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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, January 8, 2024

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:

- JANET BRIER - President
- KATHERINE OVEN - Vice President
- MICHAEL DEMPSEY
- THOMAS HALLINAN
- ELIZABETH ZANGARDI
- WILLIAM O'MALLEY, III
- PATRICK LOUGHNEY
- GREG WOLFF, Borough Manager
- MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor

MICHELLE SMOLSKIS  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3 MS. BRIER: I'd like to have just a  
4 moment of silence in memory of Thomas Golden,  
5 Goldie. He was a former member of this panel  
6 and also a former magistrate.

7 (Moment of silence.)

8 MS. BRIER: Thank you.

9 MR. WOLFF: Roll call. Mayor  
10 Conway.

11 MAYOR CONWAY: Here.

12 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Loughney.

13 MR. LOUGHNEY: Here.

14 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Dempsey.

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

16 MR. WOLFF: Mr. O'Malley.

17 MR. O'MALLEY: Here.

18 MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Brier.

19 MS. BRIER: Here.

20 MR. WOLFF: Katherine Mackrell Owen  
21 will be late. Mrs. Zangardi.

22 MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

23 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Hallinan.

24 MR. HALLINAN: Here.

25 MR. WOLFF: Number three, public

1 comment on agenda items.

2 MS. BRIER: Does anyone have public  
3 comment on any of the agenda items only?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. WOLFF: Number four, motion to  
6 approve the minutes.

7 MS. BRIER: I look for a motion to  
8 approve last month's minutes.

9 MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

11 MS. BRIER: I have a motion and a  
12 second. All those in favor?

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MS. BRIER: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. WOLFF: Number five, motion to  
17 approve and pay open bills.

18 MS. BRIER: I have a motion to  
19 approve and pay open bills.

20 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that  
21 motion.

22 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

23 MS. BRIER: We have a motion and a  
24 second. Anyone on the question?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. BRIER: Okay. All those in  
2 favor?

3 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

4 MS. BRIER: Opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. WOLFF: Number six, approve a  
7 \$500 donation to Griffin Pond Animal Shelter.

8 MS. BRIER: We have a motion to  
9 approve \$500 donation to Griffin Pond Animal  
10 Shelter?

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

13 MS. BRIER: Okay. Do we have a  
14 second?

15 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

16 MS. BRIER: Thanks. We have a  
17 motion and a second. On the question. We do  
18 donate \$500 typically every single year to the  
19 animal shelter. Does anyone else have anything  
20 on this question?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. BRIER: All in favor?

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MS. BRIER: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MS. BRIER: The ayes have it.

2 MR. WOLFF: Number seven, treasurer  
3 financial report. Mr. Burton.

4 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.  
5 This is my brief analysis for the month of  
6 December, 2023. The month brought a financial  
7 loss of \$540,000 which brought a year-to-date  
8 net loss of \$564,000.

9 As far as income is concerned, real  
10 estate there was minimal collections as  
11 anticipated in the month of December. We did  
12 receive our 2022 recycling performance grant,  
13 \$15,000. Miscellaneous revenue, we received  
14 \$230 (sic) for the PMIC 2022 surplus  
15 distribution. That was \$230,000.

16 As far as expenses are concerned,  
17 employee benefits, there was a down payment of  
18 \$148,000 for a down payment for the 2023 work  
19 comp. Storm water flood control, \$15,000  
20 balance of the Swinick storm water project.

21 The retirement and pension, \$50,000,  
22 the UFCW pension fund penalty. That was three  
23 quarters. They hadn't billed us during the  
24 year. And a final MMO payment of \$44,000  
25 brought us up to date.

1                   And just a couple brief notes on the  
2                   yearly loss. As you know, we're cash based, so  
3                   there was a bleed over from the 2022 paving  
4                   projects which were paid. The moneys were  
5                   received in '22 but paid in 2023. That  
6                   represented the bulk of the \$540,000 net  
7                   loss -- or 560 net loss for the year. So it's  
8                   more of a timing issue --

9                   MS. BRIER: Than an actual loss.

10                  MR. BURTON: We paid for it in '23  
11                  but we received the money in '22.

12                  MS. BRIER: So, Mark, could you just  
13                  explain to the folks what the MMO is because a  
14                  lot of people --

15                  MR. BURTON: The minimum monthly  
16                  obligation. Our actuator determines what we  
17                  are to contribute to the employees' pension  
18                  fund, and it's based on the four different  
19                  departments.

20                  So, we have a number typically from  
21                  \$900,000 to 1.1 million dollars depending on  
22                  the actuary's calculation, which we are  
23                  required to pay by the end of the year.

24                  We also do receive state funding,  
25                  approximately half from the state. So, we're

1 on the hook for the balance. We've made that  
2 the past several years.

3 MS. BRIER: Thank you. Does anyone  
4 have any questions?

5 (No response.)

6 ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Mark.

7 MS. BRIER: We'll wait for public  
8 commentary.

9 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Kearney.

10 MR. KEARNEY: Good evening. Over  
11 the past week we've returned to our busy  
12 schedule here after the holidays. Biddy  
13 basketball has resumed their weekly practice  
14 schedules and weekend games along with various  
15 school teams practicing here, as well.

16 Pickle ball is being held here on  
17 Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and we have  
18 continued with our party schedules on the  
19 weekends in this room.

20 Upcoming events include a biddy all  
21 star tournament here the second week of  
22 February; Jog for Jude, Saturday, April 20th;  
23 and the election, April 23rd, which is a  
24 Tuesday. I figured I'd bring up some spring  
25 events here to get everybody looking forward.

1           And that's all I have.

2                   ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Chris.

3                   MR. WOLFF: Mr. Judge.

4                   MR. JUDGE: Hello there. The snow  
5 storm, we had a lot of trucks break down. In  
6 fact, today we were down to one truck. We sent  
7 them up to Morgan's and we'll have four back  
8 tomorrow. And those two are still down at  
9 Scranton Dodge. I think we should try to get  
10 them out of there. They're there since June.

11                   MS. BRIER: Yeah, we talked about  
12 that.

13                   MR. WOLFF: Yeah, we can talk about  
14 it.

15                   MR. JUDGE: Yeah. Greg, I talked to  
16 somebody today. After the meeting I'll talk to  
17 you, all right?

18                   MR. WOLFF: Okay.

19                   MR. JUDGE: And we're collecting  
20 Christmas trees. Put them out any day. Just  
21 leave them in front of the house, they won't go  
22 bad. Just put them out and they'll be picked  
23 up. Other than that, right now we're cleaning  
24 the streets.

25                   MR. HALLINAN: Okay. And just so



1 the audience knows, the two trucks that are  
2 down, it was a recall.

3 MR. JUDGE: Right.

4 MR. HALLINAN: So, it's kind of out  
5 of our -- they have a union strike and  
6 everything that went on with the UAW, and  
7 getting parts off of them was -- obviously  
8 we're still waiting. It's terrible. So, don't  
9 think we're just waiting on two trucks and  
10 leaving them there.

11 MR. JUDGE: Yeah. So, tomorrow  
12 we'll have four trucks on the road. We'll get  
13 the rest of the -- all the main streets are  
14 open but the --

15 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah. We got a lot  
16 of cleaning up still to do.

17 MR. LOUGHNEY: Didge, did you make  
18 sure that some of the drains are cleared?

19 MR. JUDGE: Tomorrow we're going to  
20 clean all the drains off for this rain. Good  
21 idea.

22 MR. HALLINAN: Well, I brought up  
23 definitely the Drews and Valvano property down  
24 on --

25 MR. JUDGE: Down there.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Make sure that gets  
2 cleaned up.

3 MR. JUDGE: I know where the water  
4 usually --

5 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

6 MR. JUDGE: And we'll make sure  
7 they're all opened up.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Yep.

9 MR. JUDGE: All right?

10 MS. BRIER: And, Didge, we want to  
11 thank you and your crew.

12 MR. JUDGE: Okay. Thank you.

13 MS. BRIER: Because I know you were  
14 out all night on Saturday night.

15 MR. JUDGE: Yeah. I'll let the guys  
16 know.

17 MS. BRIER: We really appreciate it.

18 MR. JUDGE: I'll let the guys know.  
19 And tomorrow we'll have it all cleaned up, all  
20 right?

21 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

22 MR. WOLFF: Chief Marchese.

23 CHIEF MARCHESE: Monthly report for  
24 December. Our calls for service during the  
25 month, we had 724 calls for service. This

1 number is down 15 calls from November. For the  
2 year of 2023 we responded to 11,030 calls for  
3 service. This amount is up from 2022. 2022 we  
4 had 8,964 calls.

5 Our arrests for the month of  
6 November, we had six criminal arrests, four non  
7 traffic, 15 traffic arrests.

8 We have one officer still off on  
9 heart and lung long term. Training, Officer  
10 Burgette took part in his monthly SWAT  
11 training. All officers completed their yearly  
12 legal updates. They're online, 12 hours of  
13 yearly training required to keep our  
14 certifications.

15 Our Christmas with the Cops program  
16 was a success. We'd like to thank the public,  
17 everybody who donated. We were able to help  
18 over 40 families this year for Christmas. And  
19 that's all I got.

20 MS. BRIER: Chief, are you going to  
21 address the situation on Adams Avenue?

22 CHIEF MARCHESE: No, not in the  
23 public. Not right now. I mean, there's only  
24 so much I could say. I mean, it's an  
25 investigation, it's ongoing, you know what I

1 mean? We're kind of limited in what we could  
2 say.

3 MS. BRIER: Okay. Well, if there's  
4 some folks here --

5 CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah, if they have  
6 questions, I'll be able to answer some  
7 questions, but not --

8 MS. BRIER: Okay. When it comes  
9 time for the public --

10 CHIEF MARCHESE: I can't get too  
11 specific.

12 MS. BRIER: Okay. Thank you. Is  
13 Chief DeNaples here?

14 MR. WOLFF: He's not. He's off.  
15 Chief DeNaples is off today. Number nine,  
16 public comment.

17 MS. BRIER: Would anyone from the  
18 public like to comment? If you do, please just  
19 state your name and address for Michelle.  
20 Ralph. There's two Ralphs here tonight.

21 MR. MARINO: Ralph Marino, Adams  
22 Avenue. Thank you very much for assisting with  
23 the calls recently. Janet just addressed it.  
24 We had an incident on Adams Avenue New Year's  
25 Eve, shots fired in the Borough of Dunmore.

1                   So, when I was a kid, the only  
2                   people that had guns were cops, criminals and  
3                   hunters. I don't think these people were out  
4                   small game hunting New Year's Eve.

5                   Sal, anything that you can do,  
6                   greatly appreciate it. Do we have a zoning  
7                   officer or somebody that can go out and check  
8                   on this house? I don't know that we do  
9                   anymore.

10                  MS. BRIER: No, we do. His name is  
11                  Mike Brazil.

12                  CHIEF MARCHESE: I do have a list of  
13                  the actual calls in the last two years to the  
14                  house, and they're minimal. We have two  
15                  reportable calls and maybe four calls for  
16                  service in three years, and they were somebody  
17                  saw a light on, they went to tell the resident  
18                  they left the car lights on, one was an  
19                  assault, one was a vehicle repossession. I  
20                  mean, that's what we've been dispatched for the  
21                  last three years at the house.

22                  MR. MARINO: Right. Okay. That's  
23                  past history. This is current.

24                  CHIEF MARCHESE: Correct. We did  
25                  talk to the landlord.

1                   MR. MARINO: Okay. Can you send  
2                   somebody down to have the house inspected? I  
3                   don't know how many families are there, I don't  
4                   know who is there. We have no contact with  
5                   these people at all.

6                   But I'm concerned for the new  
7                   neighbors that moved in, little kids in the  
8                   neighborhood, elderly people in the  
9                   neighborhood. I'm one of the young guys, so  
10                  you could imagine what this neighborhood is  
11                  like, you know.

12                  And we've never had, you just said  
13                  it, we haven't had any trouble at all ever.  
14                  All of a sudden there's a shooting, and one of  
15                  the neighbors said return fire. He's  
16                  ex-military, and he's telling me shots fired  
17                  and return fire. I'm really concerned.

18                  MAYOR CONWAY: Mr. Marino, I know  
19                  Chief Marchese has been sending out guys on  
20                  foot patrol --

21                  MR. MARINO: Thank you.

22                  MAYOR CONWAY: -- as well as driving  
23                  by every night multiple times a night and  
24                  running traffic in that area, too, because if  
25                  we're running traffic and things look a little

1 bit off, we can maybe, you know, see a problem  
2 coming ahead of time.

3 But, again, awful incident that  
4 happened New Year's Eve, totally unacceptable  
5 in that area.

6 MS. BRIER: Or anywhere.

7 MAYOR CONWAY: Anywhere.

8 MR. MARINO: And while I have a  
9 couple of the officers here, once the calls  
10 were made, and, Sal, the officers did come  
11 down, I saw the cars go by, everybody  
12 disappeared, they're back. I just wanted to  
13 tell you, they're back today. So, the cars are  
14 back.

15 Didge picked up the garbage the  
16 other day, it was a disaster. It looked like  
17 they were cleaning out the house. I don't know  
18 that that's the case, but today they're back.  
19 So, anything that you could do, you guys,  
20 greatly appreciated.

21 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah. And on that  
22 point, as I said earlier, and I'm not going to  
23 get into, I know it was an isolated incident,  
24 as it's called, an isolated incident up at Penn  
25 State, I just want to make sure that these so

1 called isolated incidents, we want to be  
2 proactive, Chief, on trying to stop these  
3 things from happening other places in the  
4 borough.

5 CHIEF MARCHESE: We do have a  
6 meeting, myself and Detective Lydon, with the  
7 county and the state and the DA's Office. So  
8 we're going to be working on this.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you very much.  
10 I appreciate that.

11 MR. O'MALLEY: One of my goals  
12 coming into Council two years ago was a rental  
13 registration ordinance, kind of like what  
14 Scranton has. So then we would know who's in  
15 the apartments, who owns the apartments, who  
16 the manager of the apartments are throughout  
17 the borough.

18 But the only thing is how to fund it  
19 and, you know, who are we going to put the work  
20 on. So, those logistics have to be  
21 straightened out, but that's one of my goals.

22 MR. MARINO: Thank you very much.  
23 And, again, thank you for the response that --  
24 I called a lot of people in this room, thank  
25 you very much for the response. I appreciate



1 it.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

3 MR. MARINO: Thank you.

4 MS. BRIER: Would anyone else like  
5 to address Council? Sure. Barbara. Just  
6 state your name and address, Barb.

7 MS. WEBER: It's Barbara Weber. I  
8 live at 1743 Adams Avenue in Dunmore. My only  
9 question is this, to date, you have no code  
10 that you have looked up to see how many units  
11 are rented in that house and if all the units  
12 have bathrooms and kitchens, is that what  
13 you're saying, that that's not part of the  
14 investigation right now?

15 MR. WOLFF: No, ma'am. We did send  
16 out our zoning the other day and we are working  
17 on that. We haven't neglected that, we are  
18 looking into that.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah. The rumor  
20 we're hearing is it's a three unit when it  
21 should only be a two unit. So it'll be looked  
22 into by our zoning officer.

23 MS. WEBER: So, what you're saying  
24 is three --

25 MR. HALLINAN: If there are three.

1 I don't know the background on that.

2 MS. WEBER: Not four?

3 MR. HALLINAN: I couldn't tell you.  
4 If there are four, then --

5 MR. WOLFF: We don't know for sure,  
6 so, you know, we don't want to speculate on  
7 that.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, we don't want  
9 to say something that --

10 MR. LOUGHNEY: If I may, Mr. Wolff,  
11 that was checked and there's three apartments  
12 in there?

13 MR. WOLFF: We don't know.

14 MR. LOUGHNEY: We don't know?

15 MR. WOLFF: We don't know.

16 MR. LOUGHNEY: When was it checked?

17 MR. WOLFF: Mike went by Thursday, I  
18 think.

19 MR. LOUGHNEY: Okay. So, if he's in  
20 violation, he could be shut down?

21 MR. WOLFF: Yes. But we obviously  
22 need -- there has to be something there for us  
23 to --

24 MR. LOUGHNEY: Well, how does  
25 someone get in to inspect it?

1 MR. WOLFF: That's what they're  
2 working on now. And we're tracking down --  
3 NEIC's working on it, our third party, so we  
4 are doing everything we can on that end.

5 MR. LOUGHNEY: If he is in  
6 violation, he will be shut down, just so the  
7 residents know?

8 MR. WOLFF: If he's in any  
9 violation, we will pursue it to the fullest.

10 MS. WEBER: And the second question  
11 I have is is it a Section 8?

12 MR. WOLFF: That I don't know.  
13 Again, there's things there, too, that you  
14 can't just prohibit that. So there's a whole  
15 lot going on there, so we'd have to just --

16 MS. ZANGARDI: He can have Section 8  
17 if it's approved and if it's inspected.

18 MS. WEBER: That's not the question,  
19 though. Can you have Section 8 and have guns  
20 and drugs? That's my question.

21 MS. ZANGARDI: But it's still an  
22 open investigation.

23 MS. BRIER: But if it was a Section  
24 8 situation then they could become involved. I  
25 don't think it is, Barb, but we can look at

1           that for sure.

2                       I didn't even think of that, because  
3           if it was and there's those types of issues,  
4           that's a whole different story because that  
5           would be under the feds, basically.

6                       MS. ZANGARDI: Right.

7                       MS. BRIER: So, we'll look into that  
8           because that might be an avenue.

9                       MS. WEBER: If you understand, I'm  
10          standing up here and I'm afraid.

11                      MS. BRIER: And we do understand  
12          that.

13                      MR. HALLINAN: Rightfully so.

14                      MS. ZANGARDI: Absolutely. Right.

15                      MS. BRIER: Thank you. Thanks for  
16          coming.

17                      MR. ROGATO: Good evening. Ralph  
18          Rogato, 703 Smith Street in Dunmore. You spoke  
19          about grant money, \$5,000, did they allocate  
20          that for anything? The person that spoke about  
21          the grant money, the finance director.

22                      MR. BURTON: Was it allocated for  
23          anything? Not particularly.

24                      MR. ROGATO: No? So it could be  
25          used for almost anything?

1 MR. BURTON: Yeah.

2 MR. ROGATO: Okay. I think if  
3 somebody from the borough drove around the  
4 borough, you could tell who the normal  
5 residents are and who the renters are. Most of  
6 the older people, including myself now that I'm  
7 one of them, have one garbage can out, one  
8 recycling container out and a box for the  
9 cardboard and the paper, and all the rentals  
10 have bags of garbage piled up this high because  
11 they do not recycle.

12 So, maybe an avenue to find out how  
13 many units are in place, make it mandatory that  
14 they report everything for recycling purposes  
15 and use the \$5,000 towards that. You'd have to  
16 know the owner's name, not an incorporation,  
17 and this way here you have someone to go after.

18 Down in North Carolina, if you  
19 recycle your papers and you don't take the  
20 little plastic window out, the road department  
21 puts a sticker on the side of your bin and it  
22 says you're in violation. It has a big one on  
23 it.

24 And the second one, that's a five  
25 dollar fine, and it keeps going up every five

1           dollars every time you do it. Then after so  
2           many times, get the owner of the property  
3           involved. But you know where the rentals are.  
4           It's very easy to pick them out.

5                           And just so everyone knows this,  
6           I've lived in Dunmore a long time, there's been  
7           very few incidents with guns. You are right,  
8           New Year's Eve, people shooting guns off to  
9           celebrate the New Year's Eve, and like the  
10          Chief said, and I'm a retired police chief, I  
11          was asked one time, How many gun incidents have  
12          you responded to? If we had 20,000 calls last  
13          year, Sal, you said 20,000?

14                          CHIEF MARCHESE: Seventeen, I think.

15                          MR. ROGATO: Seventeen? They  
16          responded to 17,000, because every time one of  
17          those officers walk into a domestic and stuff,  
18          they have a gun with them, and they could be  
19          very easily taken off of them and overpowered.

20                          I know the police department's doing  
21          the best they can on that one, and they're very  
22          limited on what they could say.

23                          I questioned, I sent in two acts of  
24          information. Mr. Wolff, do you have either one  
25          of those?

1                   MR. WOLFF: I mailed them to you,  
2                   actually -- I handed it over to Mickey, but I  
3                   mailed them to you because you didn't have a  
4                   phone number or an e-mail on there, so it was  
5                   actually an extension, because we need more  
6                   time to work on it.

7                   MR. ROGATO: Okay.

8                   MR. WOLFF: If it didn't come in the  
9                   mail today, it was mailed out Friday.

10                  MR. ROGATO: Okay. The other thing  
11                  I asked about was saving the borough -- in the  
12                  terms of saving the borough money. I was  
13                  looking at the different departments, who's on  
14                  salary, who's on hourly, what are our working  
15                  hours, because I came in a couple times just  
16                  before 4:00 because I have things to do, and  
17                  you weren't available.

18                  I have to go over to the fire  
19                  company, and if the fire chief isn't around, I  
20                  have to go bother the police department  
21                  secretary, and then you have to come over from  
22                  your office, the fire chief has to come over.

23                  We talked about the fire  
24                  extinguishers, that's part of that, and those  
25                  companies involved. And you mentioned to me,

1           you asked me a question, then you asked the  
2           borough secretary to get the police about an  
3           attorney and about something that happened with  
4           your son, but I'm not gonna bring that up now,  
5           but we will take it up just so you know.

6                       MS. BRIER: That's not a subject  
7           that we could speak about.

8                       MR. ROGATO: Well, now he requested  
9           the borough secretary to contact the police to  
10          come in to make me tell him where I heard  
11          something, which is unethical.

12                      MS. BRIER: That's not appropriate  
13          for this meeting, Ralph. And I think your five  
14          minutes are up.

15                      MR. WOLFF: It's close. He's got  
16          another minute.

17                      MS. BRIER: Okay. Go ahead.

18                      MR. ROGATO: I think that's it.

19                      MS. BRIER: Thank you. Anyone else  
20          would like -- sure.

21                      MR. CROTH: My name is Jeremy Croth  
22          (phonetic). I live at 523 South Blakely  
23          Street. Mine is more of a concern than  
24          anything. The alley behind my house, which I  
25          believe is First Street, I don't know why to



1 get it either, one, plowed after or during a  
2 storm, or to get potholes repaired I have to  
3 contact a Council member or the borough  
4 manager.

5 I've lived there four years and I  
6 can count almost every time that when we've had  
7 a major snowfall, I've had to call to get the  
8 road plowed. It's completely 100 percent  
9 unacceptable.

10 I understand things break down. I  
11 plowed snow for 17 years. When I would come  
12 home, and I've come home in major snow storms  
13 in the past with a chained crew cab and had to  
14 push snow down the alley, that should never  
15 ever happen.

16 MS. BRIER: No.

17 MR. CROTH: And then when it does,  
18 like, say springtime, I know how things work, I  
19 work for the State, in the springtime I don't  
20 call and complain, like, as soon as the snow's  
21 gone. I wait until the end of May, the middle  
22 of June, because I know we're busy and I know  
23 other roads take higher priority.

24 But when we're two and a half or  
25 three months past the freeze cycle, there's

1 just no excuse. And then when I do call and  
2 some things get done, it's half done or it's  
3 done completely substandard.

4 MS. BRIER: I understand. We talked  
5 to Didge about that. Is it plowed now?

6 MR. CROTH: There is a lot left in  
7 it, but it's plowed, but that's only because it  
8 sat there for 24 hours not touched.

9 MR. HALLINAN: And, again, no  
10 excuses, and I will tell you, yes, we did have  
11 vehicles break down. As you know, with  
12 PennDOT, we prioritize ambulance routes or  
13 whatever, bus routes.

14 MR. CROTH: Correct.

15 MR. HALLINAN: And you understand  
16 that.

17 MR. CROTH: Yes.

18 MR. HALLINAN: We do that more than  
19 anybody with the State.

20 MR. CROTH: That's why this is the  
21 first time in four years I've ever showed up.

22 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah. So, again,  
23 we'll try and get to you as soon as possible,  
24 and thank you for understanding that, because  
25 obviously it's an alley rather than Dudley

1 Street.

2 MR. CROTH: Sure. I get that.

3 MR. HALLINAN: So, there is a  
4 pecking order. And, please, I will tell you  
5 this, any time please don't feel -- call any  
6 time that you feel something, you know?

7 MR. CROTH: I try not to be a pain,  
8 I really do, because I know what it's like to  
9 be on Didgy's end of it, I've lived it for 17  
10 years, it's terrible.

11 MR. HALLINAN: And the other side of  
12 it too is if a driver changes drivers,  
13 sometimes they don't know about that alley as  
14 far as, like, you know, because they do switch  
15 routes.

16 MR. CROTH: Sure.

17 MR. HALLINAN: But any time, you  
18 call. I'll give you my number, you call me any  
19 time you want, okay?

20 MR. CROTH: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. ZANGARDI: Where is your house  
22 located?

23 MR. CROTH: 523 South Blakely  
24 Street.

25 MS. BRIER: It's right next to Rags.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Behind Ragnacci's.

2 MS. ZANGARDI: Oh, okay.

3 MS. BRIER: So, the alley is behind  
4 Ragnacci's.

5 MS. ZANGARDI: Oh, yeah.

6 MR. CROTH: I'm right next to  
7 Fish's.

8 MS. ZANGARDI: Yes.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Fish Giello.

10 MS. ZANGARDI: Yeah.

11 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

12 MR. O'MALLEY: That had the massive  
13 pothole last year, right?

14 MR. CROTH: Yes.

15 MR. O'MALLEY: That got fixed?

16 MS. BRIER: Yes.

17 MR. CROTH: It was about the size of  
18 those two tables together, about that deep  
19 (Indicating).

20 MS. BRIER: Do you go in and out  
21 there, Jeremy?

22 MR. CROTH: Yes. Yeah, because  
23 that's where our garage is.

24 MS. BRIER: That's what I thought.  
25 So, we have to get you in and out of your

1 garage.

2 MR. CROTH: Yeah.

3 MS. BRIER: Okay. We apologize.

4 MR. CROTH: And the other concern I  
5 have is for the Chief, could we have radar run  
6 on South Blakely Street?

7 CHIEF MARCHESE: We don't have  
8 radar.

9 MR. CROTH: Or could we put speed  
10 lines somewhere through there? Because --

11 MR. HALLINAN: I'm sorry, we do have  
12 ENRADD.

13 CHIEF MARCHESE: We have that, yeah.

14 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah. So we could  
15 run --

16 CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah, when the  
17 weather breaks.

18 MR. CROTH: Yeah. But, like, the  
19 speed limit's 25 miles an hour, I pulled out of  
20 Dudley the other day and there was a car down  
21 in front of my house, and by the time I had  
22 pulled out onto South Blakely, the only thing I  
23 could see of them in my rear view mirror was  
24 their grill, and that's most of them.

25 MR. HALLINAN: And didn't Officer

1           Grunza just get certified in something else  
2           besides ENRADD?

3                   CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah.

4                   MR. HALLINAN: The timing.

5                   CHIEF MARCHESE: He does it through  
6           a stop run.

7                   MR. HALLINAN: Yes.

8                   MS. BRIER: What is ENRADD, Tom?  
9           Just explain to everybody.

10                  MR. HALLINAN: ENRADD, it's a timing  
11           thing, because we can't use radar, per se, as  
12           the state police, so actually they'll have  
13           lines on the road and it's -- it's like VASCAR,  
14           you know, so it flicks them in between the two  
15           places and --

16                  MAYOR CONWAY: Call your state reps.  
17           I know there's legislation in Harrisburg that's  
18           currently active that would allow our guys to  
19           use radar.

20                  MR. CROTH: Sure. Absolutely. I  
21           have no problem with that.

22                  MAYOR CONWAY: It would be a bit  
23           easier. So, please call them and pressure them  
24           to pass that bill.

25                  MR. CROTH: Absolutely.

1 MS. BRIER: Because you're right, it  
2 is like the Indianapolis 500 out there.

3 MR. CROTH: Yeah. It's unreal.

4 MR. HALLINAN: I think on every  
5 street.

6 MS. BRIER: Thank you. Does someone  
7 else have something? Did you have something,  
8 sir? Did you want to speak?

9 MR. CAMPBELL: Hi. My name is James  
10 Campbell. I'm at 214 Allen Street in Dunmore.  
11 I've been here for two months asking about the  
12 paving the alley on the side of my house that  
13 goes down to the back and to the last house on  
14 the block, and I'd like to see what you can  
15 tell me about it this month.

16 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Lopatka reached out  
17 to you, did he not, our engineer? Did he talk  
18 to you? This was before the holidays. I  
19 thought he said he talked to you.

20 MR. CAMPBELL: I called him, he  
21 didn't call me back.

22 MR. WOLFF: Okay. Everything that  
23 we can find is showing that it's not a borough  
24 road, the liquid fuels maps. And he found,  
25 Mr. Lopatka, found something else, I can't

1 remember exactly what it was, but we can't find  
2 anything to show that it's a borough road. So,  
3 I mean, we're still looking into it, but as of  
4 right now we haven't found anything.

5 MR. CAMPBELL: Whose road is it  
6 then?

7 MR. WOLFF: What's that?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Whose road is it? Is  
9 it a state road?

10 MR. LOUGHNEY: It would just be a  
11 paper street.

12 MR. WOLFF: It's a paper Street,  
13 yes, that's the term he used. Thanks. A paper  
14 street.

15 MR. LOUGHNEY: A paper street. When  
16 they were building that area, they just put a  
17 road in to access the properties.

18 MR. CAMPBELL: Okay.

19 MR. LOUGHNEY: It wasn't dedicated  
20 over to the borough, so we don't get any liquid  
21 fuels tax for it. So, in other words, we don't  
22 maintain it.

23 MR. CAMPBELL: So there's nothing  
24 you can --

25 MR. LOUGHNEY: Well, if we could



1 find where it is dedicated to the borough,  
2 Jimmy, then the Borough could do something. If  
3 it's not on our liquid fuels tax, then we're  
4 not getting money. Then it'd be like going on  
5 private property to do it.

6 MR. CAMPBELL: It's not private  
7 property.

8 MR. LOUGHNEY: I know it's not, but  
9 it looks like it according to our maps and the  
10 topography that was done of that area years  
11 ago.

12 MR. WOLFF: And I did look up the  
13 ordinances, because that was something that was  
14 mentioned --

15 MR. CAMPBELL: It was New Street.  
16 It was called New Street.

17 MR. WOLFF: We couldn't find any --  
18 I'll look that up, if I could find anything on  
19 New Street.

20 MR. CAMPBELL: Yeah, if you could  
21 find New --

22 MR. WOLFF: Because I went through  
23 the years of ordinances to see if it was ever  
24 dedicated a road, I couldn't find that either.

25 MR. LOUGHNEY: Jimmy, is that the

1                   one that takes you down to Jessup Street?

2                   MR. HALLINAN:   No.

3                   MR. LOUGHNEY:   Allen down?

4                   MR. HALLINAN:   Into Mr. Perry's  
5                   house in the back.

6                   MR. CAMPBELL:   Yeah, it goes back to  
7                   Frank Perry.

8                   MR. LOUGHNEY:   Okay.

9                   MS. BRIER:      Well, let us look at it,  
10                  okay? Let us look at it again and, you know,  
11                  we can't pave of course now until it's the  
12                  spring anyway, but let us take a peek and see  
13                  if we can find something, okay?

14                  MR. CAMPBELL:   Okay.

15                  MR. WOLFF:      And I'll look up New  
16                  Street to see if I could find any --

17                  MR. CAMPBELL:   That's what it was  
18                  called.

19                  MR. WOLFF:      I'll look that up that  
20                  way. But I didn't, like I said, we couldn't,  
21                  between myself and Mr. Lopatka --

22                  MR. CAMPBELL:   I mean, if you asked  
23                  me before, I would have told you that.

24                  MR. WOLFF:      Yeah.

25                  MR. CAMPBELL:   I would have told you

1           what I knew about it from my grandparents'  
2           time.

3                       MR. WOLFF: Yeah.

4                       MR. LOUGHNEY: Let us see what we  
5           could do, Jimmy.

6                       MR. CAMPBELL: Okay. Thank you.

7                       MS. BRIER: Thank you. Sir?

8                       MR. LUCIANO: Good evening. My name  
9           is Joe Luciano, 133 West Swinick Drive. I'm  
10          here with the rest of the posse. But let me  
11          first address about this Section 8. I just  
12          want to get back to this Section 8.

13                      The Section 8 problem in this town  
14          has gone to the point where it's absolutely  
15          ridiculous. We have land, you know, we have a  
16          school district that's suffering under Section  
17          8, okay? Our school district is inundated with  
18          these students from Scranton, okay, coming over  
19          to Dunmore, and we have absentee landlords.

20                      Who is our inspector in Dunmore?  
21          Who is our inspector? I have no idea. Do we  
22          have an inspector?

23                      MS. BRIER: Mike Brazil.

24                      MR. WOLFF: For Section 8?

25                      MR. LUCIANO: For anything. For

1 anything in --

2 MS. BRIER: No, he's our code  
3 enforcement.

4 MR. LUCIANO: I beg your pardon.

5 MS. BRIER: Mike Brazil.

6 MR. LUCIANO: Mike Brazil?

7 MS. BRIER: Yes.

8 MR. LUCIANO: Is Mike Brazil present  
9 today?

10 MS. BRIER: No, he's not.

11 MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples, the fire  
12 chief, helps with it, as well.

13 MR. LUCIANO: Okay.

14 MR. HALLINAN: And Section 8 would  
15 be out of Lackawanna County Housing --

16 MR. LUCIANO: I understand that.

17 MR. HALLINAN: Yes.

18 MR. LUCIANO: They all connect.

19 MR. HALLINAN: Correct.

20 MR. LUCIANO: I had property where I  
21 had Section 8, but at one time Section 8 was  
22 controlled. It's not controlled now, okay?  
23 I'm not here to blast anybody, please. My  
24 wife's going to be pissed that I'm here.  
25 She'll get over it. She'll get over it.

1                   But the bottom line is what's  
2                   happening here is our town is dying. I don't  
3                   know if you realize how our town is dying. We  
4                   have these people, I'm appalled when I go to  
5                   the -- if I grab a coffee at the station right  
6                   across from the borough building, I'm appalled  
7                   to see what goes on there, absolutely appalled.

8                   And then we have a shooting, you  
9                   know, down on Clay Avenue. Unacceptable.  
10                  Totally unacceptable.

11                  We have a town here, I know every  
12                  one of you, except you, young lady, I  
13                  apologize, but I know every one of you and  
14                  every one of your backgrounds, you were my  
15                  kids, you were in my house, all great. That's  
16                  Dunmore.

17                  We have a base in Swinick that we  
18                  have such a neighborhood in Swinick that it's  
19                  phenomenal. People are lined up to buy our  
20                  homes, even though DeNaples is in our back  
21                  yard. We accept that. We pay the money to  
22                  accept that.

23                  But the bottom line is what I can't  
24                  understand is how these absentee landlords  
25                  could come in and buy up properties and not

1           have any accountability to our borough. It's  
2           bewildering to me.

3                        You know, I could go on and on, you  
4           don't have enough time in your lifetime for me  
5           to keep going on and on about this, but I have  
6           three -- I mean, I'm on the other side of the  
7           hill, I'm rolling down the hill, but I have  
8           three beautiful grandchildren and two children  
9           that I care a great deal, and the rest of my  
10          family, but we really need to get a Section 8  
11          committee here.

12                       I mean, 20 years ago, if you  
13          remember Tucker Hennigan and Mike Cummings,  
14          they put a moratorium on Section 8 and it  
15          worked phenomenal, absolutely phenomenal.  
16          Within three years we had no Section 8s. We  
17          had no Section 8, and every one was monitored,  
18          was monitored through our borough inspector.  
19          Our borough inspector, what's his name again?

20                       MR. HALLINAN: Mike Brazil.

21                       MS. BRIER: Mike Brazil.

22                       MR. LUCIANO: I'm going to write  
23          that down, because I don't know who the hell he  
24          is. But the bottom line is he's got to be  
25          accountable. He's got to be accountable to us,

1 the taxpayers.

2 You know, our dollars are being  
3 spent, you know, I mean, I have a large  
4 investment that my wife and I busted our butts  
5 to live in Swinick, to live comfortable in a  
6 beautiful section, and to have this all around  
7 us, to have a cancer, is beyond me. It's  
8 beyond me.

9 So, it's your job to take care of  
10 this, you know. And I will apologize, I don't  
11 mean to sound emotional, but it's an emotional  
12 thing for me when I see Dunmore, what's  
13 happening to it. It's very emotional. But  
14 thank you for your time.

15 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

16 MR. LOUGHNEY: Joe, just on that.

17 MR. LUCIANO: Yes, sir.

18 MR. LOUGHNEY: And I appreciate  
19 Mr. O'Malley what he said before with the  
20 landlord or however you're going to put it,  
21 Tripp --

22 MS. BRIER: Rental registration.

23 MR. LOUGHNEY: -- to get a  
24 registration, and I think, even like that,  
25 maybe a committee together where people have to

1           be -- they have to submit who's the owner,  
2           who's maintaining that lot.

3                   MR. LUCIANO: Absolutely.

4                   MR. LOUGHNEY: Because I used to get  
5           calls and people would say who -- you can't  
6           find them. And we're sending our DPW or our  
7           young summer program help to maintain the  
8           grass. That's not their job.

9                   MR. LUCIANO: No.

10                  MR. LOUGHNEY: We should be able to  
11           get in touch with whoever the owners are, just  
12           like that incident down on Adams Avenue, we  
13           should know immediately who they are without  
14           any question.

15                  So, I applaud Mr. O'Malley for doing  
16           what he's doing. I'd like to help out with  
17           that, Tripp. I'd like to help out with that.

18                  MR. ROGATO: I'll volunteer from the  
19           civilian side to be on that committee.

20                  MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

21                  MR. LUCIANO: That could go as far  
22           as even as to work with some of these realtors.  
23           I'm not trying to steal your shoulder. I don't  
24           want you to live in Section 8 housing, I'm just  
25           trying to help here. We want to take care of



1           this.

2                       MAYOR CONWAY: I see it from my  
3           business. What I see happening is, again, with  
4           out-of-town buyers that aren't from Dunmore, we  
5           don't know who they are, and they buy in these  
6           LLCs under really ambiguous addresses that you  
7           can't track down. The problem that I see as a  
8           seller of a property in the borough, people  
9           want to live here, and that's phenomenal.

10                   MR. LUCIANO: Right.

11                   MAYOR CONWAY: But if you're going  
12           to sell your house for \$200,000 and somebody  
13           from Dunmore says, I want to buy your house for  
14           \$200,000, somebody from New York comes in and  
15           says, I want to buy it for 250.

16                   MR. LUCIANO: Well, sure.

17                   MAYOR CONWAY: Cash. No inspection.  
18           Like, basically 250 -- 50,000 more in your  
19           pocket. The problem I see is, how do you then  
20           tell that Dunmore resident who they can and  
21           can't sell the house to.

22                   So, again, it comes down to rental  
23           registrations, you know, penalties for absentee  
24           landlords. We're working on that. I want to  
25           see, outside of a registration, which would

1 take a very -- it would take a long time to  
2 implement because there are so many rental  
3 properties in Dunmore, not that it can't be  
4 done, I would like to see not the good  
5 landlords be, you know, penalized, I want to  
6 see the bad landlords be penalized.

7 And I think there's ways where we  
8 can do that in a faster manner where, whether  
9 you want to call it a slumlord ordinance, or  
10 you could call it whatever you want, where, you  
11 know, in you're a tenant living in a property  
12 that's run by a slumlord and you want to call  
13 the borough and complain because you can't go  
14 to your landlord, because, again, you don't  
15 know where he is, you can't get in touch with  
16 him, you can call the borough, the borough can  
17 send an inspector, and if the inspector deems  
18 that the heat doesn't work, the plumbing  
19 doesn't work, the electrical is shot, then, you  
20 know, the borough can then fine that landlord  
21 and then we could put, you know, we could have  
22 a public list here.

23 It can be some sort of public  
24 shaming too where if I'm a tenant and I want to  
25 rent in Dunmore, I can go to the Dunmore

1           borough website and see who the slumlords are.  
2           If that's a property owner in the borough  
3           that's on the slumlord list, I'm going to, you  
4           know, not rent from that person.

5                     And, again, we could fine them, lien  
6           them, whatever we could do, but there's ways we  
7           can try to mitigate this.

8                     And the thing that happened on Adams  
9           Avenue, I mean, I live two blocks away, I have  
10          a seven-month-old daughter, it's shocking that  
11          happened. It shouldn't happen anywhere in  
12          Dunmore. And I know the Chief's working on it,  
13          I know Detective Lydon, I know Officer Grunza  
14          and Burgette are over there, they're doing foot  
15          patrols --

16                    MR. LUCIANO: Well, it's the world  
17          we live in unfortunately, you know, and it's --  
18          with or without these people, unfortunately  
19          everybody's armed today, for good reason.

20                    MS. BRIER: You know, Mr. Luciano, I  
21          was thinking, maybe we can talk to the County  
22          and they've got to have a list of which houses  
23          are Section 8 houses. So, I would give them a  
24          call tomorrow.

25                    MR. LUCIANO: I would suggest

1           actually, you know, since Tucker's passed, I  
2           would suggest calling Mike Cummings. They did  
3           a fantastic job.

4                   MR. LOUGHNEY: That would be on file  
5           here, too, Joe.

6                   MR. LUCIANO: Pardon?

7                   MR. LOUGHNEY: That would be on file  
8           here.

9                   MR. LUCIANO: Yeah. And see how  
10          they did it. You know, I know we're going to  
11          be talking more about our problem in Swinick,  
12          but I just wanted to touch on Section 8. Thank  
13          you very much.

14                   ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

15                   MS. BRIER: Is there someone else?  
16          Yes, please.

17                   MRS. MARINO: Hi. I'm Theresa  
18          Marino. My husband spoke before. He missed  
19          some spots.

20                   Sal, I know you said you didn't have  
21          great many calls to the area in the last two  
22          years, that's because they move every three  
23          months. He rents to new people every three  
24          months. They're in the same caliber as the  
25          people that are there now. They move in at

1 9:30 at night --

2 CHIEF MARCHESE: No matter who lives  
3 in the house --

4 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

5 MRS. MARINO: Well, we had a  
6 kidnapping a couple -- two years ago, three  
7 years ago. They came and the cops were walking  
8 the block asking if we had seen a little girl,  
9 because one of his tenants had kidnapped his  
10 daughter from Carbondale.

11 This house has been a problem for 50  
12 years. My uncle Tom Grunton fought the house  
13 for years. It was Marywood students, then they  
14 were running electrical cords to the third  
15 floor to give them power.

16 I was told last Monday or Tuesday  
17 that the company was going down to inspect the  
18 house. Now they just said Detective Lydon  
19 drove by. How would he know who's in the house  
20 if he drove by?

21 One big deal about new rentals is  
22 they throw electrical boxes on the house. It  
23 used to be one, now it's four. Well there's a  
24 sure hit that somebody else is living in the  
25 house.

1                   He rents to the people at night, he  
2                   takes the -- if you want to meet him, go the  
3                   first of the month right at dusk because that's  
4                   when he comes to collect all the cash payments  
5                   for the housing. And knowing who's in that  
6                   house, if it's Section 8, Lackawanna County  
7                   Housing Authority has a list of who's in the  
8                   house.

9                   MR. HALLINAN: Absolutely.

10                  MRS. MARINO: The plates in front of  
11                  the house would tell you who's in the house.  
12                  At one time we had 20 cars in the driveway.  
13                  Most of them were out of state plates. It's  
14                  been a problem for 50 years.

15                  Mr. O'Malley, I give you credit for  
16                  trying to do the thing. Why is it taking two  
17                  years? You can apply for grants, can't you?

18                  MR. O'MALLEY: I don't know about  
19                  grants for that. It's just the thing is with  
20                  the rental registration, see, Scranton, it  
21                  would kind of be modeled after Scranton,  
22                  everybody, we all have copies of that, but  
23                  Scranton has so many rentals that it pays for  
24                  itself. With Dunmore, it would be adding  
25                  work --

1                   MRS. MARINO: So, start charging the  
2 landlords a fee.

3                   MR. O'MALLEY: Right.

4                   MRS. MARINO: Make it higher. I had  
5 a tenant for --

6                   MR. O'MALLEY: That would be part of  
7 it.

8                   MRS. MARINO: -- years, I never  
9 rented to the low lives he's renting to. Vince  
10 Amico who used to sit on this panel has two  
11 rentals in the back, he doesn't rent to low  
12 lives. There's another one in the back, not  
13 great, but it's not as bad as this one.

14                   So, there are people that are  
15 renting on my block that aren't renting to the  
16 low lives. He's the only one that's doing it,  
17 but he doesn't live in Dunmore. He lives in  
18 Dickson City. Nowhere shots were fired by his  
19 house Friday night -- on New Year's Eve, I bet.

20                   Besides the fact I mentioned to  
21 Mayor Conway, there's two children living in  
22 that house that are about seven years old. I  
23 don't know what apartment they're in. Somebody  
24 picks them up for school, somebody drops them  
25 off at night. Did anybody call CYC the night

1 of the shooting to see if those kids were dead  
2 or alive? No, I guess not. By the looks on  
3 everybody's faces, no, nobody did.

4 MR. HALLINAN: Well, I don't want to  
5 interrupt, they did tell us the kids, if I'm  
6 not mistaken, weren't there that night.

7 MRS. MARINO: That night.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Well, when the night  
9 of the shooting you're asking about --

10 MRS. MARINO: Right.

11 MR. HALLINAN: -- they weren't  
12 there.

13 MRS. MARINO: Okay. So, did we go  
14 into the apartments that night? Because it was  
15 the state police that were there. It wasn't  
16 our locals. When I woke up at 6:30, there was  
17 all state cops there.

18 MS. BRIER: No, our police were  
19 there.

20 MR. HALLINAN: Okay. And, again,  
21 there's only so much he could say.

22 MRS. MARINO: I get that.

23 MR. HALLINAN: It's an active  
24 investigation.

25 MS. BRIER: But we were there,



1 Theresa.

2 MRS. MARINO: But how long is it  
3 going to take to get the report?

4 MR. LOUGHNEY: Theresa, if I may,  
5 the bottom line is Mr. Wolff is going to  
6 inspect that house, and if he's in violation,  
7 he's going to be shut down immediately.

8 MRS. MARINO: They've never shut him  
9 down. they've never shut him down.

10 MR. LOUGHNEY: I am begging you to  
11 do that. If he's in violation, shut him down.

12 MRS. MARINO: I asked Joe Lorince, I  
13 can't tell you how many times I called little  
14 Joe Lorince when he was the code inspector, I  
15 don't think he ever even went out. He drove by  
16 again, just like the rest of them do.

17 A couple months ago we had the whole  
18 Lackawanna College basketball team living in  
19 the house. They stayed maybe a month. They  
20 moved out at 9:30 at night with a Ryder truck.  
21 Like, what would you guys be doing if this was  
22 at your house?

23 MR. HALLINAN: I'd be sitting here  
24 like you.

25 MRS. MARINO: Right.

1 MR. HALLINAN: Absolutely.

2 MRS. MARINO: Right. So, can you  
3 give me a tentative date of when we're going to  
4 have the company in, because I was told it was  
5 an outside code company?

6 MR. WOLFF: So, we coordinate with  
7 an outside code company, so between Chief  
8 DeNaples and Mike Brazil, they're looking. And  
9 NEIC, the third party, they're looking into it.  
10 I mean, we can't just enter buildings.

11 MRS. MARINO: Well, I was told on  
12 Monday they were giving him notice, then they  
13 had to give them notice. Has that been done?

14 MR. WOLFF: Well, I don't know who  
15 told you that. I know that we're in the  
16 beginning stages of it, so --

17 MRS. MARINO: Well, Chief Marchese  
18 met with them on Tuesday, I was told. Right,  
19 the landlord?

20 CHIEF MARCHESE: Yeah. I talked to  
21 him.

22 MRS. MARINO: Okay. So, did you  
23 give him notice at that point that you were  
24 going to come in and inspect?

25 CHIEF MARCHESE: I don't know who

1 does the inspections.

2 MR. LOUGHNEY: How do we get in the  
3 house to inspect?

4 MR. WOLFF: Well, there's legal  
5 things, we can't -- that's what I'm implying.  
6 Like, in driving by, there's no visual things  
7 to say, Hey, the roof is falling in. There's  
8 nothing. So, that's what we're working on,  
9 find a way to get in there and inspect the  
10 place.

11 MR. LOUGHNEY: There were how many  
12 people in the house that night, fifty or so?  
13 Isn't there a violation there, Chief?

14 CHIEF MARCHESE: The names we have  
15 when we were there, 30.

16 MR. LOUGHNEY: Thirty?

17 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

18 MRS. MARINO: This is the neighbor  
19 that lives across the street from us, he was  
20 home that night, and Barbara. I was not home  
21 that night it occurred.

22 All I'm asking is when are you going  
23 to give him notice to give his tenants notice  
24 that you're going in to check?

25 MR. WOLFF: I will follow up with

1           that tomorrow. We just got some of this  
2           information, because I'll be honest with you,  
3           we don't have, from the code enforcement side,  
4           Mike Brazil checking on it, we don't have one  
5           single file on this place.

6                        MRS. MARINO: That's because they  
7           never went and looked after I called several  
8           times.

9                        MR. WOLFF: I can't speak for the  
10          past, and I apologize for that, but I could  
11          tell you that we are extremely aggressive in  
12          our code enforcement in our blight that we're  
13          doing.

14                       At one of the meetings last year I  
15          mentioned that between our office staff who  
16          helps with the clerical stuff and our  
17          inspectors, we sent out 60-some letters for  
18          code and blight violations, 40-some of them  
19          came in compliance right away.

20                       So, 60-some for this small town,  
21          that's a sizable amount, and 40-some responded  
22          and corrected it. The other 20 or so, you  
23          know, we're following up on.

24                       I just spoke to Council, they gave  
25          me the go ahead, we're going to put bids out to

1           tear down some blighted buildings. So, we are  
2           doing everything we possibly can in the code  
3           enforcement side of it, but we do obviously  
4           have to follow the rules and fall within the  
5           law.

6                         So, we are working on it as  
7           diligently as we possibly can, and just  
8           understand, and this is the -- we have no  
9           record of that place, and I apologize if you --

10                        MRS. MARINO: You have no record of  
11           the building?

12                        MR. WOLFF: We do not in the code --

13                        MR. LOUGHNEY: He means violations.

14                        MRS. MARINO: Oh, violations. Oh.

15                        MR. WOLFF: I mean violations.

16           Yeah.

17                        MRS. MARINO: Does he pay his taxes  
18           on time? Did anybody look at that?

19                        MR. WOLFF: I have no idea.

20                        MRS. MARINO: Does anybody know  
21           that?

22                        MS. ZANGARDI: That would be county,  
23           but, yeah, we could certainly look at it.

24                        MR. WOLFF: So, we are working on  
25           it.

1 MRS. MARINO: Can't somebody look  
2 that up?

3 MR. LOUGHNEY: You can't go after  
4 him for that, Theresa.

5 MRS. MARINO: For tax evasion?

6 MR. LOUGHNEY: The county could,  
7 but, I mean, we could put a lien against his  
8 house, but we can't --

9 MRS. MARINO: Yeah.

10 MR. LOUGHNEY: The thing is we got  
11 to get in to see what's there, and once we get  
12 in and deem if it's a three or a four, if he's  
13 on the books for a three and he has four, you  
14 shut him right down. No question.

15 MR. WOLFF: And that will happen.  
16 Like I said, we are extremely aggressive in  
17 what we can do in those matters. We obviously  
18 have to follow the rules and regulations, but  
19 we are as aggressive as we possibly can.

20 MRS. MARINO: I mean, I only heard  
21 this secondhand, were the people that were  
22 taken out of there that night Dunmore  
23 residents? Kids? From what I heard --  
24 Detective Lydon said to me he thought it was a  
25 big beer party. Were they Dunmore kids having

1 a beer party or was it Hazleton and Scranton  
2 and --

3 CHIEF MARCHESE: Not all Dunmore.

4 MR. LOUGHNEY: Were there any  
5 arrests made?

6 MR. HALLINAN: Were they juveniles?

7 CHIEF MARCHESE: Yes.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Were they under age?

9 CHIEF MARCHESE: Between the ages of  
10 18 and 20.

11 MRS. MARINO: So, I work at the  
12 county and I know you said you're having a  
13 meeting with downtown, they have more grants  
14 down there for opioid abuse, drug, gang, you  
15 know, they might be able to help you out with  
16 all the grants they have right now, or the  
17 detectives in the county, maybe.

18 CHIEF MARCHESE: That's what we're  
19 working on.

20 MRS. MARINO: Okay. Well, I'm going  
21 to come back next week and see if maybe we know  
22 when we're going to get into the house again  
23 and look it up.

24 MS. ZANGARDI: Next month.

25 MRS. MARINO: No. Let's do it one

1 week and see if we could get -- let's try  
2 another week.

3 MS. BRIER: Barb, did you want to  
4 speak again?

5 MS. WEBER: Yes, I do.

6 MS. BRIER: You have to come up.

7 MS. WEBER: I understand it's an  
8 investigation. I want to know why a shooting  
9 in Hanover Township gets into the paper and on  
10 the news. There was one report, which wasn't  
11 accurate on this, and then the veil fell and  
12 not a resident here heard about this.

13 MRS. MARINO: I just had somebody in  
14 the parking lot ask me about it. How come that  
15 didn't make the paper?

16 MS. WEBER: It did not make the  
17 paper.

18 MS. BRIER: We have no control over  
19 the paper, Barb, or the news. We have no  
20 control over the news or the paper.

21 MS. WEBER: I'm not saying you  
22 control it, but I don't understand how a  
23 shooting gets passed up.

24 MS. BRIER: Well, they choose what  
25 they report; we don't. We don't choose that.



1 MRS. MARINO: We don't send crime  
2 reports to the paper?

3 MS. BRIER: No.

4 MS. WEBER: But news was there.

5 MS. BRIER: Well, I don't know, we  
6 didn't report it because we have nothing to do  
7 with the news, you know?

8 MS. WEBER: Okay. I just find it  
9 hard to understand.

10 MS. BRIER: I mean, you'd have to  
11 call the Times and --

12 MS. ZANGARDI: It was on TV. I saw  
13 it myself on TV.

14 MS. WEBER: One clip, and that was  
15 taken off, and it wasn't accurate.

16 MS. BRIER: And, once again, we have  
17 nothing to do with how things get reported or  
18 what gets reported in the news.

19 MS. WEBER: Okay. And I get it. I  
20 get it, it just is very curious.

21 MS. BRIER: Yeah, it is curious.  
22 Does anyone else have a comment from the  
23 audience? Yes?

24 MR. BARRETT: Hello. My name is  
25 Colton Barrett. I live on 1728 Adams Avenue in

1 an apartment house. I just want to say that  
2 almost every week there's a conflict over  
3 there, whether it's a fist fight on the porch  
4 or if the cops were called the one time and  
5 three cops surrounded the house, and I think,  
6 I've been speaking to the neighbors, we're all  
7 very scared.

8 And I was having a New Year's party,  
9 too, it was so nerve racking that we all had to  
10 take our friends out there together to their  
11 cars to go home, and my one friend wasn't even  
12 able to go home because it got so violent out  
13 there, and I just please ask, I'm just asking  
14 that this doesn't get covered up and we do  
15 something to be proactive about the situation.

16 MAYOR CONWAY: Mr. Barrett, if you  
17 do see anything like fist fights or anything,  
18 please call the officers.

19 MS. ZANGARDI: Call the police.

20 MAYOR CONWAY: Please call the  
21 officers. Like that night, if you see  
22 anything, like, please. Again, we have  
23 officers here, they're very pro -- like, if you  
24 call, they'll be there.

25 MS. BRIER: Nothing's getting

1 covered up.

2 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah. If you see  
3 anything like that, please just call and  
4 they'll come down and check it out.

5 MR. BARRETT: Thank you.

6 MR. LOUGHNEY: I've talked to your  
7 dad --

8 MR. BARRETT: My grandfather.

9 MR. LOUGHNEY: -- and after talking  
10 to him, I've talked to the mayor, and the  
11 mayor, without question, he told me, he says,  
12 Nibs, I have foot patrol and I have cars going  
13 by. And I applaud the mayor for doing that.

14 And as far as anything else, I mean,  
15 we can't station a guy there, this is what I  
16 told your dad, we can't station a guy there,  
17 but it's part of the patrol that is now  
18 incorporated in the daily shift.

19 MR. BARRETT: Okay.

20 MR. LOUGHNEY: So, I mean, if you  
21 see something, call.

22 MR. BARRETT: I will also say that  
23 I've had a couple other issues at the house. I  
24 don't know if they're related. Somebody keeps  
25 coming to my house, I'm going to start calling

1 the cops over this because it's getting  
2 ridiculous, somebody keeps coming to my house,  
3 ringing the doorbell, banging on the door.  
4 I've had my Christmas lights cut. I've had my  
5 car egged. I have filed reports, I do not hear  
6 back, and I just, I'm a little disappointed now  
7 that --

8 MR. LOUGHNEY: Keep doing it.

9 MR. BARRETT: -- for the few years  
10 that I've been there how bad it's gotten. And  
11 it seems to be every tenant that moves in.

12 MR. HALLINAN: How close are you to  
13 that other --

14 MR. BARRETT: Directly across.

15 MR. HALLINAN: I wonder if they're  
16 mixing you up with that apartment, you know  
17 what I mean, like they have the wrong side of  
18 the street.

19 MS. BRIER: Have you filed reports?

20 MR. BARRETT: I have, twice.

21 MS. BRIER: With our police  
22 department?

23 MR. BARRETT: Correct.

24 MS. BRIER: Okay.

25 MR. HALLINAN: Please call 911 any

1 chance you get. They'll respond and then, you  
2 know --

3 MR. BARRETT: I just didn't want --

4 MR. HALLINAN: There's nothing too  
5 small. There's nothing too small.

6 MR. BARRETT: -- to bother them if  
7 it was something silly.

8 MR. HALLINAN: It's not silly. You  
9 call 911, okay?

10 MR. ROGATO: There's a nonemergency  
11 number.

12 MR. LOUGHNEY: Colton, they got  
13 17,000 calls last year, one more, it might be  
14 the one that you need, you call them.

15 MR. BARRETT: Okay.

16 MR. LOUGHNEY: One thing, our  
17 department responds in seconds, in minutes,  
18 so --

19 MR. BARRETT: Well, thank you for  
20 listening to me.

21 MS. BRIER: Thank you.

22 MR. BARRETT: Thank you very much.

23 MR. O'MALLEY: I'm so sorry that  
24 you're going through that.

25 MR. ROGATO: Sir, if you dial



1 3:00 in the morning when we got there.

2 MS. WILSON: That's understandable.

3 CHIEF MARCHESE: Earlier in the  
4 night nobody called us and told us that there  
5 was a party going on. We weren't there at that  
6 time.

7 MS. WILSON: That's understandable.  
8 However, I think the record should reflect  
9 there was a lot more than just 30 people, and  
10 afterwards there was blood on the street that  
11 was being cleaned up by the fire department. I  
12 think that should also be reflected.

13 And in general, there's always a  
14 strong aroma of pot coming from the house. I  
15 was there one of the nights when someone was  
16 knocking on the door rather violently. There  
17 have been screaming matches. Like, those are  
18 just some of the few instances --

19 MS. BRIER: Are you visiting the  
20 property?

21 MS. WILSON: I'm a friend of his. I  
22 don't live very far from this place, from his  
23 home, just across the street.

24 MS. BRIER: Who's him?

25 MS. WILSON: Colton Barrett.

1 MS. BRIER: Oh, okay. Oh, so you  
2 were at -- you weren't at the house in  
3 question?

4 MS. WILSON: No.

5 MS. BRIER: Okay. I'm sorry. I  
6 misunderstood you.

7 MS. WILSON: No. That's okay. I  
8 was at the house directly across from there.

9 MS. BRIER: I see. Okay. Thank  
10 you.

11 MS. WILSON: I do think, however, it  
12 should be noted that, like, I think there  
13 should be more of an open dialogue. However, I  
14 understand it's an open investigation, but  
15 considering the immediate residents around that  
16 house have been having to deal with shootouts,  
17 I think you should probably keep them in the  
18 loop, at least to a very minimal degree just  
19 because it is a very big safety concern.

20 MS. BRIER: Well, thank you. Thank  
21 you. We appreciate it.

22 ALL MEMBERS: Thank you.

23 MS. BRIER: Is there anyone else?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. BRIER: Okay. Then --



1 MR. WOLFF: Public officials. I  
2 have nothing.

3 ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing.

4 MAYOR CONWAY: Again, just to the  
5 Adams Avenue folks, and I know we have a part  
6 two of the meeting coming up which is going to  
7 be posted, but I have nothing else.

8 MR. LOUGHNEY: It's good to be back,  
9 let me tell you, it's very good, and it's  
10 enlightening to see this many people at the  
11 meetings. This is how it used to be. But  
12 you're here for a reason, that's the most  
13 important, and the individuals up here before  
14 you, we're all here to do our best to help.

15 We ran for these positions, we're in  
16 the positions, and you're the constituents that  
17 have the needs that we have to address. So,  
18 I'm glad to be part of it and I'm looking  
19 forward to hearing from the individuals from  
20 not only from Adams Avenue but from the Swinick  
21 development, and hopefully we can get some  
22 answers for you all. So, thank you.

23 MR. ROGATO: Welcome back.

24 MR. LOUGHNEY: Thank you.

25 MR. DEMPSEY: Very briefly. I just

1           thank everybody for coming tonight and voicing  
2           those concerns. We are working on them. And I  
3           know Greg and the mayor and the Chief work on  
4           these things tirelessly, but I know we have a  
5           second half of the meeting here tonight, so I  
6           do want to get to those Swinick folk that came  
7           down here to voice their concerns, as well.  
8           So, thank you all for coming.

9                         MS. BRIER: Mr. O'Malley.

10                        MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you everyone  
11           for coming. We are listening, okay, and we are  
12           working on your behalf. Also, Mr. Judge, I  
13           want to say thank you to you and your DPW crew  
14           for your great job taking care of our streets.  
15           I know you were down three trucks, so it made  
16           it more challenging. But, again, thank you,  
17           and if you can please pass our thanks along to  
18           your staff. And that's all I have.

19                        MS. BRIER: Thanks. Mr. Hallinan.

20                        MR. HALLINAN: I'd echo that with  
21           Didge. Thank you. I drove you out of your  
22           mind, I'm sure, with constant phone calls.

23                        Mr. Luciano, you couldn't be any  
24           more correct, we got to do something to reel  
25           this in. This isn't the Dunmore we know and

1 love. I mean, families, we got to keep an eye  
2 on this Section 8, if not even try and  
3 eliminate it. I don't know if we can because  
4 of federal laws or whatever, but I know we got  
5 to do our best to reel it in and stop it.

6 And I look forward to talking to  
7 people in Swinick. Thank you all for coming.  
8 That's all I have.

9 MS. BRIER: Ms. Zangardi.

10 MS. ZANGARDI: Greg, if you could  
11 just put on our web page about the Christmas  
12 trees or somebody from the office.

13 MR. WOLFF: I will do it again, but  
14 I did put it out a few days ago I think.

15 MS. ZANGARDI: Right. And everybody  
16 share it. We can recycle the Christmas trees.  
17 The other thing I have is one thing about the  
18 stench up at the landfill, is everybody kept  
19 saying, share, complain, call. You have to  
20 call. You have to let us know. I didn't know  
21 it was that -- I live up on the other side of  
22 Blakely Street, so you have to call, because I  
23 have no idea.

24 I received Theresa's e-mail, we  
25 discussed it here, so we had no -- I had no

1           idea that that house was such a nuisance, but  
2           every time something goes wrong or you don't  
3           like something, you have to call, because  
4           otherwise we don't know, and there's nothing we  
5           can do about it unless we get on it and stay on  
6           it.

7                         The other thing is, Joe, part of the  
8           reason, you know, we all ran was to bring back  
9           Dunmore to a beautiful town it was, you know.  
10          That being said, I'm just going to piggy back  
11          onto Tripp's, one of Tripp's things was  
12          registering the rental properties.

13                        I called around and I called  
14          Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Throop, Plains, Dickson  
15          City, Clarks Summit, Clarks Green, a plethora  
16          of towns to see how they did their rental  
17          properties, and the only one that doesn't have  
18          a rental property ordinance or registration fee  
19          is Dunmore and Dickson City because they don't  
20          need it.

21                        So, that is definitely, I would  
22          agree, you know, on the forefront of where  
23          we're going and eventually it will pay for  
24          itself, we just have to sit down and buckle  
25          down and get on it, but we have been looking at

1 the rental fees and the rental charges, and we  
2 have discussed it more than once. But Dunmore  
3 and Dickson City, Dickson City doesn't need it  
4 because they have all the commerce up there.

5 So, that's all I have. Oh, and the  
6 blighted properties, if you see a blighted  
7 property, feel free to call me or anyone up  
8 here or the borough and let us know, because  
9 that's a big pet peeve, I think for all of us.  
10 And that's all I have. Thank you, everyone,  
11 for coming.

12 MS. BRIER: Ms. Mackerel Oven.

13 MS. OVEN: I would like to thank  
14 everyone for coming. I apologize, I was late.  
15 I had to drop my daughter off at school. I was  
16 supposed to take her yesterday and then the  
17 snow derailed us, so I'm sorry that I missed  
18 the beginning of the meeting, but I have  
19 received messages about the Adams Avenue issue.  
20 I live a couple blocks from there, so it's  
21 concerning to me for the safety of myself and  
22 my family. So, that's a top priority.

23 As Greg said, we do have to go  
24 through certain protocol when we're doing the  
25 inspections, but we've talked about it at

1 length and blighted properties and these out of  
2 town landlords are a huge priority for us for  
3 this year.

4 So, I thank you for coming. Please,  
5 if there's anything, we want you to call us. I  
6 get messages on Facebook, I get texts, and  
7 that's why we're up here is to help and we also  
8 want to make Dunmore safe and family friendly,  
9 so thank you.

10 MS. BRIER: Thank you. Once again,  
11 I really appreciate everyone coming here  
12 tonight, because it's important and it's  
13 helpful to us to find out what's really going  
14 on in your neighborhoods or just on your block.

15 I just want everyone to know, you  
16 know, Didgy and his crew did a great job, but  
17 Greg was constantly in touch with Didge, and  
18 Tripp and Tommy Hallinan are the Council  
19 liaison to the DPW, so they were working it,  
20 too. They worked it over the weekend. They  
21 didn't stay up all night like you guys did, but  
22 they were available. Greg's always available  
23 to you for the truck issues.

24 So, it's a group effort, and Tommy  
25 did a great job, Tripp did a great job and Greg

1           and Didgy. And, I mean, we're going to get  
2           snow, I think, again Friday so, you know, it's  
3           not over. Thanks everyone for coming. Could I  
4           have a motion to adjourn?

5                       MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

6                       MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

7                       MS. BRIER: I have a motion and a  
8           second. All those in favor?

9                       ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

10                      MS. BRIER: Opposed?

11                      (No response.)

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13                      (Meeting adjourned.)

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

---

Michelle Smolskis  
Official Court Reporter

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