreciate your time. I  
14 just wanted Council to hear that as a panel  
15 collectively together. Thank you.

16                   MR. HALLINAN: Thank you, Chief.

17                   MS. BRIER: Thank you.

18                   MR. AMICO: Anybody else from the  
19 public? Seeing none.

20                   MR. WOLFF: Motion to approve the  
21 minutes.

22                   MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion.

23                   MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that  
24 motion.

25                   MR. O'MALLEY: Second.



1 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
2 second. Anyone on the question? Seeing none,  
3 all those in favor.

4 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

8 MR. WOLFF: Number five, motion to  
9 approve and pay the open bills.

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

12 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make that  
13 motion.

14 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

15 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
16 second. Anyone on the question?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. AMICO: Seeing none. All those  
19 in favor.

20 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

24 MR. WOLFF: Number six, motion to  
25 approve the final 2023 budget.

1 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
2 to approve the final 2023 budget.

3 MS. BRIER: I'll make that.

4 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and --

5 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

6 MR. AMICO: And a second. Anyone on  
7 the question?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. AMICO: Seeing none.

10 MS. BRIER: Well, we had a big  
11 discussion about your budget in the prior  
12 meeting. And, you know, I just don't want to  
13 completely railroad this, you know, over. But,  
14 you know, we have a balanced budget. Mark  
15 Burton our Treasurer worked very hard on it as  
16 well as Jeannie Hill for the payroll piece,  
17 which is, you know, 80 percent of the budget.

18 So I just want to thank both of them  
19 for their really hard work on this. And I'll  
20 say that we think it's a -- budgets are an  
21 estimate. We think that this budget will  
22 mirror what we anticipate happening in 2023.  
23 And we think it's very realistic. So we're  
24 hoping it gets passed this evening. Thank you.

25 MR. AMICO: Anyone else on the

1 question?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. AMICO: All those in favor.

4 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

8 MR. WOLFF: Number seven, motion to  
9 approve the 2023 tax ordinance, general  
10 obligation 30 mills; debt service 19 mills;  
11 pension services a half a mill; street lighting  
12 one mill; fire equipment training two mills;  
13 firefighter services one mill; rescue services  
14 a half a mill for a total of 54 mills.

15 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
16 to approve the 2023 tax ordinance.

17 MS. BRIER: I'll make it.

18 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I  
19 have a second?

20 MS. OVEN: I'll second.

21 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
22 second. Anybody on the question?

23 MR. HALLINAN: On the question I  
24 would say, Mr. Amico, that I hate to use the  
25 phrase everybody went through this with a fine

1 tooth comb and you guys did a tremendous job of  
2 trying to do the best you could with  
3 everything. And I really appreciate the hard  
4 work by everybody involved.

5 But I hate to say the chickens have  
6 come home to roost. We have to finally raise  
7 taxes after so many years. And I'm not a fan  
8 of it but it's something that is necessary and  
9 has to be done. I could live with voting yes  
10 on this. Thank you.

11 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. Hallinan.  
12 Anyone else?

13 MS. BRIER: I just want to mention  
14 too we brought in the Pennsylvania Economic  
15 League to help us sort through some of the  
16 financial issues that, you know, we inherited.  
17 And this was their strong recommendation. We  
18 feel like we brought the experts in who know  
19 municipal law, municipal organizations way  
20 better than any of us do even some of the folks  
21 that are here a long time.

22 It's, you know, it's a difficult  
23 task. And we are really appreciative of all  
24 the work they did and their recommendations.  
25 It was a come to Jesus meeting that we had with

1           them, you know, again, shocking that, you know,  
2           this was their recommendation. But we were  
3           going to follow it. We did our due diligence.  
4           And we feel like it's the right thing to do.

5                       MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mrs. Brier.  
6           Anyone else on the question? Seeing none. All  
7           those in favor.

8                       ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

9                       MR. AMICO: Opposed?

10                      (No response.)

11                      MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

12                      MR. WOLFF: Number eight, a motion  
13           to authorize borrowing in the amount of up to  
14           \$1,500,000 at the best available market rate  
15           for the 2023 Tax Anticipation Note. Approval  
16           will authorize President of Council, Financial  
17           Chairwoman, and Solicitor to take all actions  
18           necessary to bring the matter to fruition.

19                      MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
20           to authorize the borrowing of up to \$1,500,000  
21           for our TAN.

22                      MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make a motion.

23                      MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

24                      MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
25           second. Anyone on the question?

1 MS. BRIER: This is a stop-gate  
2 measure for us. We do this every year. Some  
3 years actually, you know, the borrowing  
4 occurred but we were fortunate in the past  
5 couple of years that we haven't had to do this.  
6 But it's almost like having just something on  
7 the shelf in case of emergencies basically.

8 We hope to not use it. It's a loan  
9 that has to be paid back within the same year.  
10 So you just pretty much, you know, borrow from  
11 Peter to pay Paul. So we try not to use this.  
12 It's almost like a line of credit. But we need  
13 to be able to have some pot if we needed it for  
14 emergencies.

15 MR. AMICO: It's a nice insurance  
16 policy to have. Anybody else on the question?  
17 Seeing none. All those in favor.

18 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

19 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

22 MR. WOLFF: Number nine, motion to  
23 waive the garbage fee for 2023.

24 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
25 to waive the garbage fee for 2023.

1 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that  
2 motion.

3 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

4 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
5 second. And again, to be clear there is no  
6 garbage fee in Dunmore so I just wanted to make  
7 sure. There was a little bit of confusion at  
8 the last meeting. We will have no garbage fee  
9 again this year. We have to go through this  
10 process every December. So it's no garbage  
11 fee. All those in favor.

12 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

13 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

16 MR. WOLFF: Number 10, motion to  
17 adopt implementation of Act 57 of 2022,  
18 property tax penalty waiver provision.

19 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
20 for an implementation of Act 57, 2022, the  
21 property tax waiver provision.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that  
23 motion.

24 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I  
25 have a second?

1 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll second.

2 MR. AMICO: On the question, I would  
3 like to ask the tax collector Michael Ruddy to  
4 come up and just explain what this actually is,  
5 please.

6 MR. RUDDY: Good evening. Earlier  
7 in this year the state passed the Act 57 will  
8 specifically enable a person who purchases a  
9 new property during the course of the year if  
10 they're in a situation where they have -- don't  
11 get their tax bill, they can request that we do  
12 not hit them with the 10 percent penalty.

13 So it requires a number of things.  
14 We do have a form that we received. The chain  
15 of ownership would have to occur in the last  
16 year. They would need to provide a copy of the  
17 deed. And they would simply pay the face value  
18 of their tax bill.

19 This applies for the borough and the  
20 school tax bills. And it's going through the  
21 entire state so every city and borough and  
22 township is taking this law and making it a  
23 resolution just as we are. Any questions from  
24 anyone?

25 MS. BRIER: Thanks, Mike.



1 MR. AMICO: Thanks for the  
2 explanation. Appreciate it.

3 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

4 MR. AMICO: All those in favor.

5 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

6 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

9 MR. WOLFF: Number 11, motion to  
10 approve the clerical contract as ratified for  
11 the term January 1st, 2021 through December  
12 31st, 2025.

13 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
14 to approve the clerical contract as ratified  
15 for the term of January 1, 2021 through  
16 December 31 of 2025.

17 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

18 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

19 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
20 second. Anyone on the question? I'll just  
21 speak really briefly on it. This has been a  
22 long time -- we've been working pretty hard  
23 with clerical union or so in negotiations. And  
24 they're well-deserving of a new contract and,  
25 you know, and as negotiations go, the borough

1           gave up some things, the union gave up some  
2           things.

3                         And at the end of the day I think  
4           everybody is in a better place. I'm very  
5           thankful for the work that clerical union did  
6           with us over the "X" amount of years and  
7           working very diligently on this contract. So I  
8           don't see anybody from the union -- I do, Mark.  
9           So again, thank you. And please give our  
10          thanks to the folks in the office tomorrow.

11                        MR. BURTON: Thank you.

12                        MR. AMICO: Anyone else on the  
13          question? All those in favor.

14                        MR. O'MALLEY: Aye.

15                        MR. DEMPSEY: Aye.

16                        MS. BRIER: Aye.

17                        MS. OVEN: Aye.

18                        MR. HALLINAN: Aye.

19                        MR. AMICO: Aye. Opposed?

20                        (No response.)

21                        MS. ZANGARDI: Opposed.

22                        MR. AMICO: Ayes have it 6-1.

23                        MR. WOLFF: For number 12 there is a  
24          bit of an amendment there to what you have in  
25          your hand. Motion to approve Kelco Properties,

1 Incorporated in Scranton, Pennsylvania,  
2 commercial land development for an assisted  
3 living facility on the corner of Chestnut and  
4 Calvin streets pending receipt of approval of  
5 erosion and sedimentation plans.

6 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
7 to approve Kelco properties pending receipt of  
8 the erosion and sedimentation.

9 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make that  
10 motion.

11 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I  
12 have a second?

13 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

14 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a  
15 second. Anyone on the question? And just for  
16 the folks that weren't here earlier, this is  
17 for the project on Chestnut and Calvin Street.  
18 That is basically across the street from where  
19 the VFW is for those of you that don't know  
20 exactly where it is.

21 And it's an assisted living  
22 facility. And we have representatives from  
23 Kelco in the audience tonight if you want to  
24 speak to them after the meeting. I'm sure they  
25 will be willing to answer any questions that

1           you have.

2                       MS. BRIER: I just wanted to add  
3           it's 48 beds -- private suites, sorry. And it  
4           is a for profit entity. So it's on the tax  
5           rolls. So we're all happy about that.

6                       MR. KELLY: You guys are really  
7           happy about that.

8                       MS. BRIER: We are.

9                       MR. O'MALLEY: I think renderings  
10          look terrific. I can't wait until this project  
11          gets started. It will be a great addition to  
12          the borough. I'm really looking forward to it.

13                      MS. BRIER: And anyone who wants to  
14          see a rendering, it's up here.

15                      MR. AMICO: Anyone else on the  
16          question regarding Kelco's project? Seeing  
17          none, all those in favor.

18                      ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

19                      MR. AMICO: Opposed?

20                      (No response.)

21                      MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

22                      MR. WOLFF: Number 13, motion to  
23          appoint Fire Chief Chris DeNaples as the Code  
24          Enforcement Officer.

25                      MR. DEMPSEY: I'd like to make a

1 motion to table it -- I would like to make a  
2 motion to table appointing Fire Chief Chris  
3 DeNaples as a code enforcement officer. Chief  
4 DeNaples spoke. He brought up some good  
5 points. I think we need to meet a little bit  
6 more, go over some -- I just want to make sure  
7 all the ducks are in a row before we do this.

8 I don't think there is an immediate  
9 need for it currently as we sit here tonight.  
10 We can always do it in January if that -- but I  
11 think more discussion needs to happen with  
12 regards to appointing Chief DeNaples as the  
13 code enforcement officer as he explained. And  
14 I would like to have some more information  
15 before we appoint him as the code enforcement  
16 officer. So I'll make a motion to table that  
17 for tonight.

18 MS. BRIER: I'll second.

19 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll second.

20 MR. AMICO: I have a motion to table  
21 and a second. Anyone on the question? I think  
22 Mr. Dempsey explained it pretty well so I'm  
23 good to go. All those in favor of tabling.

24 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

25 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

3 MR. WOLFF: Number 14, motion to  
4 appoint Robert Rudalavage and Garret Flynn as  
5 part-time firefighters.

6 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
7 to appoint Robert Rudalavage and Garret Flynn  
8 as part-time firefighters.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll make that motion.

10 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I  
11 have a second?

12 MS. OVEN: I'll second.

13 MR. AMICO: Chief, real quick on the  
14 question, I just want to ask, these gentlemen  
15 that are -- they're good to go as far as you're  
16 concerned?

17 CHIEF DENAPLES: Yes.

18 MR. AMICO: They just have to finish  
19 their background checks --

20 CHIEF DENAPLES: That's been  
21 completed. Everything has been completed and  
22 Lieutenant Shigo contacted to start their  
23 orientation. So that's the next step and then  
24 once they complete that --

25 MR. AMICO: Good for me. All those

1 in favor.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

6 MR. WOLFF: Number 15, motion to

7 obtain requests for proposals for general

8 liability insurance and labor counsel.

9 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion  
10 to obtain RFPs for general liability insurance  
11 and for labor counsel.

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

14 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I  
15 have a second?

16 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll second.

17 MR. AMICO: Anybody on the question?

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, on the question,  
19 I think they should be separate RFPs. With  
20 regard to the general liability insurance, our  
21 renewal date is January 1. So I can't imagine  
22 that any general liability insurance carrier is  
23 going to be able to get us a quote once we -- I  
24 assume we're going to advertise it.

25 That's probably a period of 30 days.

1           January 1st is already going to be coming on.  
2           And I know Cummings Insurance -- I know  
3           Cummings Insurance I think it's their practice  
4           either three or four months prior to our  
5           insurance renewing does this work for us  
6           already and contacts multiple insurance  
7           carriers prior to December.

8                     And I believe they've already done  
9           that. I'm not certain of it. But when  
10          Cummings Insurance goes to all the other  
11          carriers, normally they are met with laughter  
12          because our claims are so bad. And they  
13          normally decline our insurance. So I don't  
14          think there is -- first of all, I don't think  
15          you could get the general liability insurance a  
16          quote in before January 21st.

17                    And Cummings Insurance already does  
18          this for us as a matter of course. So I don't  
19          think there is a need for that. But that's  
20          just on the question.

21                    MS. BRIER: I would disagree. I  
22          think we have the obligation to perform our due  
23          diligence in this matter. It's an extremely  
24          expensive insurance policy. I think Cummings  
25          does a great job with it.



1                   But like everything else, we found  
2                   out that we weren't looking at many of our  
3                   major expenses. And we were leaving upwards of  
4                   a million dollars on the table. So this is  
5                   just -- I think we could still put the RFP out.  
6                   We could still get some bids.

7                   We can see, you know, what the  
8                   difference would be. And I think it's really  
9                   important for us to look at these large  
10                  providers and every couple years and see what's  
11                  out there.

12                 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, I don't disagree  
13                 with that at all. I know that they do it  
14                 already as a matter of course. I just don't  
15                 think any insurance carrier -- at least in the  
16                 RFP we're going to have to address that it's  
17                 got to be done before December 31st.

18                 MS. BRIER: I don't think we have to  
19                 do that. I don't think we have to do that. I  
20                 think, you know, we can see what's out there.  
21                 I think we need the 30 days. There's, you  
22                 know, we're under no obligation to stay with  
23                 Cummings for a whole year. You know, we don't  
24                 have an agreement or anything like.

25                 So I think again, my concern is our

1 due diligence. That's all. Just showing that  
2 we're doing what we need to do for some of  
3 these incredibly expensive services. And  
4 again, I have no problem with Cummings  
5 Insurance. They've done terrific work for us  
6 for years.

7 It's just that we need as a Council  
8 I think to revisit these things from time to  
9 time. And that's why I think it's important to  
10 do.

11 MR. AMICO: Anyone else on the  
12 question? All those in favor.

13 MS. ZANGARDI: Aye.

14 MR. O'MALLEY: Aye.

15 MS. BRIER: Aye.

16 MS. OVEN: Aye.

17 MR. HALLINAN: Aye.

18 MR. AMICO: Aye. Opposed?

19 MR. DEMPSEY: Me.

20 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

21 MR. WOLFF: Treasurer financial  
22 report. Mark?

23 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.  
24 My brief summary for the November financials,  
25 for the month of November he had a net loss of

1           \$314,000, which was basically anticipated and  
2 budgeted for which brings our year-to-date net  
3 income to \$411,000 for the year.

4           As far as the income side of things,  
5 the real estate collections remain minimal.  
6 We're currently at 94 percent collection rate.  
7 Business license and permits, we received  
8 \$61,000 from Comcast for our franchise fees for  
9 the third quarter of 2022.

10           We received a \$75,000 grant for the  
11 Swinick stormwater project. Expensewise,  
12 \$44,000 for the 2022 volunteer fire relief  
13 allocation. The revenue was actually  
14 recognized in September. It was paid in  
15 November.

16           Our planning and zoning, \$40,000 to  
17 NEIC. Revenue from that project was recognized  
18 prior month in October. And as far as paving,  
19 we had additional \$40,000 highway construction  
20 and rebuild for the month of November. That's  
21 about it.

22           MR. HALLINAN: Thanks, Mark.

23           MR. AMICO: Thanks, Mark.

24           MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Mark.

25           MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

1 MR. AMICO: Mr. Kearney.

2 MR. KEARNEY: In the past several  
3 weeks we have continued with our party rentals  
4 and biddy basketball season is fully underway.  
5 Biddy will be taking a holiday break and  
6 that -- the last two weekends of the year.  
7 We're going to plan to open early during the  
8 Christmas week vacation.

9 So we'll be open at 11:00 in the  
10 morning so the kids could come down. We  
11 recently had to replace two actuators in our  
12 baskets in the gym. An actuator is the motor  
13 that raises and lowers the heights of the rims  
14 so we could vary the heights between 8 and 10.  
15 That allows the little kids to play also.

16 Replacing these is not easy. The  
17 company that provides us the actuators charges  
18 \$1,600 per installation. Thanks to DPW workers  
19 Pat Judge, Chris Davis and Jordan Seaman, we  
20 were able to transplant and replace the  
21 actuators allowing for an uninterrupted Biddy  
22 schedule.

23 Their work allowed the borough to  
24 save several thousand dollars and I would like  
25 to recognize their service. I know I spoke to

1 Janet and Mike about it and I just wanted to  
2 let everyone else know. That's all I have and  
3 Merry Christmas.

4 MS. BRIER: Chris, do we put it out  
5 on Facebook that the place is going to open  
6 early?

7 MR. KEARNEY: I will. I do a weekly  
8 schedule. Everybody kind of knows to look at  
9 it.

10 MS. BRIER: Thanks.

11 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

12 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Lorince.

13 MR. LORINCE: How you doing? I just  
14 want to let know I gave you the e-mails. I  
15 e-mailed you my request. We have a couple  
16 hearings. We have five hearings tomorrow. We  
17 did some Planning Commission. I set up all the  
18 Planning Commissions for January and February.  
19 And I just want to tell you it was fun working  
20 with you guys. But it's time to retire. If  
21 you need me or want any help, just give me a  
22 call.

23 MS. BRIER: How long, Joe?

24 MR. LORINCE: 32 or 33, something  
25 like that. I stopped counting.

1 MR. AMICO: Did you start when you  
2 were 18?

3 MR. LORINCE: I started young.

4 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Judge is still out.  
5 Chief Marchese.

6 CHIEF MARCHESE: During the month of  
7 November, our department responded to 863 calls  
8 for service. This is up by 116 calls from last  
9 month. For that month we had three criminal  
10 arrests, eight non traffic citations and nine  
11 traffic offenses arrest.

12 Personnel matters, we have two guys  
13 that were off for a couple months that are back  
14 now full time back working. And we have 15  
15 shifts sent out for overtime due to part-time  
16 officers not being able to work.

17 Part-time officers worked a total of  
18 895 hours for the month. We do have our  
19 schedule from now until January. All the  
20 shifts are filled, the holidays. And unless  
21 somebody calls off, that's really the problem  
22 we're going to have.

23 But right now we're full. We have  
24 two officers that we hired a few months ago  
25 that are released from their field training and

1 are actually taking shifts now which is going  
2 to help us. Our Christmas with Cops Toy Drive  
3 kicked off in mid November.

4 And we're getting a lot of  
5 donations. Everything is going pretty smooth.  
6 The PEL technology has begun the process of  
7 upgrading our server. I don't know how long it  
8 will take. Some of the stuff is backordered.  
9 But they are in the process of figuring out how  
10 they are going to migrate everything over at  
11 once. And that's it.

12 MR. HALLINAN: Can I ask you a  
13 question? How are we doing with the  
14 part-timers recruiting or whatever? When does  
15 the next class come out from down at  
16 Lackawanna?

17 CHIEF MARCHESE: I don't know. They  
18 didn't have a class. There was no interest.  
19 This was only one or two cops so they made them  
20 go to Hazleton. So there's not a lot there.  
21 And the only thing we did get, one of our guys  
22 that -- we have three guys on our full time  
23 eligibility list from the Civil Service test,  
24 he is getting hired in Old Forge December 20th.  
25 We're down to two.

1 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Chief.

2 MS. BRIER: Thank you, Chief.

3 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you, Chief.

4 MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples.

5 CHIEF DENAPLES: Just a couple  
6 things on our monthly report for December. The  
7 report was prepared last Thursday. So we have  
8 one more expenditure since then. We had our  
9 annual service on our cascade system. That's  
10 how we fill our breathing air cylinders that we  
11 put on our backs. That was \$850.

12 Pump generator chassis service on  
13 our rescue truck, that's currently being done.  
14 The truck was dropped off today. And it's  
15 right around \$1,350 provided there's no other  
16 issues found during the service and inspection  
17 on it.

18 And we have a \$130 inspection on our  
19 engine just a state annual inspection, the DOT.  
20 We had one battery go bad for our hydraulic  
21 tools -- electric tools. So that was \$696  
22 since the report was generated. However, we  
23 purchased that through our rescue billing  
24 account because it's the end of year, you know,  
25 it was something that was unexpected to come up



1           so we were able to go that route with all the  
2           financials.

3                       So for our overtime when the report  
4           was generated last Thursday there was 80 hours  
5           of overtime scheduled. However, since then  
6           there was a couple call-offs. So we're about  
7           24 hours on top of that approximately on top of  
8           the 80 hours.

9                       We have 12 firefighters working.  
10          Two have been out on long term work-related  
11          injury. One was out on a non-work related  
12          injury that happened at his residence. Not  
13          sure how long he's going to be out. It sounds  
14          like it will be a little while.

15                      The two firefighters that were  
16          hired, I'm hoping by the beginning of January  
17          we could get them working. We did post a  
18          posting on the union Facebook page for  
19          part-timers. I only got one request so far  
20          today. And actually the guy -- gentleman is  
21          from Franklin County. So I don't know how that  
22          will work. But we sent him an application and  
23          if he e-mails and if he calls, so we'll see  
24          what happens with that. So thank you.

25                      MS. BRIER: Thanks, Chief.

1 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you, Chief.

2 MS. OVEN: Thank you.

3 MR. WOLFF: Public comment.

4 MR. AMICO: Would anyone from the  
5 public like to address Council this evening?  
6 Mr. Duncan.

7 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton  
8 Street, same as always. First off, Joe, before  
9 I forget, congrats on the retirement. I'll  
10 miss you at Planning Commission. Now I know  
11 why you gave me -- I'm the secretary and he  
12 dropped off about 12 attendance blanks at my  
13 house. Now I know why. So congratulations on  
14 the retirement.

15 Just a few things, I have to thank a  
16 couple people tonight. I want to thank the  
17 Mayor. I had an incident at my house.  
18 Somebody -- they took it upon themselves to cut  
19 our Christmas lights. So I want to thank  
20 Officer Seamons who I don't know. And I asked  
21 Sal tonight to please tell him I said thank  
22 you.

23 Max, I want to thank you for the  
24 followup with the police department and getting  
25 back to me. I told you I appreciate that. But

1 I just wanted it on the record tonight. And,  
2 Mr. Amico, who I reached out to and who got  
3 back to me. Thanks everybody. I hope we catch  
4 them. I'm having a electrician come in now and  
5 put up motion detectors on that side of the  
6 house. This is our sixth police report. So  
7 somebody is having fun. Christmas lights.  
8 It's heartbreaking. So I want to thank all of  
9 those individuals.

10 I have to -- I'm on the Planning  
11 Commission. I very much appreciate that. I  
12 love what we do. It was nice see Mr. Kelly and  
13 his group here tonight. I was his rehab  
14 director when we had 15 facilities. It was  
15 nice to see that project go forward.

16 But what I want to do, I want to  
17 publically acknowledge Chief DeNaples comes to  
18 every Planning Commission meeting. I  
19 appreciate his input. I have a lot of  
20 questions. It's usually, you know, our public  
21 safety employees and ingress and egress and how  
22 everything goes with the site.

23 So I look to the Chief as really our  
24 resource on that. And sometimes our meetings  
25 do -- they're lengthy meetings. And he's

1           always there with a smile on. He's always very  
2           gracious about it. He certainly provides us  
3           the input and I think as a commission we need.  
4           So for the record, thank you, Chief DeNaples on  
5           that.

6                        I would like to ask one question  
7           just about the Mill Street -- the bridge and  
8           everything. Are we in the process of the  
9           grants or is there any update on the bridge or  
10          is it still a work in progress? That's what I  
11          want to ask.

12                      MR. HALLINAN: I'm sure it's a work  
13          in progress.

14                      MR. AMICO: It's a long work in  
15          process, yes. It's moving forward but they are  
16          not building us a bridge tomorrow.

17                      MR. DUNCAN: No, I understand that.  
18          I was just wondering where we were on that.  
19          All right. That's it. I just want to wish --  
20          I'm here for every meeting. I'm probably a  
21          pain in the rear when I ask questions. But I  
22          want to wish everybody here tonight -- I wish  
23          we had more people from this town that came to  
24          these meetings. But I appreciate what you  
25          folks do. Merry Christmas, happy 2023

1 everybody.

2 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

3 MS. BRIER: Thanks, Gary.

4 MR. AMICO: Anybody else from the  
5 public? Seeing none.

6 MR. WOLFF: Public officials.

7 MR. AMICO: Mr. Ruddy?

8 MR. RUDDY: First of all, I can't  
9 believe Joe is retiring. I wasn't going to say  
10 anything. But Joe is retiring. I have to say  
11 good luck. I don't know who is going to buzz  
12 me into the back of the building anymore.

13 MR. LORINCE: Maybe I'll give you my  
14 tag.

15 MR. RUDDY: The only other thing I  
16 want to mention was that myself and Mr. Wolff,  
17 we have been working on trying to add a web pay  
18 feature to the borough website so you could pay  
19 your taxes, both borough and school on the  
20 website.

21 We met with a couple of vendors  
22 about that. And also, we're in the process of  
23 upgrading our software. We're still with  
24 government -- TSS government services who  
25 provides us with the software. They're now

1 making it a web base system instead of a  
2 software that we install on our computer which  
3 is better if you have any kind of situation  
4 where the computer goes down. It's all logged  
5 in on web base so we don't have to worry about  
6 any backup computers. Other than that, I just  
7 want to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

8 MS. BRIER: Did you -- is there any  
9 documentation that if folks are able to do it  
10 online that it improves compliance? It seems  
11 like it would.

12 MR. RUDDY: It depends. We're  
13 looking at a couple of different vendors and  
14 trying to integrate them with the system in the  
15 back end so that we will automatically --  
16 there could be a situation where temporarily we  
17 just pull a report and balance it on the back  
18 end ourselves. But we're hoping that they  
19 could integrate everything so that it's already  
20 in the process in the system.

21 And the nice thing too is the vendor  
22 that we're using is the same vendor that we're  
23 already using for existing credit card  
24 payments. So we already have a relationship  
25 with them.

1 MS. BRIER: It would be a big  
2 convenience for the citizens to be able to do  
3 that.

4 MR. RUDDY: Yes, and there are other  
5 boroughs in the county that have this setup  
6 already. And they are the ones we contacted  
7 when we saw they had it and said how did you  
8 guys do this?

9 MS. OVEN: It's been successful for  
10 them?

11 MR. RUDDY: Yes. Some of them,  
12 we're going to limit it to the face value of  
13 the bill, not the installment because  
14 systemwise they have to build it out more on  
15 the back end. And we're going to crawl before  
16 we walk.

17 MR. HALLINAN: What do they usually  
18 charge?

19 MR. RUDDY: It depends on whether  
20 it's a credit card or an EFT. The credit card  
21 is the standard 3 percent. And EFT I think  
22 it's like 1.95.

23 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

24 MS. OVEN: Thank you.

25 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

1 MR. AMICO: Okay. Chief DeNaples?

2 CHIEF DENAPLES: I'm good. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. AMICO: Chief Marchese?

5 CHIEF MARCHESE: I'm good.

6 MR. AMICO: Mr. Kearney.

7 MR. KEARNEY: Nothing.

8 MR. AMICO: Mr. Wolff.

9 MR. WOLFF: Merry Christmas. Happy  
10 holidays.

11 MR. AMICO: Attorney Perry?

12 ATTY. PERRY: Happy holidays as  
13 well.

14 MR. AMICO: Mayor Conway?

15 MAYOR CONWAY: Joe, congratulations.  
16 That's awesome. I'm happy for you. We had a  
17 big Christmas tree lighting not this past  
18 Friday, the Friday before. I just want to make  
19 sure I thank so many members of Council that  
20 were there to help out registering people,  
21 pouring soup, handing out items for the kids.  
22 We had so many of the businesses  
23 donated everything for the event, didn't cost  
24 anybody a dime to be there. And I just think  
25 it's important that we remember around



1           Christmastime that it's not Wal-Mart or Target  
2           that are making those kinds of events happen.  
3           It's the people in the borough.

4                         And just a quick story about it  
5           though, and then at the end of the night we did  
6           a last minute bike raffle and 500 kids  
7           registered for this bike raffle. And there was  
8           seven bikes there. And all the bikes were read  
9           off.

10                        One bike was Councilman Michael  
11           Dempsey's son. He won it. He donated it back.  
12           And at the end of the night this woman came up  
13           and said, "Was this bike raffled off?" We said  
14           it was, but the winner donated it back. She  
15           said, "Oh, five of my boys put in for this  
16           bike."

17                        And we said, "Oh, you know what, you  
18           actually ended up winning the raffle? She  
19           started crying. She was so thankful. And she  
20           said it was going to be a rough Christmas for  
21           her kids. And then somebody overheard it and  
22           said they were going donate four more bikes.  
23           So all of those kids have a bike for Christmas.

24                        It was really just a wholesome  
25           event. It's was really great everybody that

1 volunteered. It was really awesome. So thanks  
2 to everybody for making that happen. And Chris  
3 and Cara Lowe, they were awesome. They really  
4 helped out and Maggie Calpin as well. They  
5 were incredible so. And Merry Christmas  
6 everyone.

7 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mayor Conway.  
8 We'll start with Mr. Hallinan tonight, please.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Good luck on your  
10 retirement, Joe. I wish you the best in your  
11 retirement and a long one at that. Enjoy it.  
12 I hope Didge is feeling better. The latest I  
13 heard he's going back in for another stent or  
14 something like that. I don't know how true  
15 that is or just the rumor mill.

16 And I wish everybody Merry Christmas  
17 and best of luck, Max, on the tree lighting. I  
18 heard it was outstanding. I had to work that  
19 evening. That's wonderful what Michael  
20 Dempsey's son did because I'm sure Michael  
21 wanted the bike.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Now Santa has to bring  
23 him one. So fingers crossed he drops it off.

24 MR. HALLINAN: And again, like I  
25 said, let me just finish up with the taxes.

1           It's a hard thing to do. It's not easy to  
2           raise taxes. And like I said, it's the hardest  
3           thing I've done and we haven't done it in  
4           years. And it's going to hurt some people and  
5           we really looked under every rock to try to not  
6           do this or try to make it as bad.

7                         And I think the rest of Council did  
8           a great job on this. So thank you everybody  
9           involved that made this happen. Merry  
10          Christmas. Thank you everybody.

11                        MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. Hallinan.  
12          Mrs. Oven.

13                        MS. OVEN: I would like to first  
14          wish Joe lots luck with the retirement.

15                        MR. LORINCE: You could you keep  
16          calling me. I'll answer. If I could help you,  
17          I'll be happy to.

18                        MS. OVEN: I would like to thank  
19          Melanie for her kind words. It's not -- easy  
20          decisions are not made up here. But we try to  
21          do the best we can for the borough. And I  
22          think we're headed in the right direction.

23                        And the tax increase did not come  
24          without a lot of thought and a lot of research.  
25          And we relied on PEL to guide us. And



1 great, great holiday season and we'll see you  
2 next year.

3 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mrs. Brier.  
4 Mrs. Zangardi.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: I just wanted to give  
6 a little bit of an explanation as to why I  
7 voted against the contract -- clerical  
8 contract. It was just -- there's just a couple  
9 of things in there that are just against my  
10 philosophy.

11 Mr. Amico and I talked about it and  
12 he and I discuss things. And while it may be a  
13 good contract, there is just a couple things I  
14 didn't agree with. It doesn't mean I'm right  
15 and they're wrong or they're right and I'm  
16 wrong. It's just my thoughts.

17 The second thing was the tree  
18 lighting was unbelievable if you could have  
19 seen it. It was just unbelievable. It was  
20 freezing cold and bitter. But it was worth  
21 every minute of it. It was awesome. Great  
22 job, Max Conway. And, Chris Kearney, I was  
23 just wondering what is the party rental fee for  
24 this section here?

25 MR. KEARNEY: Right here it's 50 an

1 hour for Dunmore residents and 75 for  
2 nonresident.

3 MS. ZANGARDI: I was just curious.  
4 I don't think I ever knew that. And that's all  
5 I have. Joe, good luck. Good health. And not  
6 everybody lives long enough to see it so it's a  
7 privilege and enjoy your retirement.

8 Melanie, I'll talk to you soon. And  
9 Merry Christmas, happy holidays. Stay safe  
10 everybody.

11 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mrs.  
12 Zangardi. Mr. O'Malley.

13 MR. O'MALLEY: First, I would like  
14 to thank everyone for coming and thank our  
15 department heads for their detailed reports  
16 again. Mr. Lorince, thank you for your service  
17 to the Borough. Congratulations on your  
18 retirement.

19 Miss Naro, thank you for your kind  
20 words. I always say that Dunmore is the best  
21 little town in America. And I truly believe  
22 that. I would look forward to hearing your  
23 ideas so we could make it an even better place  
24 to live.

25 Thank you again to Mayor Conway and

1 Chris and Cara Lowe and Maggie Calpin on the  
2 Christmas in the corners. It was a huge  
3 success. And finally I'd like to wish everyone  
4 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank  
5 you.

6 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. O'Malley.  
7 Mr. Dempsey.

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Joe, congratulations.  
9 I'll never lose your number. Joe and my son  
10 are joined at the hip so I see him everywhere.

11 MR. LORINCE: I'll still take care  
12 of Schautz for you.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm counting on it.  
14 Max, great job. Chris and Cara Lowe, I can't  
15 thank them enough. That was unbelievable the  
16 amount of work that we did. It was amazing.  
17 I can't wait to see how big it is next year.  
18 So Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

19 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. Dempsey.  
20 I say the same thing every meeting. I kind of  
21 like going last. So I really don't have to go  
22 way into detail. Everybody else seems to say  
23 everything I wanted to say. I want to add on a  
24 little more on what Max said about the  
25 Christmas event.

1                   First thing again, as Mike also said  
2                   Chris and Cara Lowe went way above and beyond  
3                   what anybody could expect. I think they  
4                   provided 20 gallons of soup, decorations, and  
5                   coordinated -- just had people in the right  
6                   place at the right time. They went way above  
7                   and beyond.

8                   Nina's provided pizza. Lenahan and  
9                   Dempsey had bags of free legal advice. We had  
10                  a lot of fantastic free legal advice. I was  
11                  the soup guy and I did not overfill a thing of  
12                  soup for fear of --

13                  MR. DEMPSEY: I was waiting for  
14                  somebody to get burned.

15                  MR. AMICO: Every now and again I  
16                  did notice Mr. Dempsey was twitching a little  
17                  bit trying to hit my arm. That was a  
18                  fantastic, fantastic event. I was super proud  
19                  that we all took part. And it was a great  
20                  event. Joe, again, thank you very much for  
21                  helping me for the last six years and for being  
22                  a dedicated person in the borough for the last  
23                  20 plus years.

24                  I don't want to throw your age out  
25                  there. You're going to be sorely missed. Just



1 a few business items, as far as potholes are  
2 concerned, our DPW is going to continue to try  
3 to stay on top of potholes.

4 We were unable to get cold patch for  
5 the past couple of weeks. We had a vendor  
6 issue so we reordered through a new vendor. So  
7 we should be able to be on top of our potholes.  
8 And the guys do a great job with that all  
9 winter.

10 And the last thing I have I believe  
11 is our next meeting. Our next meeting is  
12 scheduled December 26th. So that is the day  
13 after Christmas. I'm guessing nobody in this  
14 room wants to be here on December 26th. We're  
15 going to cancel our next meeting.

16 So the next scheduled meeting will  
17 be on January 9th after the new year. And  
18 that's all I have. With that I'll look for a  
19 motion to adjourn. Oh, Merry Christmas. Can I  
20 have a motion?

21 MR. O'MALLEY: Make a motion.

22 MR. AMICO: Can I have a second?

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

24 MR. AMICO: All those in favor.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. AMICO: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

(Meeting adjourned.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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  
7 ability.

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11 Maria McCool, RPR  
12 Official Court Reporter  
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