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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, March 13th, 2023

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 via telephone
- MICHAEL DEMPSEY - absent
- THOMAS HALLINAN
- ELIZABETH ZANGARDI
- WILLIAM O'MALLEY, III
- KATHERINE OVEN
- GREG WOLFF, Borough Manager
- 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, he's

11 absent. Mr. Amico.

12 MR. AMICO: Here.

13 MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Brier.

14 MS. BRIER: Here.

15 MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Mackrell Oven.

16 MS. OVEN: Here.

17 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Hallinan.

18 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

19 MR. WOLFF: Number three, public

20 comment on agenda items.

21 MR. AMICO: Would anyone from the

22 public like to comment on agenda items only,

23 seeing none.

24 MR. WOLFF: Number four, motion to

25 approve the minutes.

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

3 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make that
4 motion.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

6 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
7 second. Anyone on the question? All those in
8 favor.

9 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. HALLINAN: I'll abstain. I
13 wasn't here.

14 MR. AMICO: Okay, ayes have it.

15 MR. WOLFF: Motion to approve and
16 pay the open bills.

17 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
18 to approve and pay the open bills, please.

19 MS. OVEN: I'll make that motion.

20 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
21 have a second?

22 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

23 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
24 second. Anyone on the question? Seeing none.
25 All those in favor.

1 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

2 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. HALLINAN: I'll abstain again.

5 I was not here.

6 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

7 MR. WOLFF: Number six, Pennsylvania
8 Economy League report presentation.

9 MR. AMICO: Okay, folks, we have
10 some members of PEL, Pennsylvania Economy
11 League that will be here tonight to give a
12 report as to the study that they did for the
13 borough over the last year and a half or so.

14 And I would just ask that you pay
15 attention to their presentation and hold all
16 your questions to the end, if you don't mind.
17 That being said?

18 MS. SHEVLOCK: We have Patty
19 Moorhead, my associate and myself, Lynn
20 Shevlock here in person. And we have our CEO,
21 Leeann Rogers and Jane Billings who did our
22 operations review remotely. Janet Brier -- is
23 Janet on there too? Janet Brier is also on
24 there. Now, you can't see them but I think you
25 can hear them. Leeann, can you start -- do you

1 want to start off?

2 MS. ROGERS: Sure. Hopefully you
3 could hear me. Are you able to hear me?

4 MS. SHEVLOCK: Yes.

5 MS. ROGERS: Okay. First of all, I
6 want to thank you for allowing us to do some of
7 this via Zoom or do a hybrid meeting. It's
8 great. It allows Janet to join the meeting
9 from overseas and then Jane and I as well. We
10 were watching the weather this morning and
11 seeing the expected snowfall up there and
12 didn't want to be driving down the turnpike, 81
13 late at night in snowy weather, so appreciate
14 the accommodation.

15 Of course, the fact that we're
16 zooming we won't get much snow so you're
17 welcome. Thank you for the opportunity to work
18 with Dunmore on this project. This is a really
19 great project and we appreciate the opportunity
20 to work with you.

21 I think you'll see as we present
22 this that we have quite a bit of information,
23 lots of recommendations and we look forward to
24 walking through the presentation. Lynne, can
25 you jump to the next slide, please?

1 Thank you. So first a bit of an
2 introduction. For those of you who are not
3 familiar with or who may have forgotten who the
4 Pennsylvania Economy League is, we're the
5 state's leading independent nonprofit research
6 public policy research organization.

7 We have been operating for more than
8 85 years. We're on year 86 at this point. We
9 provide technical assistance, public policy,
10 research and independent research and
11 communication and specific education on local
12 government issues throughout the state.

13 We work to foster good government
14 that provides core public services in an
15 efficient way and provides the services really
16 that the residents want and need and ideally
17 the lowest cost. We believe that healthy
18 government is going to assist in creating a
19 sustainable Pennsylvania, sustainable regions
20 as well as sustainable communities.

21 Just to you give a quick summary of
22 the work of this project, it's a big endeavor
23 that we started last year to analyze borough
24 demographics as well as financial history.

25 We also looked at really all aspects

1 of operations for the borough. We did a very
2 careful analysis looking back five years at
3 financials as well as forward five years to
4 offer projections. And then we put together an
5 extensive report that has detailed analysis
6 including we also did a legal review looking at
7 labor contracts.

8 And we did an extensive analysis
9 that includes almost a roadmap for you, a
10 checklist on how you -- there's recommendations
11 on how you proceed, where there might not be
12 opportunities for future phase STMP grants.
13 There might be, you know, other opportunities
14 for improving the efficiency of the operations
15 as well as the financials for the borough.

16 I'm going to turn it over to Lynn
17 now to walk you through the demographic section
18 and the rest of the report. And Jane will --
19 I'll allow her to introduce herself when we get
20 started with her section as well. So, Lynne
21 and Patty and Jane, take it away.

22 MS. SHEVLOCK: Thank you, Leeann.
23 So we're going to start with demographics. The
24 reason that we start with demographics -- does
25 this work -- can you hear me okay? You can

1 hear me okay, right? The reason we start with
2 demographics is because demographics
3 essentially is your tax base.

4 And I want to say in looking at your
5 demographics, your trends are not too bad. You
6 have little blips here and there but basically
7 you're not doing bad in terms of the
8 demographics. One of the things is your
9 population.

10 Your population has really
11 stabilized in the last 20 years at about
12 14,000. And that is not due to natural
13 stabilization because your deaths are higher
14 than your births. What that means is that you
15 have people who are moving in and are replacing
16 that -- those deaths to keep your population
17 stable. So that is a very good sign.

18 You also have a pretty strong
19 working age population. You want to look at
20 your 18 to 64 population. That's your
21 population that mostly pays your taxes, right,
22 your earned income, your property taxes, etc.,
23 so particularly wage taxes. So you want to
24 make sure that is strong. And that is doing
25 very well.

1 You'll see that is over 60 percent
2 of your population. And now you are seeing
3 some declines in under 18 population. That's
4 sort of your feeder population, right, that
5 grows up and hopefully will stay in your
6 community. So that is something that you want
7 to keep an eye on in terms of trying to
8 continue to attract young families.

9 Okay, house trends. So the graphic
10 on the left is something that really is cool
11 that we just started adding. This shows your
12 age of housing. And you'll see that big block
13 at the bottom is built 1939 or earlier. You
14 got old housing. And old housing can lead to
15 blight.

16 It can lead to lower home values.
17 Now driving around your borough on, you know,
18 like your Main Streets and stuff, I don't see a
19 lot of blight. And I'm going to give you props
20 for that because that is not necessarily the
21 case in other communities that have housing
22 stock at this age. So you're actually from
23 what I could tell you are doing a pretty good
24 job in your community and maintaining that
25 housing stock.

1 And then the other graph shows your
2 owner occupied versus your renter and your
3 vacant. Now, notice you had a little blip down
4 there. That top line, that's your owner
5 occupied. You had -- that's gone down a little
6 bit, whereas your vacant has gone up a little
7 bit.

8 And also your renter, that's a trend
9 you want to watch. You're still pretty strong
10 in your owner occupied. You want to keep that
11 up there as much as you can. Again, rental
12 housing and vacant housing is more prone to
13 blight.

14 All right. Let's see if I could do
15 this. Wealth measurements, your wealth
16 measurements are pretty good compared to the
17 county. You're pretty much above the county in
18 just about everything. So that is really good.
19 Look at your median owner occupied home value.

20 Notice that in 1990, your home
21 values were above the state. But since then
22 they have declined to the point that you are
23 below the state. I think that probably has
24 something to do with the age of your housing
25 stock.

1 But your values are still higher
2 than the county as a whole, same with your
3 median income. You are above the county but a
4 little bit below the state.

5 Okay. Now we are going to turn to
6 your historical financials. This is going to
7 be more of a recap because we have discussed
8 some of this stuff. So this is your trendline
9 2011 to 2021. You'll see from 2011 to about
10 2013, this was sort of a period of austerity in
11 the borough from what I could tell from reading
12 the clips, there was some real attempts to
13 lower expenditures.

14 Then right around 2015 is when you
15 get the new landfill agreement. Taxes were
16 lowered by 10 mills. And the refuse fee was
17 eliminated. Then the following year in 16
18 you'll see that huge blip up which is your
19 sewer sale.

20 And then in the out years going from
21 there you see the expenditure line continues to
22 go up versus your revenue line. And also we
23 see the deficits. And again, the money for
24 those deficits was pulled out of -- for the
25 most part, out of your sewer fund balance in

1 the general fund.

2 That balance is at about 3.8
3 million. Any Patty will get into that more.
4 All right. So what was driving your historical
5 spending and your revenues? Property taxes are
6 your largest revenue source at about one-third
7 of total revenues. Unfortunately, your
8 property tax revenue is flat due to the old
9 assessment.

10 You get about 86,000 at 100 percent
11 collection rate which, of course, you don't get
12 100 percent. You get a little lower. That new
13 assessment in 2026 will resolve some of that in
14 terms of amount per mill and hopefully give you
15 some breathing room going forward.

16 Your growth is in your earned income
17 tax. But since you are a borough, you are at
18 your maximum for earned income tax. The only
19 way you could raise that is by going home rule
20 which is something that we'll discuss. And
21 your largest nontax revenue is the landfill
22 host fee.

23 Remember going forward, the landfill
24 host fee is only going to go up one penny a
25 year, right, so your two largest revenue

1 sources here currently are pretty flat, right?
2 Your property taxes and your landfill host fee
3 is only going to be growing a penny. Now,
4 obviously that will depend on the landfill, but
5 generally speaking.

6 Okay, expenditures, so salary and
7 wages are the largest cost, right, 4.7 to 4.9.
8 Your two areas of concern in your expenditures
9 was your health insurance that was about 1
10 quarter of your total employee expenditures.
11 And that grew almost 60 percent.

12 And your debt service was
13 consistently over 10 percent of total
14 expenditures. We'd like to see that debt
15 service below 10 percent. So looking back
16 what, does that mean? Part of your reason for
17 your cost there are your high legacy costs.

18 The debt service ties into the
19 various pension bonds that you got in order to
20 keep your pensions solvent. But, you know, in
21 order to pay these benefits we saw that you had
22 a negative finding with the Auditor General.
23 So these legacy costs are a problem.

24 Also your postretirement healthcare
25 is another issue. Okay, and now I'm going to

1 turn it over to the lovely Patty.

2 MS. MOORHEAD: So for 2022 you
3 showed a deficit in 2022. You guys are on a
4 cash basis. So while that looks bad, it's not
5 as bad as it seems. You did paving in 2022 of
6 about 1.042 million. And so you had big
7 construction costs. And then you had AARP --
8 not AARP -- ARPA, American Rescue Plan dollars
9 of 677 in both 21 and 22.

10 And that was used towards the paving
11 project. Another plus on the revenue side,
12 your EIT was actually up from your budget
13 estimates by about \$278,000, I believe. And
14 that is a trend that we've seen everywhere.
15 But the EIT has been up anywhere from 10 to 20
16 percent.

17 Me, personally, I think people got
18 big bumps in 2022. And so conservatively going
19 forward we're not going to say there's going to
20 be a big bump every year going forward in EIT.

21 Okay, so what we did was we took
22 your '22 for the financial projections.
23 Originally, we were going off your 2022 budget
24 when we presented back in November, October
25 when we talked to you guys.

1 But you guys listened and taxes were
2 raised by the 10 mills and that really, really
3 improved your finances going forward. So the
4 2023 budget is the basis for our projections.
5 Your tax rates, any rate or fee we do not
6 assume that you are going to raise it. We have
7 to go with what it is now.

8 You are at the maximum of 30 mills
9 without court approval. You could go up to 35
10 with court approval. But the problem is your
11 assessments are decreasing slightly but pretty
12 much decreasing about half a percent every
13 year.

14 EIT like I said, we're using a very
15 conservative 1.4 percent growth over the 2023
16 budget number. Most other taxes were -- most
17 other revenues and fees were held flat except
18 for the host fee which does go up just under a
19 percent every year. So that is what the one
20 penny per ton equates to.

21 On the expenditure side, the wages
22 and the healthcare are your big thing. We
23 assume that there will be a 2 and a half
24 percent wage increase every year and your
25 healthcare we have growing at 5 percent every

1 year. Those two things over the course of the
2 next five years account for 1.2 million dollar
3 increase in expenses.

4 So if you go to the next slide --
5 other things we grew at inflation rates about 2
6 percent every year. So over the next several
7 years we have decreasing or increasing deficits
8 going from 24,000 in 2023 to about 800,000 in
9 2027.

10 This is better than what we
11 projected earlier. Like I said, you hadn't had
12 the 10 mill increase and the new budget was
13 better. It was they really focused on the
14 expenses and kept things in line. And the
15 earlier deficits were at 2.4 million by 2027.

16 So you're in better shape now. But
17 these increases deficits are going eat away at
18 that 3.8 million dollar fund balance you have
19 now. So unless something changes you are
20 looking at continuing deficits for the next
21 five years.

22 Okay. So our findings, so the debt
23 refinancing was a good step. You took some
24 proactive steps, the debt refinancing like I've
25 been harping on. The millage increase was

1 good. Not filling some positions. You didn't
2 fill the code position after the person that
3 held that left. And so that those are good
4 positive steps. So -- and you've lower your
5 debt service going forward. So for your
6 financial recommendations.

7 Some of the ones we have are seek a
8 consultant to help to assist with financial
9 management and STMP implementation. That would
10 be someone coming in having meetings with
11 several of the Council members and manager,
12 just facilitating those to discuss any issues
13 that are up and coming, any questions you would
14 have with the budget going forward or policy or
15 anything like that, setting up maybe a cash
16 flow management system so you know when your
17 taxes in come in.

18 You know your taxes come and I think
19 Lackawanna County changed it to April 15th,
20 your real estate taxes -- just the county. The
21 earned income tax comes in like February, May,
22 August, and October. So you got to plan your
23 expenses around that, you know, in looking at
24 that kind of stuff.

25 Any issues that come up

1 operationally that may be, you know, a smaller
2 group of Council members and the manager and
3 the finance people can talk to. That is what
4 that financial consultant would do.

5 Look at your practices for policy
6 and procedures, we put several GFOA best
7 practices within the report. They are all in
8 there to look at. Review the labor
9 recommendations that are contained in the
10 report. Always look for intergovernmental
11 cooperation.

12 You have a robust police and fire
13 department here. Maybe you could use that with
14 some of your other boroughs and swap out some
15 services that they have with you. Develop a
16 capital improvement plan. You have money in
17 the bank now.

18 But going forward you should know
19 what your inventory is, what your assets are,
20 what trucks need to be replaced this year or
21 three years down the line and plan for that,
22 you know, put -- maybe start putting money into
23 a capital reserve for replacing that stuff.

24 Consider seeking a pilot. You know,
25 you've got Marywood and Penn State in the

1 few seconds more on the financial
2 recommendations, one of the big things is we
3 want you to really pay attention to your
4 financial management.

5 One of the problems that appeared in
6 the past and Jane will probably touch on this,
7 there was not a lot of planning done. There
8 was not a lot of thought given into what was
9 going on in terms of the finances. We would
10 like you to really button that up and pay
11 attention so that you understand when you are
12 running deficits and you can take measures to,
13 you know, to overcome that.

14 And some of these recommendations
15 also you'll be able to look at STMP phase two
16 money particularly that first bullet if you're
17 interested in having any additional assistance,
18 you could get that with the STMP. Also in
19 terms of the home rule recommendation, home
20 rule is not an easy process.

21 It's an 18-month process. But as
22 you saw, your growth is coming in earned income
23 taxes. And you would be able to bump that wage
24 even if you bump it from like .5 to .6, or .7,
25 people don't even really notice, right?

1 And it's better than the property
2 because you're not getting -- you laugh. You
3 talked to the Mayor in Pittston about that.
4 You're not getting the people on fixed income,
5 right, no one wants to raise the property tax
6 on the seniors.

7 It also isn't going to hit the
8 businesses, right, because it's a wage tax. So
9 we're going to go onto operations. Jane, are
10 you there?

11 MS. BILLINGS: I am here. Can you
12 hear me? Was that a yes?

13 MS. SHEVLOCK: Yes.

14 MS. BILLINGS: Okay. And can I just
15 get an idea -- I'm really sorry that I can't be
16 there in person. Can I just get an idea, I
17 don't know if people can see me or not and I'm
18 just curious, are the Council members there to
19 get an idea who is listening?

20 MS. SHEVLOCK: Yes, Jane. Council
21 is all here. There's quite a few members
22 sitting out in the audience. We cannot see you
23 but we can hear you.

24 MS. BILLINGS: Okay, that's good.
25 Thank you very much. I have to give thanks to

1 the -- all the people who work in Dunmore who
2 spent time when I came up to look at their
3 operations. And as I stress to them and I
4 stress to you, I'm looking at where things are
5 now and what possible recommendations I could
6 give you to help you in the future, some of
7 which cost money, some of which wouldn't cost
8 you any money but might actually would relieve
9 some of the pressures I think some of the staff
10 feels, some of the Council members feel, just
11 ways that I could hope run for a more efficient
12 organization.

13 That said, we'll see that under the
14 proactive steps and strength, that fourth
15 bullet, committed and engaged staff, there was
16 not one person that I talked to across all of
17 your departments that was not to me fully
18 committed to what they were doing for your
19 municipality, which has been my experience as a
20 manager for almost 35 years down in
21 southeastern Delaware County. So that was a
22 real plus to see.

23 I think some of those proactive
24 steps for -- someone went over them already,
25 restructuring of the codes department and the

1 participation in group and health insurance. I
2 know that is a large expense. But you are --
3 you do participate in a group health insurance
4 program. And it saves -- is Mark -- I assume
5 Mark is in the audience, your accountant that
6 has saved millions of dollars. So that is a
7 plus for you.

8 We talk a little bit more about your
9 other insurance and some ways to possibly save
10 money there. When I look at some of the
11 challenges and mostly this was administration
12 but administration sort of legislative is what
13 I'm talking about here. There was some things
14 that I noticed that are relatively easy to fix.

15 There were -- and we could talk
16 about some of those in the next slide which
17 will be the actual recommendations. But there
18 appeared to be a little bit outdated office
19 technology. The website is probably not kept
20 up as much as it could be.

21 It seemed like some of the
22 professional services were turned over year
23 after year without going out to bid, request
24 for proposal, which is never a great idea.
25 There is heavy borrowing with no debt policy.

1 I know that you are within the
2 allowable amounts for the Department of
3 Community and Economic Development. But as was
4 just alluded to, a lot of debt can relate to a
5 lot of expenditures and kind of running out of
6 control.

7 And kudos for consolidating all of
8 that last year or maybe it was a year before
9 and something to keep track of in the future.
10 So I'm going to look at those. But I did --
11 that first bullet, the overall lack of
12 operational and financial oversight I think
13 that some was touched on that some of the sewer
14 money was used to plug holes in budget.

15 Maybe it wasn't quite clear. Was it
16 the manager's job, was it the bookkeeper's job,
17 was it Council's job, so some ideas on how to
18 tighten that up a little bit. And then one
19 that I tried to find the right words for this,
20 Borough Council over involvement in day-to-day
21 operation.

22 And it's certainly not meant to
23 sound at all punitive or harsh. But there was
24 a lot of Council members participating in what
25 appeared to the day-to-day activities of staff

1 which can be a little cumbersome and not leave
2 enough time for maybe some of the bigger
3 picture items that you want to do.

4 So if we go to the next slide, by
5 the way, they are all together in the report,
6 19 recommendations in the administrative area.
7 So just getting some of them here, I hope you
8 have a chance look at them.

9 The second bullet is enact job
10 descriptions, policies and procedures. This is
11 really important. Lots of models out there to
12 go through. Looking at Leann, I'm guessing
13 that there are STMP grants available to help
14 with some of those processes.

15 And, you know, some of the things
16 that you would look at in these policies on
17 attendance, workplace harassment, nepotism, use
18 of borough property, dress code, a variety of
19 things so all of your employees know the ground
20 rules for working there and discipline
21 procedures as well.

22 Policy and procedure, they are
23 really important, how you advertise for open
24 positions, a whistleblower policy, a
25 communications policy, who could speak for the

1 borough, what do you do if there's a snowstorm
2 and you need to get word out to the public, who
3 does that? These are things once they are
4 written down you could go back and people can
5 check on that.

6 So that's something you might want
7 to put a debt management policy together again
8 to make sure that -- and that would probably
9 work with a capital improvements plan. And I
10 think people have talked about that already.

11 You've got a lot of equipment in
12 your Public Works Department. You've got a
13 Fire Department and kudos to you on that. I
14 know that might be a surprise but I'll talk
15 about that. So working with debt management in
16 sync with a capital improvement plan is
17 something that you certainly want to get going.

18 Two things on here -- and this is my
19 longest slide. I know you're all thinking, oh,
20 my God, we're going to be here all night. Two
21 things that I do want to notice. In the middle
22 there if anybody could see that, codify
23 ordinances.

24 You guys have been around a long
25 time. You passed a lot of ordinances in the

1 hundred-plus years that Dunmore's been in
2 existence or I assume it's close to that. But
3 there is no way right now for you or for any
4 member of the public to know what ordinances
5 are in effect right now.

6 And ordinances covering things from
7 does my dog have to be on a leash to what is
8 our zoning code, what is our subdivision code.
9 So codifying these ordinances and there is two
10 major companies in Pennsylvania that do this
11 and it does cost some money.

12 Again, there may be grants to do
13 this. But you want to get those ordinances
14 codified so you know what are your rules on
15 pension, what are your rules on some of the
16 other things that I mentioned. As I said, one
17 and done thing you could do and then you just
18 update it as you adopt new ordinances.

19 You actually have a link on your
20 website right now to ordinances. But it just
21 goes to some zoning code from about 20 years
22 ago. So that is clearly in need of updating.
23 And then the third bullet point I would really
24 like you to think about, from what I could
25 tell, you do not operate your Council under a

1 committee system.

2 That's a little unusual in
3 Pennsylvania. Most councils just to kind of
4 bring things under control, operate under a
5 committee, a seven member council would
6 normally have six committees. The Council
7 President would be the ex officio on all of
8 them.

9 One of them would be -- each Council
10 member would be in charge of one committee and
11 serve on two. What would the committees be,
12 you could do whatever is important to your
13 group. There is budget committee. There's a
14 public works and property committee, almost
15 always a public safety committee and then
16 usually something to do with planning, zoning,
17 and code enforcement. Some places are very
18 environment. They might do a parks and
19 recreation.

20 So this allows each Council member
21 to sort of home in on an area that they might
22 be interested in. It's also a great way to
23 organize your Council meetings. Each committee
24 would make a report. They would talk to their
25 staff members. So the staff members wouldn't

1 have to come to your Council meetings. And it
2 would leave you time to maybe look at the
3 bigger picture why you want to be on Council or
4 the Mayor in the first place.

5 And an ordinance in my town here
6 apparently everybody is now worried about
7 chickens. And they are about to pass an
8 ordinance on where a chicken coop could be.
9 Well, that might not be important to you but at
10 least it would be something -- an ordinance or
11 resolution, something that is important to you
12 in your job as a legislator.

13 So you could also -- look in your
14 neighboring municipalities to see what council
15 committees they have and think about
16 reorganizing that way. It doesn't cost
17 anything. And if it doesn't work, you don't do
18 it the next year. There's a no harm, no foul
19 there.

20 But I would really recommend I think
21 you will find that it helps bring things under
22 control particularly with lack of financial
23 control. It would allow a smaller group of
24 people to work with Mark and Greg in terms of
25 the budget and financing in the future.

1 Public works I think is my next
2 slide. Yeah, this was -- I don't know if Didge
3 is in the audience, ride around in his truck is
4 one of my favorite things as manager and see
5 the operation. I think as is probably pretty
6 clear, most of their time is spent on this
7 unrelenting daily task of collecting refuse,
8 recycling and it's a lot.

9 The department is not that large.
10 The department is not that young. Collecting
11 trash is -- it not only creates a burden for
12 the public works employees but the staff will
13 probably tell you that the bulk of calls that
14 come in are, nobody got my trash today or
15 somebody spilled my trash today.

16 It's a lot when you have all of that
17 inhouse. And I know you pride yourself on
18 really good collection and your residents are
19 happy. But the cost of collecting refuse and
20 recyclables is not only a financial cost, it
21 also probably means that other stuff does not
22 get done quite as well you as you would like.

23 And by that I mean things like
24 cleaning storm drains, which you actually have
25 to do in order to comply with your stormwater

1 requirements, maybe the potholes aren't patched
2 as much as you would like them to. I know
3 you've got that fabulous park but you have to
4 convert it from, I guess, soccer to baseball.
5 And you've got to move the mat on it. A lot of
6 other stuff has to get done.

7 And that is tricky when you are
8 spending a lot of time and money collecting
9 trash day in and day out. And, of course, it
10 snows or it rains, you know, the trees come
11 down. There's a lot there. So what are some
12 ideas for public works recommendations?

13 Certainly probably a little bit more
14 training. There's great training for free from
15 PennDOT for everything from how to manage a
16 little bit better, maybe how to structure the
17 department a little better, maybe some
18 assistant foremens with how to plow. Everybody
19 thinks they know how to plow. It's just an
20 example.

21 I would recommend that you develop a
22 capital plan for, you know, the trucks that you
23 have, other equipment that you have, and for
24 paving because paving does appear to -- I know
25 you've done some great paving programs. But

1 it's really something if you could find a way
2 to do it every year, it's -- it just will make
3 the borough look that much better and safer to
4 drive.

5 The big ones in here if you could
6 just go back real quick if you could go back to
7 that other one, I do think as was alluded to
8 before we're very aware that there used to be a
9 trash fee. It was eliminated when the most
10 recent agreement was made. But it doesn't mean
11 that you are really covering your cost right
12 now.

13 There are as I think Patty said
14 other costs. You are also picking up for free
15 from some of the not for profits in town and
16 that's not really fair to your residents who
17 are paying their taxes right now for the pickup
18 of trash and refuse. So I would definitely
19 take a look at that.

20 And if it were me, I would take a
21 look at outsourcing either refuse or recycling,
22 put out a bid, see how they come back for
23 another company whoever it might be. You'd
24 probably get some local haulers. I know you
25 have bigger haulers there as well and see what

1 they would charge for refuse or recycling. It
2 would take some of the burden off of your
3 public work staff and get some other things
4 done that probably I'm guessing some of you as
5 Council members would really love to see
6 enhanced a little bit in your town.

7 Okay, now I have my last slide.
8 Your public safety operations are pretty
9 robust. Fire services is suffering terribly
10 throughout all of Pennsylvania. And you guys
11 are actually ahead of the curve with a pretty
12 lean Fire Department but I was pretty impressed
13 with your public safety operations.

14 That said, it's something that you
15 probably -- working with your fire chief and
16 the manager see if there is any way to
17 regionalize those services. There may be some
18 smaller municipalities that are struggling a
19 little bit, have them join in and somehow share
20 those costs for paid fire.

21 Update staffing policies certainly
22 needs to done. You need job descriptions for
23 all of both fire and police and updating
24 procedures for Heart and Lung and workers comp.
25 For those who don't know, Heart and Lung is

1 when a police, fire officer goes out on
2 work-related duty, need some strong policy so
3 you know when you they could get back to work.

4 And again, just like for public
5 works, coordinate the planning for capital, for
6 vehicles, for IT, for your facilities along
7 with your debt management. And then the last
8 slide I have a couple things in particular for
9 police.

10 I know that you started allocating
11 some money for school resource officer. You
12 might want to check and make sure that all of
13 those costs are being correctly allocated to
14 the school district. Accreditation is
15 something the Chief probably knows about.

16 It's a way to get the department
17 accredited. The nice thing about it is you get
18 a fresh look at policies and procedures and
19 make sure that you are really up-to-date with
20 state and federal requirements. I'm a huge
21 fan -- our police department issued an annual
22 report. Sometime people think cops don't do
23 anything.

24 That said, man, I saw on Facebook a
25 lot of love for your fire, police and public

1 works department and kudos for that. I know
2 they do a lot of work in the community. But a
3 manual where it doesn't have to be long, just
4 some idea of what they do. I think it's really
5 helpful for people to see and continue to
6 support that department.

7 If you are concerned, the Department
8 of Community and Economic Development will do
9 for a free a study of the police department to
10 make sure that, yeah, they are in agreement
11 that your service levels and your staffing
12 levels and actually I think they will even do
13 your equipment levels are up-to-date. So that
14 is something that you might want to pursue.

15 MS. SHEVLOCK: Thank you, Jane.

16 MS. BILLINGS: If there aren't any
17 questions on any of this, of course, I'm going
18 to stay on and I'd be happy to answer them.

19 MS. SHEVLOCK: Okay. We're almost
20 done. Last is economic and community
21 development. I want to say that I think you
22 guys are very -- in a good position for
23 economic and community development honestly.
24 You have a lot of strengths.

25 You have very good strong commercial

1 areas in the Dunmore Corners, O'Neill Highway
2 and Industrial Park. And I'm going to say
3 this. I go to a lot of communities where you
4 have empty storefronts all over the place.

5 Your storefronts might not be the
6 prettiest, right, you maybe want to do some
7 facade. You want to do some streetscapes. You
8 want to do some sidewalks, you know, that kind
9 of stuff makes it look a little prettier. But
10 you actually are doing pretty well in terms of
11 your business community.

12 As we discussed, you're a close-knit
13 desirable community. That's a good thing. You
14 have new development coming into the corners
15 from that senior housing. So you guys are
16 actually positioned really well. Also, you
17 have the new revitalization committee that's
18 coming in.

19 So you are very much optimistic on
20 that. Also, you do -- did get a DCNR park
21 study. It's a little park study. It's not a
22 big park study, a little park study. That can
23 give you a first step into DCNR, into, you
24 know, figuring out what you want to do with
25 your recreational assets and potentially doing

1 a bigger master plan and oh, by the way, don't
2 forget you have that crazy Dickson City land
3 too. That's an asset. I'm a big believer in
4 making your assets work for you and using what
5 you can.

6 So next steps, we are going to
7 finalize the report. If you have any questions
8 or concerns or anything about the final draft
9 you can let me know and we will, you know, see
10 if you need to change anything. And then you
11 want to meet with the lovely Lisa from DCED.

12 Lisa can help you in terms of your
13 phase two implementation because there is all
14 kinds of things in here that you could get
15 grant money for. The STMP phase two grants are
16 up to \$200,000. So you as a Council will
17 decide with Lisa, you know, what it is that you
18 want to see going forward. There are a lot of
19 recommendations in there.

20 Again, I would really encourage you
21 too to look at the labor chapter. That's where
22 a lot of your expenditure control can come from
23 in terms of collective bargaining. And that is
24 our presentation. Are there any questions?

25 MS. MOORHEAD: If you hear questions

1 that are directed towards me or Jane, if you
2 wouldn't mind translating just to make sure we
3 hear.

4 MS. SHEVLOCK: Sure.

5 MS. MOORHEAD: We can hear Lynne and
6 Patty pretty well. I'm not sure we'll be able
7 to hear Council members. Thank you.

8 MR. DUNCAN: I was trying to take
9 notes throughout so I'll just ask this. Will
10 the report as it was presented tonight be
11 available for the public to review?

12 MS. SHEVLOCK: The report goes to
13 Dunmore. We as the consultant don't
14 distribute. So that will be up to Dunmore in
15 terms of what, you know, how they want to get
16 that report out to the people.

17 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

18 MR. AMICO: So answer Mr. Duncan's
19 question, yes, we'll add that on our website.

20 MS. SHEVLOCK: Yeah, the report is
21 much more detailed. There's a lot of graphs
22 and, you know, if you need to go to sleep some
23 night --

24 MR. DUNCAN: Can I ask one more
25 question? In regards to the payment in lieu of

1 taxes, the pilot programs, besides Marywood,
2 what was the -- you mentioned two. Are there
3 any more than two?

4 MS. SHEVLOCK: Penn State and
5 Marywood. There are two. Penn State does give
6 a pilot to State College. They do give pilots
7 to other places. I tend to think that they are
8 probably giving pilots to -- I talk to them. I
9 saw them at a conference. They don't give them
10 to everybody. It depends somewhat on your
11 impact. But I definitely would encourage a
12 conversation because I think the conversation
13 is the one that's going to get the pilot,
14 right?

15 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you.

16 MR. HALLINAN: Mr. Duncan, we do an
17 agility with PennDOT for a tradeoff in services
18 rather than money with PennDOT.

19 MR. DUNCAN: Thank you very much.

20 MS. OVEN: When you mentioned the
21 Borough approved pension benefits exceeds the
22 requirements, what does that mean?

23 MS. SHEVLOCK: This is not something
24 that was done currently. This was something
25 that was done in the past. We looked at our

1 labor attorney who reviewed your CBAs and your
2 contract situation, looked at the Auditor
3 General's reports. There were a lot of
4 negative findings.

5 It was difficult for him to -- and
6 you could read the labor chapter and also we
7 could make him available if you want to talk to
8 him. We were going have him come up tonight
9 but I know you were really business tonight.
10 He could talk to you more about that.

11 There has been some stuff not even
12 just with the buyouts, the even sort of like
13 bookkeeping type issues that resulted in some
14 findings. It was difficult for him I think. I
15 know it was for me when I went through it to
16 really get a grasp of what has actually been
17 corrected and what hasn't been corrected. This
18 was the 2018 report.

19 So it was hard to kind of get a
20 handle on some of that. Some of it was done
21 through the pension, you know, and if you look
22 in the report in the historical finances
23 section, it does mention where some of those
24 benefits are being paid.

25 MS. OVEN: So we have to delve more

1 into that.

2 MS. SHEVLOCK: Yeah, it was -- and
3 another issue in terms of the labor, you know,
4 one of the things John McLaughlin who did the
5 review had a hard time because there's no real
6 consolidated contract. And so he was looking
7 at all of these just sort of side agreements.
8 And it was difficult to track what exactly was
9 going on, you know, in terms of your contracts.

10 MS. OVEN: Is that something that we
11 can bring up with the pension solicitor to
12 review that to see?

13 MS. SHEVLOCK: That is something
14 that you want to talk with your labor attorney
15 about. Again, I think there is a bunch of
16 stuff in the labor. We do not, you know, get
17 into your labor strategy or anything like that
18 obviously in the public.

19 But I think there is things that you
20 want to look at in terms of your collective
21 bargaining agreements. The legacy cost in
22 particular John was concerned about. You know,
23 I will tell you that John is working for the
24 receiver in the City of Chester.

25 He is very, very much aware of, you

1 know, these kinds of issues. And he was very
2 concerned in terms of, you know, that you guys
3 need to get a handle on these legacy costs
4 because that is what, you know, your pension
5 wasn't distressed because you kept putting
6 money in it.

7 But that's what happened in Chester.
8 They had deals with collective bargaining and
9 they did not put pension bonds in it so they
10 ended up with a severely distressed pension.
11 But you really need to watch those costs, watch
12 what is going on.

13 And if you don't even have a clean
14 contract to start from, you know, to say, oh,
15 yeah, here's all of my stuff right here. You
16 got to kind of, you know, piecemeal and all
17 over the place. You know, getting a handle on
18 your labor is a very, very good place for you
19 to start in terms of your expenditures.

20 MS. OVEN: My other question was the
21 postretirement healthcare benefits that we
22 provide. In terms of us compared to other
23 municipalities or boroughs, are we paying much
24 more than these others or how far out of whack
25 is that that we're paying?

1 MS. SHEVLOCK: I would say that
2 you're paying more. Patty, what do you think?

3 MS. MOORHEAD: It was past practice
4 to give postretirement healthcare benefits. In
5 recent years they've stopped trying to -- the
6 contracts have been written to phase that out.
7 But we have seen it in a lot of places for
8 people. But I want to say in the mid2010s they
9 started phasing that benefit out of the
10 contracts.

11 MS. OVEN: Because of excessive
12 costs of healthcare.

13 MS. MOORHEAD: Healthcare I want to
14 say when they -- yeah, in the mid-tens I would
15 say is when it started to get -- the increases
16 were getting into the double digits and stuff
17 like that. And it just was prohibitive for
18 municipalities to contribute. It was a
19 practice in the past but it has been phasing
20 out.

21 MS. SHEVLOCK: It's not uncommon.
22 But we also see a lot of places that didn't do
23 it, you know. But, you know, it wasn't
24 uncommon.

25 MS. OVEN: If you are looking to be

1 more financially sound, paying those exuberant
2 costs is not exactly a good idea.

3 MS. SHEVLOCK: And again, I would
4 very much encourage you guys to read the labor
5 chapter. He goes into great detail in terms of
6 what you're -- some of your issues are. And
7 again, if you want to meet him, have us bring
8 him up at some point you could let us know.

9 MS. OVEN: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. AMICO: Anybody else? Thank you
11 very much. We'll give you a couple minute
12 break to give these guys a chance to break
13 down.

14

15 (A brief recess was taken.)

16

17 MR. AMICO: All set.

18 MR. WOLFF: Hold on. Janet wanted
19 me to call her back. Number seven, motion to
20 approve Resolution 2023-1, LSA Grant for VFW
21 roof and kitchen project.

22 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
23 to approve Resolution 2023-1.

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

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

2 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
3 second. On the question, anybody? I'll just
4 talk real quickly. We've approved this in
5 past. I think we did it last year. As a
6 matter of fact I think we did it twice. From
7 what I understand, I know this is true, some of
8 wording in the grant wasn't exactly up to
9 snuff.

10 So we just had to do a little bit of
11 tweaking in our resolution. So that's where we
12 are now so basically this is just, you know,
13 semantics. Anybody else on the question? All
14 those in favor.

15 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

19 MR. WOLFF: Motion number -- Number
20 eight, motion to approve Resolution 2023-2,
21 address changes for Harmony Court. So a
22 resident came in last month with some concerns
23 about some addresses at the 1300 block of Adams
24 and Harmony Court. So we had this resolution
25 here.

1 I'll read it quickly, 618 Harmony
2 Court shall be changed to 1343 Harmony Court.
3 1345 rear Adams Avenue shall be changed to 1345
4 Harmony Court. 1369 rear Adams Avenue shall be
5 changed to 1347 Harmony Court.

6 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
7 to approve Resolution 2023-2, the address
8 changes for Harmony Court.

9 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
10 motion.

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

13 MS. OVEN: I'll second.

14 MR. AMICO: On the question, as Mr.
15 Wolff said, this is just getting some addresses
16 changed for neighbors on Harmony Court and on
17 Adams to be correct. With that being said, all
18 those in favor.

19 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

20 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

23 MR. WOLFF: Number nine, motion to
24 approve Co-Op agreement with Lackawanna County
25 for fiscal year 2022, CDBG Program

1 Administration.

2 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
3 to approve the CO-OP agreement with Lackawanna
4 County for financial year 2022, CDBG Program
5 Administration.

6 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make that
7 motion.

8 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
9 have a second?

10 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second.

11 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
12 second. On the question, I'll just add real
13 quickly. This is just a continuation of the
14 Chestnut Street Project.

15 In the past so far we've upgraded,
16 you know, we have done some paving on Chestnut
17 Street and sidewalk work and infrastructure
18 work and this is just a continuation of that
19 project. That being said all those in favor.

20 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

24 MR. WOLFF: Number 10, motion to
25 approve Marywood University, 2300 Adams Avenue,

1 institutional land development.

2 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
3 to approve Marywood University, 2300 Adams
4 Avenue institutional land development.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that
6 motion.

7 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
8 have a second?

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

10 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
11 second. Anyone on the question?

12 MR. WOLFF: This is just an
13 expansion of a building on the Marywood campus.
14 It was approved by the Planning Commission, the
15 Lackawanna County Planning Commission as well
16 as our borough engineer. So it's all up to
17 speed.

18 MR. AMICO: All those in favor.

19 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

20 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

23 MR. WOLFF: Number 11, motion to
24 approve ordinance 2023-1 adopting the 2018
25 International Property Maintenance Code.

1 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
2 to approve ordinance 2023-1 to adopt 2018
3 International Property Maintenance Code.

4 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that.

5 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
6 have a second?

7 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

8 MR. AMICO: On the question, last
9 month we started this process. This is just
10 getting some of our Property Maintenance Codes
11 up to date. And we're going to be adopting the
12 2018 International Property Maintenance Code.

13 And that is what was recommended to
14 us by NEIC. So that's the direction that we
15 chose to go. All those in favor.

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

20 MR. WOLFF: Number 12, personnel
21 matter, appoint Rob Haines as a part-time
22 police officer.

23 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
24 to appoint Rob Haines as part-time police
25 officer.

1 MR. O'MALLEY: I'll make that
2 motion.

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

5 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

6 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and
7 second. Real quick on the question, this
8 gentleman was recommended to us by Chief
9 Marchese. He went through this checks. He's
10 squared away. And I would like to say welcome
11 to Mr. Haines if we vote on it to be our next
12 part-time officer in the Borough. All those in
13 favor.

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

18 MR. WOLFF: Number 13, personnel
19 matter, reappoint Terry McDonnell to the zoning
20 commission for a five-year term.

21 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
22 to approve Mr. McDonnell to the zoning
23 commission for a five-year term.

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

1 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
2 have a second?

3 MS. OVEN: I'll second.

4 MR. AMICO: Okay. I have a motion
5 and a second. I'll go over this real quickly
6 for both -- to be honest for both the zoning
7 and planning. The reason why we're doing this,
8 terms for zoning and planning for three
9 positions were up at the end of last year, the
10 end of 2022.

11 One position was expired in zoning
12 and that will be Mr. McDonnell's position. And
13 he's already been on zoning for a number of
14 years. And on planning we had two open seats.
15 By open seats, I mean their terms are expired.
16 So it's our job as Council to seek, you know,
17 whether the people that are currently already
18 on want to be reinstated or if we're seeking
19 outside people.

20 So that is where we are right now.
21 So as far as planning -- zoning Mr. McDonnell's
22 term was up and we're going to vote on it now.
23 All those in favor of Mr. McDonnell be
24 appointed to a five-year term say aye.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

4 MR. WOLFF: Number 14, personnel
5 matter, appoint Jordan Clark and Donna
6 Tomasetti to the Planning Commission for a
7 four-year term.

8 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
9 to appoint Mr. Clark and Miss Tomasetti to the
10 Planning Commission for a four-year term.

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

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

15 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

16 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
17 second. As I said a few minutes ago, we also
18 had two positions in planning that were open.
19 Again, their terms were expired. And tonight
20 we're going to vote on Mr. Clark and
21 Mrs. Tomasetti. All those in favor.

22 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

1 MR. WOLFF: Number 15, personnel
2 matter, appoint Mike Brazil as part time
3 Zoning/Planning coordinator.

4 MR. AMICO: I'll look for a motion
5 to appoint Mike Brazil as our part time
6 Zoning/Planning coordinator.

7 MS. OVEN: I'll make that motion.

8 MR. AMICO: I have a motion. Do I
9 have a second?

10 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

11 MR. AMICO: I have a motion and a
12 second. On the question, this -- I'll speak
13 briefly to this. Mr. Lorince, Joe Lorince
14 retired last year. And one of his many roles
15 was to be the coordinator with the Planning and
16 Zoning Commissions.

17 So part of Joe's role we're going to
18 outsource to a new position, which will be this
19 part-time position that Mr. Brazil will be
20 taking. That being said all those in favor.

21 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

22 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

25 MR. WOLFF: Number 16, Treasurer

1 Financial report.

2 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.
3 I'll be very brief. The month of February saw
4 an operating deficit of \$81,000. This was due
5 mainly we have a few large expenditures. On
6 the income side, we had our Comcast franchise
7 fee for the 4th quarter, \$60,000.

8 And the main expenses that drove
9 deficit for February, highway construction
10 rebuild. We paid the balance of our paving
11 project. As you know, we're a cash basis so
12 the expense is recorded when the payment is
13 made.

14 Our stormwater flood control
15 \$140,000 for the Swinick project. And another
16 \$114,000 in debt service to our 2021 general
17 obligation bond.

18 MR. AMICO: Thank you.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

20 MR. WOLFF: Chris Kearney.

21 MR. KEARNEY: Last week we wrapped
22 up the 22-23 Bidy season by hosting an all
23 start tournament here. Also this past weekend,
24 we hosted the Indian community as they
25 celebrated their annual spring ritual of Holi.

1 It's their spring celebration.

2 And from what they told me and I
3 personally observed, there were close to 800
4 people here Saturday night. I would like to
5 thank the staff and DPW Jordan Seamon for
6 helping us put the place back in order. If you
7 saw this place Saturday night and look at it
8 now, you wouldn't believe it. So there's a lot
9 of people here.

10 This weekend we continue with our
11 busy party schedule with two parties booked.
12 We've also been hosting Riverfront AAU
13 basketball every Thursday night which will
14 continue into May.

15 Little League is starting up and we
16 have them here using the courts and the batting
17 cage until weather get better. And finally the
18 Jog for Jude meetings are becoming more
19 frequent as we get closer to that event which
20 is scheduled Saturday, April 22nd. And that's
21 all I have.

22 MR. AMICO: Thanks.

23 MS. OVEN: Thanks.

24 MR. WOLFF: Michael Judge is not
25 here. Quickly, cold patch is continuing.

1 And we're obviously ready for the snow that may
2 or may not come, the 32 inches that we're
3 getting. Chief Marchese.

4 CHIEF MARCHESE: Our calls for
5 service for the month of February we had 919
6 calls for service. The number is down by 117
7 calls from the previous month.

8 Arrest for the month of February
9 with had 12 criminal arrests, four nontraffic,
10 and 43 traffic arrests. We only had two shifts
11 on for overtime for the whole month. Officer
12 Richardson and Burgett took part on monthly
13 SWAT training February 14th to 27th.

14 Officer Richardson also attended a
15 training in Harrisburg February 15 and 16th.
16 All officers completed their CPR first aid
17 certifications. It's good for two years.
18 Larry Waters taught the class for us. New
19 business, when I got -- our reporting software
20 that we use for our police reports, we do our
21 criminal complaints, affidavits. The company
22 is Central Square.

23 They are going to be not supporting
24 it come next year. So we just renewed our
25 lease I think it's \$5,600 for the year.

1 Dunmore along with many other departments in
2 the county are in the same boat. As of next
3 year we have to find a new solution to do the
4 reporting stuff.

5 All the new stuff is cloud based and
6 it's very expensive. We had a couple vendors
7 at our Chief's meetings and the initial price
8 for an average department is -- upfront cost is
9 anywhere from \$50 to \$70,000 for the first year
10 and \$10,000 after that per year.

11 So we're trying to bring a couple
12 different vendors in. We're trying to get a
13 discount if we all go with the same vendor.
14 Right now we are just waiting for we still have
15 one more company to come in next month and
16 we're going to get together and hopefully, you
17 know, try to figure out where we're going to
18 go.

19 I know it's election time and we're
20 going to see if we could get some grant money
21 to cover the initial cost of it.

22 MR. HALLINAN: Reporting to who?
23 Who does that report go to?

24 CHIEF MARCHESE: The reports we do
25 for our own self. And the newer stuff is a lot

1 better. All the departments here can share it.
2 It's nice. It's just expensive.

3 MAYOR CONWAY: Chief, I think I
4 speak for everybody with the work that Michael
5 Lydon did this month it really was should be
6 applauded. How much did he get off the street?

7 CHIEF MARCHESE: There was 5,150
8 bags off the streets.

9 Mr. O'MALLEY: That's the largest in
10 Lackawanna County history. Well done.

11 CHIEF MARCHESE: He did a great job.

12 MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples.

13 CHIEF DENAPLES: Good evening,
14 Council. I just have a few things for this
15 month on the Fire Department side. Our annual
16 service got pushed off to this month. That's
17 3,650 for a ladder struck. We had a breakdown
18 over the weekend. Today that repair was made.
19 We were at for replacement alternator and
20 voltage regulator on that. We're at 2,541.

21 The only other large expenditure for
22 the month of March was the annual ladder
23 testing for our aerial ladder and our ground
24 ladders. That was 1,230. The rest of the
25 expenditures weren't very high.

1 As far as overtime for the month as
2 of date of this report was completed March 9th,
3 we had 24 hours of overtime. Sixty-two
4 part-time shifts put out for part-time
5 firefighters. That was the main part of the
6 report as far as expenditures and personnel.

7 We had 22 calls from March 1st to
8 current, one fire type call, eight emergency
9 medical services and rescue, four hazmat, three
10 service calls that are including smoke detector
11 installments, etc., two good intent calls and
12 four false alarm type calls.

13 On the zoning -- I'm sorry, code
14 enforcement side, there was total of three
15 inspections done from March 1st to current, two
16 followups were done today and one magisterial
17 hearing for a pending issue from last year that
18 was started 2022. That that's all I have if
19 there's no questions.

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

21 MR. AMICO: Thanks, Chief.

22 MS. OVEN: Thank you, Chief.

23 MR. WOLFF: Public comment.

24 MR. AMICO: Would anyone from the
25 public like to comment this evening? We'll

1 start with Mr. Duncan, please.

2 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton
3 Street. Just a couple things, I want to thank
4 Council for getting a secretary for the
5 Planning Commission. I really appreciate the
6 appointments. So thanks to all the Council
7 members for filling those appointments. It is
8 appreciated.

9 Kudos, Chief Marchese, on the
10 fentanyl and everything else that you reported
11 on. I wanted to ask or mention the sewer grid
12 in front of my house at 117 Barton Street. I
13 talked about it last spring. PAWC sent
14 somebody out to look at it. They were going to
15 get to it.

16 It's right at the corner of Barton
17 and Church Street. You probably know where
18 it's at. When the DPW trucks have to cut that
19 corner unfortunately, they have to go up right
20 over my sidewalk and they come over the top of
21 that grid. If they are cold patching if you
22 could have somebody come down and look at.
23 It's deteriorating now.

24 In the past I've actually gotten
25 down into it and fixed it myself. The bricking

1 and everything that supports that it's all now
2 coming out.

3 MR. WOLFF: 117 you said.

4 MR. DUNCAN: Right at the corner.
5 You can't miss it. And there's a number sign
6 right on my light outside the house. And other
7 thing is at the bottom of Barton Street when
8 you -- if you go down to the bottom of Barton
9 Street and you take a left through the alleyway
10 it used to take you out to Tommy Golden's
11 funeral home.

12 Right now I'm probably the oldest
13 person in this room but it looks like the Ho
14 Chi Minh Trail. That alleyway now, I have a
15 Honda and I can't get through it. The potholes
16 are so deep it's literally hitting the entire
17 muffler and that tail. If you have and a
18 kid -- that's a shortcut through there and they
19 come through that street pretty fast. We have
20 people going down that street 35, 40 miles an
21 hour.

22 We have a lot of little kids still
23 on the street. They cut through that alley.
24 If they hit a pothole in that alley now, the
25 bottom of their car is going to be gone. The

1 one pothole is at least that deep. You could
2 walk through it.

3 I walk my dog out to Delaware.
4 Katherine, I know you were there. We saw you
5 the one night. I'm sure you could testify how
6 bad that alley is. I don't think it's ever
7 been paved in the history of the town,
8 certainly not since 2004.

9 If we can get cold patch or
10 something in there to least -- a lot of people
11 use it that live on Barton Street. And a lot
12 of those folks are elderly. The other thing, I
13 spoke to the county commissioners about it. I
14 spoken to I think five or six members of the
15 House of Representatives, a couple of Senators
16 from all over the state. I say this as the
17 Chairman for the Council on Ageing.

18 The federal government's done a
19 lousy job with messaging. There's a system
20 called 988 and 9881. You might know about it.
21 We have 911. But those folks aren't trained in
22 mental health crisis and suicide prevention and
23 those types of things.

24 There's a system out now it's 988.
25 And if you're a veteran it's 9881, which will

1 get you an actual qualified mental health
2 professional. It's going to deal with issues
3 like posttraumatic stress syndrome for veterans
4 and those types of things, 988 and 9881.

5 We've placed ads. The Commissioners
6 have been very good. We found some grant
7 monies. I spoke to a couple of folks downtown
8 last week. All three Commissioners are onboard
9 with this. I don't want to omit anybody.
10 We're going to be rolling out a commercial for
11 Lackawanna County that is an educational
12 commercial, a PSA that will let the public
13 know that this is now in place.

14 I could tell you I have five regions
15 with the Council on Ageing. They talk about
16 grandparents raising grandchildren. I have
17 people in their 80s. I have one lady who is in
18 her 80s taking care of 103-year-old aunt that
19 she keeps at home.

20 I have another lady 78 that is
21 taking care of her 98-year-old mother. And at
22 2:00 in the morning you could get to your
23 breaking point. So it's not just a suicide
24 hotline. It's a mental health crisis hotline
25 just to have somebody to talk to.

1 So I want to make Council and the
2 citizens of Dunmore aware of that because if
3 you could prevent one suicide, it's well worth
4 the monies invested in it. So as always, I
5 thank you, Council.

6 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

7 MR. DUNCAN: And thank you for the
8 PEL report tonight. It was wonderful to hear
9 everything. So thank you.

10 MS. OVEN: Thank you.

11 MS. SANTARSIERO: Rosemary
12 Santarsiero, 205 Sand Street. About mid, early
13 January the orange barriers by the bridge were
14 hit. That was cleaned up. The yield sign was
15 never put back. Can we have that yield sign
16 put back, if possible? Some people do yield,
17 some don't. Maybe if it's there it would deter
18 people from barreling through.

19 Is there any other information on
20 what you could do for the bridge? It's getting
21 worse.

22 MR. AMICO: No, there is. I'm sure
23 you're aware, we did take ownership of the
24 bridge last year which was the first step in
25 getting it replaced. And we're now on the Tip

1 list. And that's something we've been told for
2 years we need to get on the Tip list in order
3 to get any action done on the bridge.

4 And what the Tip list is, it's the
5 Transportation Improvement Program. Long story
6 short, now we're in competition with other
7 bridges and roads in the area to get, you know,
8 the bridge squared away.

9 Mr. Wolff and I attended a meeting I
10 think in January. It was a virtual meeting
11 with again the city and other municipalities in
12 the area. And we basically had to plead our
13 case as to why the Bunker Hill Bridge is in
14 dire need of being upgraded.

15 And it just so that happened right
16 before we spoke, a gentleman from the City of
17 Scranton spoke and was talking about the Myrtle
18 Street bridge across from East Scranton Little
19 League and basically saying that bridge is also
20 on the list.

21 And we both -- the gentleman from
22 the City of Scranton and we pled our case
23 saying the people in Bunker Hill -- right now
24 Myrtle Street bridge is the only way for us to
25 get the fire apparatus and emergency vehicles

1 and school busses.

2 But if the Myrtle bridge is
3 nonoperational, then you guys are sort of on an
4 island. So we did plead our case. And now
5 we're on that list. And going forward we have
6 to seek -- not only be on the list to try to
7 get money from the state, we're also seeking
8 money from the federal government and grant
9 money to get it squared away.

10 So again, first step is us finally
11 taking ownership, which again, the county and
12 the state weren't going to take it. So we felt
13 it was right for to us do so which we did. And
14 now we're on that list so hopefully federal
15 monies will be allocated and we could move the
16 process forward faster.

17 MS. SANTARSIERO: Thank you.

18 MR. AMICO: Thank you very much.

19 Anybody else from the public? Seeing none.

20 MR. WOLFF: Public officials.

21 MR. AMICO: Public officials.

22 MR. WOLFF: I'm good.

23 ATTY. PERRY: I'm good.

24 MR. AMICO: Mayor Conway.

25 MAYOR CONWAY: I'm good.

1 MR. AMICO: Chief.

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

4 MR. AMICO: Chief.

5 CHIEF MARCHESE: I'm good.

6 MR. AMICO: We'll start with Mr.
7 Hallinan, please.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, I'll be quick.
9 Congratulations to Rob Haines, Donna and
10 Jordan, best of luck on your appointments.
11 Great job by Mike Lydon, DPD. It doesn't stop.
12 They took a lot off the street but I think we
13 had another incident yesterday. It's horrible.
14 So thank you. They're doing their due
15 diligence out there and appreciate it. And
16 Happy St. Patrick's Day to everybody. That's
17 all I have. Thank you.

18 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. Hallinan.
19 Mrs. Oven.

20 MS. OVEN: Congratulations to Jordan
21 and Donna and Mike Brazil for their
22 appointments and thank them for stepping up and
23 helping the Borough. And we appreciate
24 everyone who submitted applications.

25 There was a lot of people and it

1 gives me hope that people are getting more
2 involved. So I thank them for that.

3 MR. AMICO: Thank you. Is Mrs.
4 Brier still on?

5 MR. WOLFF: Janet, would you like to
6 say anything?

7 MS. BRIER: I just want to thank PEL
8 for their analysis. I think it was great, a
9 great historical analysis. And it gives a
10 pathway for the future. And that's all I
11 have, Greg.

12 MR. AMICO: Thank you. Miss
13 Zangardi.

14 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you for
15 everybody for stepping up for the Zoning and
16 Planning Commission and Mike Brazil. Gary
17 Duncan, great job on the parade. And there's
18 an article about the 988 program in the
19 Advantage newspaper.

20 MR. DUNCAN: That is part of our
21 messaging.

22 MS. ZANGARDI: So if anybody has
23 that. And really basically, Mike Lydon, great
24 job. Thank God. And thank you everybody else
25 for stepping up for the Planning and Zoning.

1 That's all I have. Thank you.

2 MR. AMICO: Mr. O'Malley.

3 MR. O'MALLEY: I'd like to thank
4 everyone for attending this evening. I want
5 to thank PEL. It's good to have everything
6 down on the paper. I appreciate their
7 recommendations. And we should definitely
8 implement a number of them to help our borough
9 more effectively.

10 Congratulatlons to our newest
11 appointments and best of luck in your endeavors
12 and best of luck to our Dunmore Lady Bucks and
13 Holy Cross boys basketball teams as they
14 proceed through the state tournament. That is
15 all I have.

16 MR. AMICO: Thank you, Mr. O'Malley.
17 I basically say the same thing every month. I
18 love being last because I don't have to repeat
19 what other people say. I was going to say to
20 thank you to PEL which I'll again say thank you
21 real quickly.

22 As far as Planning and Zoning, as I
23 think Miss Oven mentioned we had a number of
24 candidates, which is fantastic. Personally, I
25 do believe that what Planning and Zoning does

1 is as important if not more important than what
2 we do here.

3 Planning is a recommending body.
4 And zoning is their own governmental body.
5 They could vote. And things that they work on
6 and vote on and recommend makes life for the
7 Borough either really, really good or as you
8 could see with some of the issues that we've
9 been having over the years, not so good,
10 decisions that those boards have made in the
11 past make our live more difficult.

12 So if we have a solid Planning and
13 Zoning Commission Board, it makes our life very
14 easy here. So again, I would like to thank
15 those folks that stepped up to apply. I thank
16 them very much. And for those who were
17 appointed congratulations.

18 I would be remiss if I didn't thank
19 Mr. Al Senofonte has been on our Planning
20 Hearing Board for the last 25 years. So I
21 would like thank Al for his service to the
22 Borough.

23 And the last two things -- positive
24 things, Schautz Stadium, now that hopefully --
25 it sounds weird saying that spring is coming

1 when we're having a possible snowstorm tonight.
2 Schautz Stadium will be very busy the next
3 couple of months. Both Dunmore and Holy Cross
4 baseball will be playing there.

5 We have some college games going on
6 along with travel games. And in April, flag
7 football will start on Sundays. So again, the
8 stadium will be used. So again, that's a
9 positive asset to the Borough. And I'm glad to
10 see it being used as extensively as it is.

11 I would like to thank Michael
12 Dempsey who is not here tonight for keeping
13 Schautz Stadium occupied and moving forward.
14 With that, that's all I have. I look for a
15 motion to adjourn.

16 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that
17 motion.

18 MR. AMICO: Second?

19 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

20 MR. AMICO: Okay. Motion and a
21 second. All those in favor.

22 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. AMICO: Opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 MR. AMICO: Ayes have it.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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