

COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, August 10th, 2026

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 :

THOMAS HALLINAN - President

MICHAEL DEMPSEY - Vice President

KATHERINE OVEN

JANET BRIER

ELIZABETH ZANGARDI

WILLIAM O'MALLEY, III

PATRICK LOUGHNEY

GREG WOLFF, Borough Manager

MICHAEL P. PERRY, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. WOLFF: Roll call, Mayor Conway.

MAYOR CONWAY: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Loughney.

MR. LOUGHNEY: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. O'Malley.

MR. O'MALLEY: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Dempsey.

MR. DEMPSEY: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Mackrell Oven.

MS. OVEN: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. McDonald Zangardi.

MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Brier.

MS. BRIER: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Public comment on agenda items.

MR. DEMPSEY: So would anyone from the public like to comment on any of the agenda items, not general public comment, just agenda items?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: What are they?

MR. DEMPSEY: They're right here.

MR. LOUGHNEY: They're on the table.

1 MR. WOLFF: The only thing on the
2 agenda is to ratify the contract with clerical.

3 MR. KEARNEY: Mr. Wolff, I made more
4 copies if people need them. I was trying to
5 hand them out.

6 MR. WOLFF: That's the only thing
7 on the agenda other than the minutes and
8 approve the open bills.

9 And just to note as well, before
10 public comment, we'll be doing a quick
11 presentation obviously to address some of the
12 refuse fee questions.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Seeing none on public
14 comment.

15 MR. WOLFF: Number four, motion to
16 approve the minutes from the July 13th, 2026
17 meeting.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a motion
19 to approve.

20 MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

21 MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
23 second. Anyone on the question? On the
24 question here, I was not here last meeting so
25 I'll abstain from the vote. All those in

1 favor?

2 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. WOLFF: Number five, motion to
4 approve and pay the open bills.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a motion
6 to pay the open bills.

7 MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

8 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
10 second. Anyone on the question? All those in
11 favor?

12 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. WOLFF: Number six, motion to
16 approve ratification of the January 6th, 2026
17 through December 31st, 2028 Collective
18 Bargaining Agreement with United Food and
19 Commercial Workers Local 1776 Borough clerical
20 employees.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a
22 motion.

23 MS. BRIER: I'll make it.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a second?

25 MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

1 MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion and a
2 second. On the question?

3 MR. WOLFF: Yeah, just real quick,
4 we worked together with the union to find a
5 collective agreement with the clerical workers,
6 so the office workers, you know, they work real
7 well with us.

8 We appreciate what they did for us.
9 But tonight, they already agreed to the -- to
10 their side. So tonight Council will vote to
11 ratify the agreement.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. All those in
13 favor?

14 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed?

16 (No response.)

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

19 MR. WOLFF: Number seven, Treasurer
20 financial report. Mark.

21 MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council.
22 My report for the month of July, we had a net
23 loss for the month of \$186,000, which brings
24 our year-to-date net income to 1.7 million
25 dollars.

1 As far as income was concerned,
2 highways and streets we did receive our first
3 \$28,000 in refuse fees. Miscellaneous revenue,
4 \$76,000 for the 2025 surplus distribution
5 BMHIC. That was one of two. We'll receive
6 another one in November.

7 MS. BRIER: How much was that, Mark?

8 MR. BURTON: 76,000. And a \$27,000
9 Express Script rebate for the first quarter of
10 2026. Special assessments, we received
11 \$638,000 for the second quarter landfill fees.
12 As far as expenses were concerned, we have a
13 three period pay month.

14 Financial administration, \$22,000
15 for the 2025 audit. Police received \$21,000 in
16 new handguns; 25,000 to the fire truck repair
17 installment; highway construction rebuild,
18 \$39,000 for the paving project on Chestnut
19 Street. Participant and Rec, \$52,000 for the
20 summer camps.

21 We repaid \$100,000 to the TAN
22 principal. And there was a quarterly auto
23 liability insurance installment, \$76,000.

24 MS. BRIER: Is the TAN paid off?

25 MR. BURTON: There's 100,000 still

1 left. That's it.

2 ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Mark.

3 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Kearney.

4 MR. KEARNEY: Good evening. Good
5 evening, Council. These past several weeks we
6 keep continuing to host parties in this room.
7 This weekend, the senior community is having an
8 open house here to showcase the new floor and
9 walls and all of that. I think they're doing
10 a -- they're doing a sidewalk sale too. So
11 that's, yeah, that's this weekend.

12 MS. BRIER: Oh, good, all of that
13 clothing?

14 MR. KEARNEY: Yeah. We wrapped up
15 the Summer Program on Friday, July 31st. Many
16 thanks to Councilman Hallinan for lining up all
17 of our sponsors for the pizza that we give the
18 kids every Friday. And the last day of the
19 program, we have the Fidelity Bank does their
20 ice cream truck. So I believe Councilman
21 Loughney is familiar with that duty.

22 MS. BRIER: How many kids; do you
23 know?

24 MR. KEARNEY: The last day or total?

25 MS. BRIER: Total.

1 MR. KEARNEY: Well, total in the
2 beginning there was 180 signed up. It dwindles
3 as the weeks go by. But last day we probably
4 had about 110, 115. And as for the gym, it
5 remains busy with we have school elementary
6 teams practicing a couple times a week.

7 And we have a rental with a coach
8 who does a clinic weekly. And he's here until
9 the end of the month. And I finalized the
10 schedule for the refurbishment of that floor
11 that we do annually. And that's going to be
12 October 19th is when they are starting.

13 After we do the -- the seniors have
14 their thing in there -- the purse bingo the
15 first weekend. The second weekend is Al Patel
16 and the Indo American Community. So I'm not
17 going to do the floor before all of that.

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Yep.

19 MR. KEARNEY: So that's all.

20 ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Chris.

21 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Judge. Is Mr. Judge
22 here?

23 MS. BRIER: Hi, Didge.

24 MR. JUDGE: Hi. We're doing garbage
25 and recycling every day. When I got the guys

1 doing patching, just call it into the office
2 and that's the best I could tell you really,
3 you know, day-to-day operations. All right?

4 ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Didge.

5 MR. JUDGE: Okay, Nibs? Okay.

6 MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples -- oh,
7 sorry, Chief Barth.

8 CHIEF BARTH: Good evening. Monthly
9 stat report for July, 2025. For the month of
10 July, our department responded to 1,430 calls
11 for service. The number is up slightly by 204
12 calls over the month of June. During that
13 time, we did 11 criminal arrests, 12 non
14 traffic arrests, 55 traffic arrests and 23
15 written traffic warnings were handed out.

16 Currently we have two full-time
17 officers out on heart and lung for work-related
18 injuries. Again, we're still lacking on
19 part-time officers, received three applications
20 recently from the last class that graduated
21 midJuly, reached out to all three and they've
22 already got full-time employment. So that
23 ended up not working out for us.

24 One of our part timers, Officer
25 Feliciano who we hired approximately two months

1 ago, she did submit her resignation. She did
2 accept a full-time position with another
3 department in the Abingtons.

4 This morning, we did take part with
5 the school, the Dunmore High School District
6 Police Department. We did a joint operation
7 today at the school, very good, did some
8 scenarios, went over some evacuation plan just
9 in case, God forbid, there's ever an emergency
10 at the school. We worked jointly with the
11 school police that are down there.

12 So from the start of July -- from
13 the start of the year until the end of July,
14 we've collected approximately \$7,454 including
15 coins, credit cards and pay by phone
16 transactions at the corners.

17 Again, we still have several meters
18 down. I have a small update on that. I've
19 been in contact with a John Nolan from Hazlow
20 Battery up in Rochester. I've been talking to
21 him almost every single day. They had a big
22 backorder out of Rochester, approximately 500
23 batteries.

24 So we are, unfortunately, a little
25 bit behind. We're anticipating having them

1 shipped out as early as late this week, early
2 next week at the latest. So I have 20
3 batteries coming for right now. We're
4 approximately 15 down right now. So we'll have
5 a couple spare. So hopefully by the end of
6 next week we'll be back up and running.

7 Blue Envelope Program, we started
8 that a few months ago. We've already had
9 people come and pick them up. We actually
10 mailed a couple out to Borough residents. It
11 seems to be working pretty good.

12 Our officers continue to assist on
13 Sundays at Music Fest. And just one final note
14 just so everybody knows, tomorrow night is our
15 national night out against crime. It's kicking
16 off at 6 p.m. from Warren Street going through
17 the corners and it will conclude down here at
18 the Community Center.

19 There will be activities and
20 demonstrations. Borough residents are
21 encouraged to attend. That's all I have for
22 this evening.

23 MAYOR CONWAY: Chief, real quick.
24 Did you speak with Katie Feeney about her
25 Project Lifesaver that she's doing?

1 CHIEF BARTH: Just very briefly
2 outside.

3 MS. FEENEY: I'm here for an update.

4 CHIEF BARTH: We are going to -- we
5 are going to speak after, okay? Anything else?
6 All right. Thank you.

7 MS. BRIER: Thanks, Chief.

8 MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples.

9 CHIEF DENAPLES: Good evening,
10 Council. As far as for the expenditures for
11 the month of August, I'll just hit on the ones
12 that are a little -- a little pricey. So our
13 annual hose testing is usually done in late May
14 or June. That's been pushed off a couple
15 months by the company that we had do it
16 previously.

17 So that expenditure is not going to
18 be scheduled to be done until the 2nd and 3rd
19 of September now. It's been pushed off for
20 almost two months. It's 4,569.08. The brush
21 truck just went in today. On my report, the
22 cost is to be announced. That is to have an
23 evaluation on the tank leaking on it.

24 So we'll get a better figure on what
25 that's going to cost to repair. So them are

1 the steeper expenditures that are projected for
2 the month. As far as overtime slated for
3 August, there is 588 hours scheduled, 41
4 part-time shifts were put out.

5 As far as events that the Fire
6 Department will be participating in for August,
7 obviously we'll be at the National Night Out.
8 We're going to do smoke house demonstration.
9 The City of Scranton is going to loan that to
10 us for the night.

11 Fire apparatus will be in the parade
12 as well tomorrow. We did participate in the
13 police -- the Dunmore Police as well as the
14 school district table top exercise today. We
15 sat in on that. That was a good exercise like
16 Chief Barth mentioned.

17 As far as full-time staff, we're
18 operating at 12. We are still down two from
19 where we were with one firefighter -- full time
20 firefighter being out on heart and lung injury,
21 another one resigned. So there's pretty much
22 the report. I will go over the call volume for
23 the month of July.

24 So that ended up with 60 total
25 responses by the fire department. The

1 categories are as follows:

2 Five rescue type calls, 3 fire type
3 calls, 10 hazardous situation calls, 15 medical
4 assists, 13 non emergent calls and 14 public
5 assist and public service type calls. So
6 that's the report if there's no questions.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Chief.

8 CHIEF DENAPLES: Thank you.

9 MR. WOLFF: All right. So thanks,
10 everyone, for coming. We have just a quick
11 presentation to go over some questions that
12 we've seen or been asked. It's up on the
13 screen there. I'll be putting it on the
14 website tomorrow. You'll be able to pull it up
15 online.

16 You know, obviously, you know, a few
17 prints. We didn't want to make copies and not
18 knowing how many there was. I do ask that we
19 wait for questions until after so we could get
20 through the presentation. It's going to be
21 like five minutes. It's not going to be real
22 long to discuss some things.

23 And you guys can go up to the
24 podium -- yeah, so please no questions and then
25 once we get done with the presentation you

1 could come to the podium, announce your name
2 and speak.

3 Just as a reminder, our guidelines
4 that were put in place a few years ago, five
5 minutes so everyone has an opportunity to
6 speak, okay.

7 It's generally speaking, not
8 question and answer session as well when you do
9 that. But it's up to the Chair as well to see
10 what -- what we do there, okay? So obviously
11 some concern here that we've had with this
12 refuse fee. So a little bit of history on it.

13 It was originally enacted in 1983.
14 Actually January of '84 it was passed. But
15 it's ordinance number three of 1983. In 1983
16 is was \$40 per unit, okay, the original
17 ordinance, right? Through the years there was
18 multiple increases to our current \$150 that was
19 in place since 2002, okay?

20 So since in 2014, they decided to
21 waive the fee. Council at the time waived the
22 fee for 2015. And every year -- every
23 budgetary meeting since -- so every December --
24 generally speaking it was the first December
25 meeting when they passed the budget, they

1 waived the fee, okay?

2 So every year, every December we
3 come in front of Council. Council will decide
4 to waive the fee, okay? So bringing us to up
5 to speed now, so when was it voted on to
6 reinstate? So like I said, every year since
7 2015 it was voted to waive on.

8 This December due to budgetary
9 issues, it was decided not to waive, okay? The
10 ordinance has been on the books. It would
11 never changed. Nothing ever changed about it.
12 They just waived it every year. The Borough
13 just waived it every year.

14 So what happened this December was,
15 the motion was put out there. The motion was
16 not -- no one gave the motion to waive the
17 fee. So, therefore, reinstated the fee for
18 2026, okay? That was done at our public
19 meeting on December 8th of 2025, okay.

20 So that's how it came about this
21 year again, okay? So why this year? For the
22 last four to five years, we've been
23 sustaining -- the Borough has been sustaining
24 roughly a million dollar deficit, okay? How
25 were we covering that?

1 We were covering that with Sewer
2 Authority funds, okay? And again, I'm getting
3 a little -- as I do, I'm getting a little ahead
4 on my slides here. But the last bullet item
5 there, now we're down to about 1.5 -- actually
6 we just received an update from the -- from our
7 financial advisors that's actually 1.7 now.
8 Okay, so with some interest we've made a little
9 bit of money there, okay?

10 So that is the last four to five
11 years. 2023 through 2025, boroughs are capped
12 at millage. So we were capped at 30 mills,
13 okay. So we were unable to increase the real
14 estate even in those incremental, like, the
15 school district does.

16 So those incremental ones, we
17 weren't able to do that, okay. As we all know,
18 all costs are going up. All of those things
19 are going up. We are unable to keep up with
20 that, okay. 2026 -- well, as we're planning
21 for 2026 because of the reassessment, we are
22 unable to raise taxes for 2026.

23 By law, we cannot do that for a year
24 to adjust, so-to-speak, for the reassessment,
25 okay? So we're capped the last few years.

1 2026 arrives. We are unable to, again,
2 increase those taxes a little bit to keep up
3 with everything -- our expenses, okay?

4 So with really nothing left, really
5 nothing left to do, the option was chosen to
6 not waive the refuse fee, okay? So on the
7 bottom there, we anticipate \$700,000 in revenue
8 from the refuse fee if all goes -- if all goes
9 well, okay?

10 Question arises, but we don't pay
11 landfill fees. That is correct. We do not pay
12 tipping fees for landfill, okay. And we're not
13 placing blame because I'm an employee as well.
14 We are not placing blame on any employees
15 anywhere, anyplace.

16 Everyone deserves to make a wage,
17 right, a living wage. But our payroll costs --
18 and again, I'm getting ahead, go -- is about 4
19 and a half million dollars for payroll alone.
20 That's not health benefits. That's not pension
21 cost. That's nothing. That is just straight
22 salaries is about 4 and a half million dollars.

23 In real estate taxes, we bring in
24 about 4 and a half million dollars, okay. So
25 again, that's just salary. So that doesn't

1 cover fuel. That doesn't cover any
2 maintenance. That covers nothing else. So our
3 real estate taxes if you want to put it that
4 way, cover salaries alone, okay?

5 Again, I'm getting a little ahead.
6 So we do not pay landfill, nor have we since
7 the 1990s, to my knowledge. We haven't paid.
8 We haven't paid those, okay. We haven't paid
9 those fees. But again, you know, I'll list it
10 up there, what are our costs?

11 We have labor, vehicles, fuel,
12 maintenance, increase workmen's compensation
13 cost, okay. It's goes with the job, okay. We
14 also and many people don't realize is we also
15 pay recycling fees. So when we pick up your
16 recycling, we have to pay to dump those. So
17 including the labor, we also have to pay for
18 that. That's roughly \$20,000 a year.

19 And we do get some grants for about
20 10,000 -- for about 10,000. So we do have some
21 increased cost there as well. All right? So
22 when we --

23 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Why recycle?

24 MR. WOLFF: By law, we have to.
25 State law requires -- and I want to keep us on

1 track because especially there's a stenographer
2 here.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Everyone will get an
4 opportunity speak up here.

5 MR. WOLFF: Yes. By law -- but to
6 answer, by law we are required to. So again, I
7 got a little ahead. But this is just pointing
8 out 4 and a half million for salaries, 4 and a
9 half in real estate taxes. So that's how far
10 our real estate taxes get us.

11 This went out with your real estate
12 taxes. This is the same slide. You'll see the
13 numbers are a little bit higher because this
14 includes more than just salaries. So per
15 department, it's broken down there. Again, I
16 know it's -- it will be available online and
17 everything. I'll have it up tomorrow.

18 But you could you see the breakdown
19 there. That number totals about 6.6 million.
20 Okay, so again, 4 and a half million in real
21 estate taxes. Now with some benefits -- and
22 this doesn't even include all the benefits.
23 Now we're at 6.6. So we're at 2.1 million from
24 our real estate difference, okay?

25 Who does it apply to, okay? So

1 residential single family homes up to two
2 units -- and this comes from international IRC,
3 the International Residential Code. It says
4 two units and below is residential. And three
5 units or above are commercial, okay?

6 So this applies to single-family
7 homes, two units or more. And we have
8 received -- and we knew this was going to
9 happen. So our files, you know, we haven't
10 collected this since 2014. So our staff that
11 was on hand is no longer there, to my
12 knowledge -- and I saw Sally over there -- the
13 files.

14 We don't have the files anymore
15 because it's 12 years ago. So what we had to
16 do is -- part of the reason -- and we do
17 acknowledge the rollout was not the best. We
18 understand that. But what we had to wait for
19 July was, was we had to get -- the files had to
20 be combined between our rental registration and
21 the county files.

22 And it took until July to get that
23 to happen. It just -- it was a massive file
24 that had to be worked through, okay? So it
25 does not -- it does not -- like we said, it

1 does not apply to commercial properties.

2 So if you are a bar, hotel, motel,
3 more than three units and you received a bill,
4 contact us immediately. Give us a call. Once
5 we verify that you have a hauler, a licensed
6 hauler and a dumpster, we'll get you taken
7 right off the bill. That's not an issue.

8 And as well as I was talking about
9 before, if your number -- and many people have
10 called, if you got a bill for three units and
11 you only have two units or you're not renting
12 out those units anymore, you could sign an
13 affidavit saying, hey, I'm not renting out this
14 property anymore. And that bill will be
15 adjusted, okay.

16 It's going to take a little bit of
17 time for us to work through it. But it will
18 get -- it will get worked through, okay? And
19 so these -- these commercial residential
20 applies to the commercial properties as well.
21 So those commercial -- the bars, those type of
22 places, we're by ordinance, we're not supposed
23 to pick up their recycling -- going back to
24 some of the costs.

25 Just what I said there, if you are a

1 commercial property and you received a bill,
2 let us know and we'll take care of that for
3 you. That will be no problem. Some of the
4 other questions is it from July to December?

5 So the bill does -- it is due by the
6 end of December. Again, they -- we wanted it
7 out earlier. But combining that file, it just
8 wasn't possible to get that done. So it is due
9 by the end of the year. There are installments
10 that are allowed.

11 It says 75 and 75. Well, listen, if
12 you guys -- if someone comes to us and says,
13 hey, I can -- this is how much I could afford,
14 no one's -- no one's going to argue, okay?
15 We're more than willing to work with any
16 resident that has an issue with that, okay?

17 But there is a discussion Scranton
18 and some other municipalities put it into --
19 right into their real estate bill, which
20 obviously comes out February-ish, right.

21 So there is -- there has been some
22 discussion of that. But that's all it is right
23 now. We have to look into more details of
24 that. And will also be a cost savings, okay,
25 that will be roughly to send out these bills is

1 roughly \$10,000. So 10,000 for the real
2 estate, 10,000 for this.

3 But I assume the school district
4 paid roughly the same, you know, that's not us.
5 So that's about -- that's some discussion. But
6 the bill is for the year of 2026 due at the end
7 of the year, okay?

8 So just some things, you know, just
9 some conversation that we've heard people talk
10 about. I know some people can't read that. So
11 I'll slide and read here a little bit and talk
12 about some things that we've done since 2022.
13 You know, we hear a lot. We hear a lot. We
14 respond. We hear the talk, you know, what's
15 being done, what's being done, where's my money
16 going to?

17 Some of the things that we've done,
18 these are just -- just some highlights that I
19 picked out. Since 2022, took ownership and
20 secured funding to replace the Bunker Hill
21 Bridge. Okay, so if we --

22 (AUDIENCE CROSS TALKING)

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Guys -- guys --

24 MR. WOLFF: A bridge doesn't take 30
25 days to build. So if you remember if anyone

1 showed up at any Council meetings prior to this
2 happening, is no one would take ownership --

3 (AUDIENCE CROSS TALKING)

4 MR. WOLFF: Stop. So the Bunker
5 Hill Bridge -- let me finish. We secured
6 funding. We took ownership for that in late
7 2022 and secured funding shortly after. These
8 are gigantic --

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: It's '26. In
10 '22 you got the funding.

11 MR. WOLFF: Stop. Please stop.

12 ATTY. PERRY: Hey, hey, knock it
13 off. Show some courtesy to this man. Let him
14 speak. Show some courtesy. Show some
15 courtesy. Let him speak.

16 MR. WOLFF: So the project -- we
17 secured the funding. We secured the funding
18 through the state. So its an 80/15/5 percent
19 split. We're on the hook for 5 percent. The
20 Borough is on the hook for 5 percent. That's
21 going to be roughly a million dollars. The
22 project is going to be 15 to 20 million
23 dollars. The question was asked when. It's
24 about a five to six year project.

25 I'm not an engineer. That's what it

1 takes. The project was handed over to PennDOT.
2 PennDOT handled the project. Once they are
3 done with it, they will hand it back over to
4 us. We are about two years into that project,
5 okay? And that is out of our control.

6 And PennDOT can only push it so far
7 too. Engineers, everything has to be done
8 correctly. There has to be things that have --
9 to get taken care of, okay? Spent about
10 150,000 in stormwater improvement in the
11 Swinick's.

12 Flooring replacement, the new floor
13 here is about \$40,000 you're looking at, and a
14 new HVAC unit which is about \$50,000.
15 Replacement of the Fire Department ramp, so in
16 front of Turkey Hill, that concrete ramp was
17 deteriorated for many years. That was about an
18 \$80,000 project to replace that concrete.

19 Funding secured for the repairs at
20 Keystone Industrial Park, that will be
21 completed next year. Again, PennDOT -- we
22 turned that project over to PennDOT. That is
23 1.7 million dollars in grant funding that many
24 Council members contributed to in securing, so
25 another 1.7 million dollars for that.

1 Secured three new police vehicles.
2 I just filled out another grant funding for
3 about 288,000 through Senator Fetterman's
4 office. Funding secured for pickleball courts,
5 we are in the process of that.

6 We demolished -- many people -- it's
7 grant money. So it's not Borough money, okay?
8 We demolished blighted buildings. We
9 demolished three buildings a couple years ago.
10 We refurbished a fire truck. We still need
11 more work to do on fire apparatus. It's an
12 aging fleet.

13 And we still need to more work to do
14 on that. Some other things that have been
15 brought up and, you know, I know this is going
16 to be controversial too. The pocket park, we
17 didn't pay -- that didn't -- no funding -- no
18 taxpayer funding was spent on the pocket park.
19 That was landfill fine money that we used,
20 okay? So those are just some of the things
21 that we did. Some of the paving that we did --

22 ATTY. PERRY: Hey, let's keep it
23 down. Let him finish.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You said five
25 minutes.

1 MR. WOLFF: Well, I had a lot of
2 interruptions. It went over five minutes.
3 Paving completed, I know we always hear the
4 roads, we don't pave them. Here's a list of
5 paving that we did through Borough funds and
6 through grant funding.

7 Again, I'll just roll through them.
8 Multiple blocks of Chestnut Street after -- by
9 Roosey is completed, we'll only have one
10 section of Chestnut Street that hasn't been
11 paved. And we're holding off on that because
12 there's supposed to a big project there.

13 Multiple blocks of Electric Street.
14 All of Barnhart Street, portions of Tiffany
15 Drive/Mt. Margaret Drive, all of Whitetail
16 Drive, portions of East Pine, portions of
17 Marion Street, 15 -- the 15 and 1600 block of
18 North Webster, 1500 block of Jefferson, 1500 of
19 Madison, Shoemaker, some of Mill Street, West
20 Drinker Street, Monroe -- 1500 of Monroe,
21 Prospect Street, Electric Street, Allen Street,
22 600 of Ward Street, West Grove, okay?

23 So we've done quite a bit of paving.
24 We understand it's not enough. But we are
25 doing what we can. So that's the presentation.

1 And like I said, if we could quietly in an
2 orderly fashion go to the podium, state your
3 name and you have five minutes like I said so
4 everyone could get something in.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Guys, we have our
6 first person here if everybody can --

7 MS. FEENEY: Katie Feeney, 2205
8 Jefferson.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: And when you come up,
10 just please state your name, your address and
11 spell your last name for the stenographer
12 that's here, please.

13 MS. FEENEY: F-E-E-N-E-Y. I
14 apologize. I'm coming to this meeting. I was
15 hoping to hold off until next meeting. I knew
16 it was going to be a -- one to be here for.
17 But I just wanted to give an update on Erin's
18 Way and our progress we've made since Project
19 Lifesaver and community safety initiatives.

20 Since the Borough approved moving
21 forward with Project Lifesaver, we've made
22 tremendous progress. What began as an effort
23 to protect families here in Dunmore has grown
24 into a plan for a countywide program that
25 serves individuals that are at risk of

1 wandering due to Autism, Alzheimer's, dementia
2 and other cognitive disorders.

3 Erin's Way recently met with
4 Lackawanna County officials to discuss
5 expanding the program throughout the county.
6 Following that meeting we were asked to submit
7 a comprehensive proposal that outlined the
8 equipment, training, personnel, and resources
9 needed to build a strong and sustainable
10 program.

11 Our proposal is now under review.
12 And we anticipate receiving our information by
13 the end of this month. That's why I chose this
14 meeting to come to. Under the proposed plan,
15 Dunmore will remain the lead agency and the
16 pilot community.

17 What we establish here will create
18 the model used in the additional 39
19 municipalities in Lackawanna County. I am
20 incredibly proud that Dunmore has the
21 compassionate and foresight to take the first
22 step and be the leader.

23 As a result, Project Lifesaver,
24 which is a complete program, it's not simply a
25 product, a piece of locating equipment.

1 Dunmore officers and fire and rescue personnel
2 will be certified on the usage of the locating
3 equipment, but they will also have a
4 comprehensive training that provides education
5 about different diagnoses, the cognitive
6 conditions they may encounter as well as how to
7 safely and compassionately approach community
8 with and assist each individual.

9 Project Lifesaver also provides the
10 access to a secure international database
11 containing critical information about the
12 enrolled individuals. During an emergency,
13 that information can be transmitted instantly
14 to officers' handhelds and their phone.

15 This gives the personnel immediate
16 access to details, such as, photographs,
17 medical needs, communication abilities,
18 triggers, calming strategies, and likely
19 destinations, information that can save
20 valuable time during a search.

21 At first, seeking and receiving
22 permission from appropriate Borough and
23 department leadership, Erin's Way asked
24 Sergeant Michael Igoe and Captain Mike Rinaldi
25 to represent this initiative. I'm honored to

1 share that Sergeant Igoe has agreed to serve as
2 a spokesperson for law enforcement. And
3 Captain Rinaldi has agreed to serve as a
4 spokesperson for fire and rescue.

5 As Council knows, both Sergeant Igoe
6 and Captain Rinaldi were there the night of
7 Erin's accident. Since that night, they have
8 continued to show up for our family, not only
9 as first responders, but as people who
10 genuinely care about us and Erin's legacy.

11 Because of that experience, they
12 have deeply personal connection to our family
13 and to the reason this program matters so much.
14 Their involvement brings experience and
15 credibility to this initiative.

16 But it also brings compassion and
17 understanding what is truly at stake when a
18 vulnerable child or adult goes missing. Erin's
19 Way will support the program by coordinating
20 family enrollment, completing the intake
21 information, and assisting with monthly battery
22 changes as well as providing education and
23 helping families obtain the transponders
24 regardless of their ability to pay.

25 Intakes will include information

1 that can be critical during an emergency, such
2 as, photographs, medical needs and those stated
3 previously. Erin's Way is also helping to
4 bring the Blue Envelope Program countywide.

5 This program is designed to improve
6 interactions between law enforcement and
7 drivers who have autism, anxiety, or any other
8 conditions that may affect their communication
9 or behavioral at traffic stops.

10 We are so proud that Dunmore Police
11 Department was among the first departments in
12 Lackawanna County to step forward and
13 participate in the Blue Envelope Program on its
14 own. That credit goes to Captain Barth.

15 As additional municipalities join,
16 Erin's Way will support those departments
17 providing information to their families and
18 make the program accessible throughout our
19 county. We are also working to bring First Due
20 Autism Awareness training for first responders
21 to Dunmore and surrounding areas.

22 This training is designed
23 specifically for police officers, firefighters,
24 and EMS personnel, as well as dispatchers and
25 any other first responders. Our board has

1 completed this training with Captain Zach
2 Kirsch of Schuylkill County who teaches the
3 course.

4 He is not only a first responder in
5 instruction, he is also the father of an
6 autistic son. He brings both professional
7 experience and a parent's personal
8 understanding to the training making it
9 especially meaningful and practical for those
10 who attend.

11 The training helps first responders
12 recognize characteristics of autism and
13 understand how an autistic individual may react
14 during an emergency. One especially important
15 component helps officers distinguish between
16 defiance and disability.

17 Behaviors such as not responding to
18 command, avoiding eye contact, attempting to
19 leave, repeating words may be related to a
20 person's disability rather than a deliberate
21 refusal to cooperate.

22 By understanding the difference,
23 first responders can communicate more
24 effectively, reduce sensory escalations and
25 respond with greater safety, confidence, and

1 compassion.

2 After experiencing the training
3 ourselves, our board strongly believes it would
4 be an invaluable resource for Dunmore and the
5 surrounding communities.

6 We understand Dunmore and the
7 surrounding municipalities are facing difficult
8 budget decisions. The Borough's partnership
9 with our nonprofit Erin's Way, Project
10 Lifesaver, the Blue Envelope Program, and First
11 Due Autism Awareness training will be provided
12 completely free to the Borough and its
13 residents.

14 We do not want cost to prevent any
15 first responders from receiving lifesaving
16 equipment, training, resources, and families
17 from receiving the protection and support they
18 need. I am incredibly proud that Dunmore
19 stepped forward to lead these efforts.

20 What became here as the potential to
21 save lives and improve emergency interactions
22 across our -- across Dunmore, will now impact
23 the entire county. As Erin's mother, I cannot
24 express how much it means to know that her
25 legacy would help other vulnerable children and

1 adults return home safely. So thank you for
2 supporting Erin's Way and all that we do.

3 MS. BRIER: Thanks, Katie.

4 MR. FISK: Hi, everyone. My name is
5 Steven Fisk, F-I-S-K. And I'm from Dunmore, of
6 course, 215 Church Street right by Joe Tomko
7 likes to remind me even though I wasn't born
8 here, I've lived here for 34 years. So I hope
9 you consider me a Dunmorean at least for the
10 day. I did marry a Dunmore girl, so I want to
11 make sure you know that.

12 Mr. Wolff, I sent you right to know
13 request and you complied and I appreciate that.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WOLFF: No problem.

16 MR. FISK: And I appreciate your
17 presentation. But I don't think you spent
18 enough time talking about where the money is
19 going that we're bring in, how much we're
20 bringing in.

21 And one of the things that startled
22 me was in the four and a half -- last four and
23 a half years, the landfill fees have brought in
24 over 13 million dollars to the Borough of
25 Dunmore, which is extraordinary.

1 But I'm not here to talk about why
2 we're having the refuse fee. I'm sure other
3 people I hope are going to talk about it. But
4 I want to talk about why. And you confirmed
5 for me that the legally adopted ordinance that
6 we have was amended in 2002 and there's been no
7 changes since then.

8 But I want to call your attention to
9 the ordinance. And I'm going to read from it.
10 First of all, it says, "All fees must be made
11 payable to the Treasurer of the Borough of
12 Dunmore." Well, that's no longer valid. So
13 it's a violation of the ordinance.

14 Next, the ordinance states and I
15 quote, "All notices of the \$150 fee shall be
16 sent as first class mail through the United
17 States Post Office no later than March 1 of the
18 year for which the fee is collected." So
19 again, you're violating your ordinance.

20 I don't see how this is valid. You
21 violated the ordinance. It's clear. It's
22 established. But let me continue. The current
23 legally adopted ordinance states installments
24 can be made in two payments of \$75. First
25 install due May 1, the second installment due

1 August 1 or an entire \$150 fee can be made on
2 May 1.

3 Did anyone get that option to do
4 that? I called Berkheimer. I asked if there
5 could be installments made. They didn't know
6 what I was talking about. But they pointed to
7 me that said if the payment's not made by
8 September 15th, there's a \$10 penalty.

9 Now, Mr. Wolff, you said if people
10 want to pay in installments they can. We're
11 not out to get the money from you right away.
12 How does that happen? Berkheimer had no idea
13 what I'm talking about when I said that. So I
14 submit to, Council, this ordinance -- this bill
15 is invalid.

16 You violated your ordinance in
17 numerous places. I know you've said that we
18 can't ask questions. But does anyone care to
19 respond about that for the citizens here?
20 Okay, I don't want to make a scene. I'm just
21 trying to make a point that you violated your
22 ordinance.

23 And in my opinion and maybe a
24 Lackawanna County judge has to rule an
25 injunction. But this isn't legal. So this

1 isn't going to make -- this isn't going to the
2 make the fee go away but at least should
3 postpone it. It should not be collected this
4 year.

5 But I want to continue a little more
6 about the how. And Mr. Wolff shared some of
7 this. I went through -- I asked Mr. Wolff for
8 the minutes and any history of the meetings
9 going back to 2016. So again, I appreciate
10 what you sent me.

11 Since 2016, the votes every December
12 7-0; next year, 6-0; next year, 7-0; next year,
13 7-0; December 20, 6-0. And then Mr. Wolff sent
14 me some minutes of meetings after that. So I
15 just want to read some of those minutes for you
16 to understand my perspective.

17 In December, 2022, Mr. Amico
18 apparently he was a Councilman, made a motion
19 to waive the fee. He stated and I quote, to be
20 clear, there is no garbage fee in Dunmore. I
21 just wanted to make sure because we had a
22 little bit of confusion at the last meeting.
23 We have no fee again this year -- that meant
24 for 2023 -- but we have to go through this
25 process every year. All in favor? Aye.

1 Everybody -- unanimous.

2 December, 2023, Mr. Amico made a
3 motion to waive the fee for 2024. He stated,
4 just as a reminder, we haven't increased our --
5 and then he interrupted himself -- or had a
6 garbage fee since the year 2015. So this year
7 we are again waiving garbage fee. With that
8 being said, all in favor. Everybody said aye.

9 December, '24, Miss Brier, "Can I
10 have a motion to waive the garbage fee for
11 2025? She said I have a motion and a second.
12 Anyone on the question?" And here's a quote.
13 "This is a fee we are obligated to waive every
14 year." I don't know what happened to that.

15 "It's pretty much going through the
16 motions." This is her quote. "So all in
17 favor? Aye." Everybody raised their hand.
18 December, 2025, Miss Oven, "Can I get a motion
19 to waive the refuse fee for 2026?" The minutes
20 reflect, seeing none we will move forward.
21 Now, hear's what I'm really annoyed about.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Mr. Fisk, just to let
23 you know your five minutes are up, but please
24 finish. I told him he's allowed to finish.

25 MR. FISK: I appreciate that. Thank

1 you. I'll be quick. I'll be quick. I have
2 another thing but I'll come to a future meeting
3 about it.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: He could finish.

5 MR. FISK: So we went from quotes
6 like to be clear there is no garbage fee in
7 Dunmore. We don't need one. I want to make
8 sure. We also heard this is a fee we are
9 obligated to waive every year. It's pretty
10 much going through the motions. Those were
11 some of the quotes from Council members.

12 And every year since 2016 there is a
13 unanimous vote. There is no discussion.
14 Nobody objected. Unanimous for nine straight
15 years, nine straight years. Now in 2025,
16 motion to waive the fee, they all grew silent.

17 But you know what's annoying to me?
18 There was no discussion. There was no debate.
19 There was no discourse. There was no
20 disagreement. It was simply silence. Now,
21 that tells me one thing. And, Council, with
22 all due respect, I don't want to make
23 assertions that I can't prove.

24 How could you waive a fee that you
25 haven't had for nine years and not have a

1 single discussion? How can you not say what
2 will this do to residents of Dunmore? Where is
3 the discussion about the revenue shortfall?
4 There's no -- there are no minutes.

5 So unless there was a conversation
6 at the Roosey or Panderella's or the Bucktown
7 Diner -- and I hope there wasn't a violation of
8 the Sunshine Act because I find it hard to
9 believe that for nine years the votes were
10 unanimous to waive the fee, and finally a vote
11 to waive the fee and there's not a motion made,
12 not a thing was said.

13 I think you are derelict in our
14 duties in this regard. I'm not trying to
15 denigrate all the work you do. But you've
16 really abdicated responsibility to the citizens
17 of Dunmore. At least have a discussion. At
18 least put a monthly thing in the Dunmorean to
19 say here's our revenue source. Here's our
20 expenses. There's nothing.

21 I mean, this presentation to me --
22 no disrespect, Mr. Wolff, but if you are not
23 going to show the income, if you are not going
24 show that we've gotten 13 million dollars from
25 the landfill in four and a half years. That's

1 just the last four and a half years. And you
2 didn't show where it goes.

3 So no disrespect to the Bunker Hill
4 Bridge, I don't go up that way anymore. I want
5 to know -- I want to know where is that 13
6 million dollars going? So I don't want to take
7 up more of my time.

8 I would hope that you would decide
9 that this bill is invalid. Clearly you
10 violated your ordinance on three occasions.
11 And it should be -- it should just be
12 cancelled. Thank you.

13 MR. DEMPSEY: Just raise your hand
14 if you want to come up and we'll call on you.
15 If you want to come up and speak, just raise
16 your hand and we'll call you one by one.

17 MS. ZMUDA: Hi, everyone. Nicole
18 Zmuda. I'll spell it. It's a tough one,
19 Z-M-U-D-A. It's Polish, 109 Varley Street as
20 well. So I appreciate the Council's time. I
21 appreciate, Mr. Fisk, you kicking us off in
22 terms of the refuse fee conversation.

23 And honestly, I don't have that much
24 more to add because of so much of what you said
25 I had written down on my cell phone. I just

1 have a hard time believing that nobody else has
2 anything to add to this conversation
3 considering the outpouring of support that we
4 have here.

5 So I thought that I would come and
6 add my two cents. I am not a native Dunmorean.
7 I apologize. I moved here -- I have lived here
8 as a homeowner since 2019. And I'm very glad
9 to live here. I love our neighborhood. I see
10 some of my neighbors here. It's a wonderful
11 place to live.

12 However, I could also take
13 responsibility that I have not been the most
14 concerned, engaged citizen. This is my first
15 Council meeting. Shame on me. It won't be my
16 last. When I received the refuse fee, I was
17 certainly curious and concerned like many of
18 you.

19 And so I also did a little bit of
20 research what was available. I appreciate the
21 Council making the agenda and the meeting
22 minutes available online for public review. If
23 folks aren't aware or if you don't have access,
24 they are there. And I'm sure that they are
25 available at the -- here, the center.

1 But I also noticed that the fee had
2 been waived, kind of unanimously obligatory
3 for the last several years. And then last
4 year, there was no discussion. And as someone
5 who is very proud to live here and very pleased
6 at all of the work that the community does for
7 each other, I was really disappointed to not
8 see anymore discussion beyond no motion to
9 approve.

10 And so again, I don't know how it
11 happens that for several years in a row
12 following the agreement that was signed with
13 the landfill that there was discussion about,
14 oh, we'll make sure to earmark some of these
15 funds. And I don't know where those funds
16 went.

17 And that is not necessarily my
18 point. But how does nobody ask a question?
19 It's hard for me to understand. And I get that
20 there is turnover on a Council. And maybe that
21 there -- maybe there are folks here on Council
22 who weren't a part of those votes. Maybe there
23 are.

24 Again, this is my first meeting. So
25 I'm just getting to know you all. But it's

1 hard for me just as a curious person to
2 understand why there was no conversation, why
3 there was no questioning about that. So I
4 guess my request as a citizen who probably has
5 to pay this refuse fee is to just be a bit more
6 transparent about why we're having to pay this
7 now, what's changed, and where the income
8 that's coming into Dunmore is being spent.

9 I appreciate the slideshow and
10 hearing that it will be available on the
11 website. I don't know if it's possible to
12 earmark which of those projects were funded by
13 grant funds. I heard that phrase used a couple
14 of times.

15 And it's hard to believe that all of
16 this money that we're taking in is being spent
17 on those projects even in -- even when there is
18 grant funding coming in. So that's all I
19 wanted to say. I appreciate everybody's time.
20 Thanks.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

22 MS. DEMURO: Hi. I'm Joan Demuro,
23 331 Foote Street -- 331 Foote Street, Dunmore.
24 So I gave my questions all to the Council. The
25 general manager's e-mail states that the new

1 \$150 per unit refuge fee is intended to pay for
2 collection costs, such as, waivers.

3 AUDIENCE: Can't hear you.

4 MS. DEMURO: Can you hear me now?

5 AUDIENCE: No.

6 MS. DEMURO: So the general
7 manager's e-mail states that the new \$150 per
8 unit refugee is intended to pay for collection
9 costs, such as, labor, vehicle maintenance,
10 fuel, and other expenses.

11 However, these are expenses that are
12 already appear in the Borough's budget and
13 financial records. The Borough profit and loss
14 statement for January 1st through July 21st of
15 this year shows \$883,866 in solid waste
16 collection and disposal expenses, including
17 \$671,032 in DPW salaries and \$25,770 in
18 overtime, \$16,058 in supplies, and 142,501 in
19 maintenance and repair.

20 If labor and maintenance repairs and
21 other solid waste collection expenses were
22 already included in the Borough's budget, what
23 exactly changed that now requires taxpayers to
24 pay an additional 150 per unit? And is there
25 an actual budget shortfall in the solid waste

1 collection and disposal?

2 If so, what is the exact dollar
3 amount and where is that shortfall documented
4 and how is that 150 per unit amount calculated?
5 The general manager specifically listed fuel as
6 one of the reasons for the fee. Where is the
7 garbage truck fuel expense shown in the solid
8 waste accounts?

9 Please identify the count and the
10 amount. Dunmore hosts the landfill. And as we
11 understand it, the Borough does not pay the
12 normal disposal tipping costs for municipal
13 waste covered by that arrangement. If that is
14 correct, what portion of the 150 per unit fee
15 is actually necessary for collection costs
16 alone?

17 If Council has a problem or a
18 shortfall in the Borough's budget, why should
19 that shortfall be placed on the taxpayers
20 through a new \$150 per unit fee, especially
21 when the collection and expenses cited as
22 justification were already budgeted and Dunmore
23 receives the financial benefit associated with
24 hosting the landfill.

25 So please show the taxpayers the

1 math. What is the total annual cost of solid
2 waste collection? How much was already
3 budgeted to pay those costs? What revenues
4 were already available? What is the exact
5 remaining shortfall and how does that shortfall
6 equal 150 per unit?

7 This is the tip of the iceberg.
8 This is to all of the taxpayers in Dunmore.
9 This is mismanaged budget at the taxpayers'
10 expense.

11 MR. GIUMENTO: Angelo Giumento, 521
12 Williams Street, Dunmore, PA. And the last
13 name is G-I-U-M-E-N-T-O.

14 I just have a couple things that I
15 wanted to ask. With the new property
16 assessments, has the Borough gotten an estimate
17 of what they're going to collect more in taxes
18 from that assessment?

19 MR. WOLFF: What's the question?

20 MR. GIUMENTO: With the new property
21 assessment, did we get an estimate of what we
22 were going to collect in extra --

23 MS. BRIER: There's no extra.

24 MR. WOLFF: We had to remain cost
25 neutral this year.

1 MR. GIUMENTO: Excuse me?

2 MR. WOLFF: We had to remain cost
3 neutral this year.

4 MR. GIUMENTO: No, understand that.
5 I'm just saying with the new assessment, what
6 is it going to be? I know this year.

7 MR. WOLFF: It will depend on the
8 mill. It's the same. We had to stay four and
9 a half mill. So we adjusted the millage. So
10 the millage went from 54 mills to 3.2.

11 MR. GIUMENTO: For this year.

12 MR. WOLFF: For this year because of
13 the reassessment.

14 MR. GIUMENTO: And then it's going
15 to be back to 54 next year or more?

16 MR. WOLFF: No. It will remain 3.2.
17 The value of a mill has changed considerably.

18 MR. GIUMENTO: Because we do pay --
19 we have the highest assessment in the county --
20 the Dunmore Borough at 54 mills.

21 MS. BRIER: No, Scranton is more.

22 MR. GIUMENTO: Well, I'm talking
23 about boroughs. Williams Street is getting a
24 mess. We got all of these heavy tri-axles
25 coming down from East Scranton, the Hill

1 Section that they're putting all of those new
2 lines in. And they're breaking -- we got
3 busses coming down.

4 We have tri-axles coming down. In
5 front of 515 and a half William, there is a
6 pothole -- I'm not going to say pothole. It's
7 not a pothole. It's a deep hole. It's about
8 8 inches in diameter and maybe 3 foot deep.
9 And I guess that's about all I have. I just
10 been a resident for the Borough almost 50
11 years.

12 MS. BRIER: Thank you.

13 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

14 MR. PALERMO: Dave Palermo, 23
15 Webster Drive. Unrelated to the refuse fee,
16 there is a storm drain on the corner of Webster
17 Drive and Council Street that is in need of
18 repair for 35 years. And the repairs done
19 is -- it's been addressed with Council,
20 previous Councils.

21 And now the drain itself, the
22 blacktop around is deteriorated that it's a
23 safety issue with children riding their bikes
24 close to it, cars drive close to it. And the
25 repair is a second sheet of plywood was put

1 over it.

2 And just want to know it's -- I was
3 told in the past it's the Sewer Authority's
4 responsibility. It is the Borough's
5 responsibility. And I don't know who could
6 look into it.

7 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Palermo, I can
8 comment on that. I've been in touch with you
9 and your wife, I believe. I think the cost
10 estimate, it did turn out to be our
11 responsibility about \$22,000. We have to put
12 it out to bid.

13 MR. PALERMO: So it's going to be
14 done or we need the money to do it?

15 MR. WOLFF: Well, we're going to do
16 it. That's part of our conversation here that
17 \$22,000 --

18 MR. PALERMO: Well, since I'm here,
19 I have a question about the recycling. They
20 said it's a law that you have to recycle. But
21 we have to pay. Well, what if no one puts any
22 recycle out and there's nothing dumped? Do we
23 pay anything?

24 MS. ZANGARDI: Yes.

25 MR. PALERMO: I thought you save

1 money by recycling.

2 So if we're not saving money, what
3 if nobody puts any recycling out and we -- you
4 don't get charged anything, will the Borough
5 save money.

6 MR. WOLFF: Well, a lot of people
7 would feel that recycling is more important.

8 (AUDIENCE CROSS TALKING)

9 MS. ZANGARDI: All right. Please,
10 the stenographer is trying to hear one person,
11 the person speaking, not the people around her.
12 So please be kind. Be patient and gentle. She
13 has to take all his words down, not all of the
14 extra words behind her. I'm sorry, but that's
15 the way it has to be, okay? So, please be
16 nice. Be kind. Be gentle. She has a job to
17 do.

18 MR. PALERMO: Okay. Thank you. So
19 the storm drain is on the agenda to be
20 repaired. Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. NARDOZZI: Good evening, Mayor
22 Conway, Council members, Attorney Perry, Mr.
23 Wolff. I only have a brief comment. My
24 comment is -- anyway, my comment is I know Mr.
25 Wolff --

1 MS. ZANGARDI: Your address.

2 MS. BRIER: Your address.

3 MR. NARDOZZI: Oh, I'm sorry, 203
4 South Apple Street, Dunmore, lifelong Dunmore
5 resident. My comment is this. It's about the
6 trash fee. I think what's very disappointing
7 and upsetting to people in Dunmore is the fact
8 that we found out about this myself on July
9 16th that there was going to be a fee.

10 And then two days later on the 18th,
11 I know I received my bill in the mail two days
12 later. I just think it would have been more
13 prudent for the Council members to make sure
14 the Borough residents had an inkling of what
15 was going on. The decision was made or no
16 decision was made in December.

17 And then here July 16th, you know,
18 we're basically got it shoved down our throats.
19 So that was my comment. You guys have a good
20 evening. Take care.

21 MR. BOLAND: How are you doing? I'm
22 Mike Boland, B-O-L-A-N-D. I live on Swartz
23 Street in Dunmore, lifelong Dunmore guy. I
24 have a couple things with Dave with the
25 recycling center.

1 Now, first of all, it used to be
2 Lackawanna County owned. Now it's privately
3 owned. I recycle everything I can. I try to
4 be nice to the environment. I try to think of
5 my kids and everybody else's kids. Now, I find
6 out tonight we have to pay to dump at the
7 recycle fee.

8 Mr. DeNaples doesn't want certain
9 mingables in with the cans and the bottles and
10 everything. A person from Lackawanna County,
11 not Lackawanna County -- Susquehanna County's
12 recycling center called him out on it in the
13 paper in the Times saying anything with a
14 recycling label is supposed to be recycled.

15 But if I'm going to pay money, I'm
16 just going to throw it in the garbage from now
17 on. Mr. DeNaples is making all of this money
18 off of the privately owned recycling center and
19 us as taxpayers have to fund everything. How
20 does that work? He's got more money than God.
21 We all know that. And he's going to charge us
22 to dump there. Thankfully he lets us dump at
23 the dump for free. So let's toss everything to
24 the dump.

25 MS. HOGAN: I'm waiting for

1 attention. It's very hard to hear when other
2 people are talking. It's very rude. My name
3 is Maryann Hogan, H-O-G-A-N, Hill Street in
4 Dunmore. I wasn't born here. But I've been
5 here a long time, 37, 38 years, I think.

6 Last time I came here DPW was going
7 to be gone. That's when I spoke up. Refuse
8 fee I understand your point. I really do. Had
9 to be cost neutral for the assessment. How
10 else are you going to get money. You did it.
11 The way it was communicated was not good.

12 My question since recycling has been
13 brought up, another community has gone to Waste
14 Management instead of the Lackawanna County
15 Recycling Center. My question is, have you
16 looked into that? Thank you.

17 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

18 MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Hogan, yes, we did.
19 And the cost -- we looked into and some other
20 communities did and we looked at it as well and
21 it was cost neutral. It ended up being cost
22 neutral for us because the volume of cardboard
23 that we take in. So it would have been cost
24 neutral for us.

25 MS. HOGAN: But Waste Management

1 does a much better job of recycling than the
2 Lackawanna County Recycling Center.

3 MR. WOLFF: Yeah, I'm not going to
4 debate that. I'm just letting you know we did
5 look into it.

6 MS. HOGAN: It's not cost neutral.

7 MR. LUCCIANO: Joe Lucciano, 133
8 West Swinick Street, Dunmore. Good evening,
9 neighbors. I'm surrounded by beauty tonight.
10 Bottom line is, what I'm wondering with this
11 \$150 fee, is when are we going to open our
12 eyes? We're worried about \$150 fee when we are
13 paying taxes up the kazoo because this Council
14 refuses, refused to negotiate with the Keystone
15 Landfill.

16 Now, do I want the Keystone Landfill
17 in Dunmore? I live in Swinick. I see it every
18 day. You know what I see in that landfill?
19 Dollar signs. Dollar signs that we are not
20 getting because of this Council refused to
21 negotiate with Keystone.

22 Mid Valley is getting an abundance
23 of money, a free fall of money. Now three
24 quarters of the landfill is on Dunmore
25 property. But we're getting -- and one-fourth

1 is in Throop, Dickson City. And they're
2 reaping all the benefits and we are reaping
3 nothing.

4 The DeNaples family has refused to
5 give any extra money to the Dunmore Council
6 because they can't get together. My
7 suggestion, only a suggestion -- and I can't
8 understand -- we have a lot of so-called brains
9 in this place.

10 The bottom line is, I don't know why
11 we just don't get an outside concern -- get an
12 outside negotiating concern -- company to come
13 in and it would be a binding -- a binding
14 arbitration to create a deal between Dunmore
15 and the Keystone Landfill. Let's get the money
16 we deserve.

17 It's in our town. It's not going
18 anywhere. It's not going anywhere. It does
19 not make any sense. We're squabbling about 150
20 bucks. I spent \$150 on beer at Ragnacci's.
21 The bottom line is, think about it, really
22 think about it.

23 We have all of these people here,
24 you know, that worry about \$150 and they
25 well -- they should well think about it because

1 this is the tip of the iceberg, really the tip
2 of the iceberg. These people are all good
3 people. I know them all. And they have a
4 certain agenda. And they have strong feelings
5 on things.

6 But the bottom line is, they're not
7 looking out for us, period -- as taxpayers. As
8 residents of Dunmore, they are not looking out
9 for us, you know? We need -- we need to form a
10 committee to -- of some, you know, heavy
11 hitters.

12 And we need a committee and to get
13 together and hopefully we could sit down with
14 Council or -- and have a committee sit down
15 with Council and have somebody get this
16 out-of-town negotiating committee. Council
17 could pay half and -- the Borough of Dunmore
18 could pay half and DeNaples will pay half,
19 okay?

20 But that's not the point. We need a
21 contract with the Keystone Landfill, period,
22 period. It's a golden goose. And we're
23 sitting here scratches on our butts. Seriously
24 look at it. Think about it.

25 You know, we're paying taxes when we

1 shouldn't even have to in Dunmore. We
2 shouldn't be paying taxes, you know? And there
3 is nothing to stop the DeNaples family from
4 selling that in a year or two.

5 He's 85 years old or whatever. They
6 are all up in age. And that whole family could
7 say, hey, we're selling and they sell it to
8 another big business. And they could thumb
9 their nose at us also.

10 So, guys, we got to get off our
11 butts and think about what's going on, not for
12 us. There's a lot of us on -- like myself on
13 the other side of the hill on my way down. But
14 the bottom line is, I have three beautiful
15 grandchildren. I have a beautiful family.

16 I have friends. You people are all
17 of my friends. I recognize many of you. But
18 let's do something. Let's do something about
19 this. And let's do something positive,
20 positive, not negative, not put DeNaples did
21 this.

22 You know, if DeNaples passed gas on
23 the highway, they write about it. It's
24 ridiculous. It's to the point where it's
25 absolutely ridiculous. You know, several weeks

1 ago -- several months ago we had a -- we had a
2 meeting here. We were fighting with -- not a
3 fight.

4 We had a discussion here over the
5 Swinick Development about the illegal digging
6 up our yards. Well, everything went well. It
7 was a gracious -- everything was never heated,
8 okay? But the only time I would see a reporter
9 here and extra people here is when we pass a
10 cat ordinance, a friggin cat ordinance and --
11 which is great, feral cats, which is a great
12 thing. But come on and get our priorities
13 straight here, ladies and gentlemen. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

16 MS. EBOLI: Hi, Sheila Eboli, 605
17 Chestnut Street, E-B-O-L-I. I just have a
18 question now that we are going to be paying
19 this fee, is there is still a \$10 fee for any
20 large item pickup?

21 MR. WOLFF: That will remain because
22 we just again -- simple -- a couple different
23 reasons --

24 MS. EBOLI: Can you explain why if
25 we're paying \$150 to have our garbage picked

1 up?

2 MR. WOLFF: Sure. The additional
3 labor, the additional fuel, the additional wear
4 and tear on the staff as well. And there is
5 the other reason for that the \$10 fee is -- and
6 it has done a very good job of it is to control
7 some of the cleanouts by not just landlords and
8 tenants, but by residents. It's helped control
9 some of that. That's the reason for it.

10 MS. EBOLI: I'm actually going to
11 disagree with that because I actually had to
12 call a couple weeks ago because of a cleanout
13 that was done behind me that sat on the curb
14 for, I don't know, two and a half months.

15 Even after I called, a couple of
16 guys came, they picked through the items that
17 were out there and left several of the large
18 items.

19 MR. WOLFF: I know which one you're
20 talking about on Oak Street, correct?

21 MS. EBOLI: No, Helen.

22 MR. WOLFF: I'm sorry?

23 MS. EBOLI: It was Helen.

24 MR. WOLFF: Oh, Helen.

25 MS. EBOLI: Yeah, that stuff sat on

1 the curb for almost three months. I called and
2 they -- the Borough came and took a couple of
3 the items. And in my opinion, should have then
4 billed the landlord. I don't know if they did
5 or not, but left some of those items which then
6 just continued to rot.

7 So that fee obviously is not
8 working. The other thing that I just want to
9 state is that, you know, I understand that this
10 \$150 is not going to the landfill. It's going
11 to these maintenance costs and all of those
12 other things.

13 But I cannot open my windows. I
14 cannot sit on my porch. The smell that comes
15 to my house on a daily basis is horrendous. I
16 live within a block of DeNaples on Mill Street.
17 And I'm right next to 81. So the landfill
18 comes right down 81 and the smell is so beyond,
19 it doesn't matter the time of day. It doesn't
20 matter the year -- the day of the year.

21 It's awful. So the fact that we
22 feel like the fact that we have to pay now for
23 that privilege of having that smell and dealing
24 with the traffic and to see that we're going to
25 be paving their road is very -- it's upsetting.

1 It's discouraging. And I don't believe it's
2 fair.

3 MR. DUNCAN: My name is Gary Duncan,
4 117 Barton Street, Dunmore. I've been coming
5 to the Council meetings since 2004. So I do
6 want to speak tonight because we've been
7 through everything. The last time I saw this
8 room this packed was when we had the
9 conversations about the expansion of the
10 landfill.

11 And this is what I would tell you.
12 A lot of things that came up tonight that were
13 discussed, this is what I would encourage you
14 all to do. Dunmorepa.gov, go to the website.
15 Pull up the minutes that Mrs. McCool types up
16 so that you could read them and review them.

17 I haven't been to Council meetings
18 in a while. I have a two and a half year old
19 granddaughter. My daughter lives in Blakely.
20 I cannot get from Blakely to Dunmore by 6:00 to
21 the Council meeting. I could also predict --
22 I'm certainly not Nostradamus.

23 But I could almost predict that
24 probably the next Council meeting or the one
25 after that, we won't have nearly this amount of

1 people in this room. Years ago Council
2 meetings were held at 7:00. This may not go
3 over well with the current Council.

4 But I would respectfully request for
5 moms and dads because it's everybody now, we
6 have to get home. We have children at home. I
7 have a granddaughter that we feed. If we could
8 move meetings back to 7:00, it gives more time
9 for Borough residents to let their children
10 come home from school to get a dinner or a
11 supper.

12 You could pick the (inaudible) of
13 choice prepared for the kids. And then we can
14 still get to this meeting. I know you were at
15 my meetings. So we certainly go back quite a
16 few decades together. I'd love to see this
17 type of participation happen again.

18 This type of public speaking, I see
19 Mrs. Scrimalli in the audience tonight. I'm
20 not throwing you under the bus. But Mrs.
21 Scrimalli was on Council when she announced one
22 night -- she thanked me for coming. I was the
23 only non-council meeting -- member at the
24 Council meeting.

25 We need this to continue. We need

1 public conversation so that when people get
2 excited or when they get upset, if you're here
3 at the Council meetings and you get to see the
4 sequencing and the conversations -- I'm
5 blessed.

6 I'm on the Planning Commission. I
7 was there to vote against the landfill. I take
8 great pride in being a member of Planning. I
9 ran the Dunmore Neighborhood Watch for probably
10 for 10 years at a minimum until COVID came
11 along. So we had participation.

12 This is an involved borough. If we
13 can move Council meetings back to seven so that
14 for the future we can maximize -- so that we
15 can maximize communication on all sides, not
16 just on this side of the dais, but on that side
17 of the dais, on that side of the room.

18 So if there's a way we can do that
19 legally -- and I have one question for Mr.
20 Wolff. Some of us when we got the 150, I
21 didn't want to get the 160. If you can't tell
22 by looking at me, I'm 73 years old. I am on
23 Social Security. There's no additional income.

24 I don't have 150 bucks for beer and
25 other things that was stated tonight. I wish I

1 had that kind of disposable income. But I will
2 say this -- but I will say this. But I just
3 want to say this. If we went down and we paid
4 the 150, Berkheimer's not going to give that
5 money back to us.

6 It's 150 that's essentially down the
7 pipe. So going forward, I'd like to know where
8 we go with that. People don't even want to get
9 that additional 10 bucks. Probably sounds like
10 nothing when you have disposable income. When
11 you don't, if you're a single parent every
12 penny is an important penny in your wallet.

13 That's all I have to say today. I
14 appreciate you very much letting me come up.
15 Please take under consideration moving Council
16 meetings back to 7:00. If I ask you for a show
17 of hands right now, I bet there's a lot of
18 people in this room that would say it would
19 help us get here. And so that's it. I
20 appreciate your time. Thank you.

21 MR. PYERON: My name is Tom Pyeron.
22 I live on Tighe, Dunmore, P-Y-E-R-O-N. I'm
23 nearing full retirement. I have a
24 single-family home. I'm there by myself. I
25 generate one bag of garbage a week. Why should

1 I pay \$150 a year for my one bag of garbage a
2 week when there is other residents that have
3 four, five, six bags of garbage on the street.

4 They're paying the same rate. Why
5 can't this fee be readjusted maybe to a per bag
6 fee? That's all I have to say. Thank you.

7 MR. SARDO: My name is Vince Sardo,
8 237 South Apple Street, S-A-R-D-O. I'm a
9 former Dunmore firefighter. Good evening,
10 Council, Mr. Wolff, Mayor Conway. I just
11 wanted to express my concern like Mr. Duncan
12 said for the people that are on fixed incomes
13 in the community.

14 I mean, maybe a lot of us can't
15 afford \$150 a year additional. But there's
16 many people that can't. I have an aunt that
17 owns a property 88 years old that's struggling
18 now. Between county taxes up 44 percent,
19 borough taxes up 24 percent, utility costs
20 through the roofs, gas prices, food, and
21 everything else that's going on in our
22 community, to hit our senior citizens with
23 another \$150 fee, to me is outrageous.

24 It's got to end somewhere. The
25 budget has to be fixed somehow. I don't have

1 the answers. I hope Council could get together
2 with the community to come up with the answers
3 to kind of help our senior citizens so they're
4 not losing their homes through foreclosures and
5 things like that in the future.

6 Mr. Wolff, you had mentioned about
7 four and a half million dollar employee costs,
8 I believe --

9 MR. WOLFF: Salaries.

10 MR. SARDO: Salaries -- salaries
11 alone, not benefits. Greg and I worked
12 together for many years at the Dunmore Fire
13 Department. We have -- when I first started
14 back in 2000, we had 24 full-time firefighters.

15 We're down to 12 working the floor
16 right now. These guys are working upwards of
17 500 to 600 hours of overtime just to this point
18 this year. That's not counting the rest of the
19 year just to cover a four-man minimum on the
20 shift.

21 To me, that's suicidal. We're
22 playing Russian roulette, guys. It's only a
23 matter of time before the gun goes off and
24 people in the community get injured or hurt or
25 our firefighters get killed. So we need to --

1 Council, please look at hiring more
2 firefighters to make our community safer and
3 our firefighters safer. Thank you.

4 MS. SANTASIERO: My name is
5 Bernadette Santasiero. I live at 216 Allen
6 Street in Dunmore. I've been a resident of
7 Dunmore for 81 years, a homeowner with my
8 deceased husband for over 50 years.

9 And I only have two questions. Do
10 we have a tax collector?

11 MS. OVEN: Yes.

12 MS. SANTASIERO: Do we?

13 MS. BRIER: Yes.

14 MS. SANTASIERO: Who is the tax
15 collector?

16 MR. WOLFF: Michael Ruddy.

17 MS. SANTASIERO: Okay. How much do
18 we pay Berkheimer to collect our taxes? Why
19 did they switch over to Berkheimer? Why?

20 MR. WOLFF: Berkheimer, the bill --

21 MS. SANTASIERO: Yeah, why? How
22 much do we pay them?

23 MR. WOLFF: I'm trying to answer
24 your question, ma'am.

25 MS. SANTASIERO: Okay.

1 MR. WOLFF: So it was roughly
2 \$10,000. And that was with postage and
3 mailing. So that -- those fees were
4 essentially the same. So they make their money
5 by, you know, it cost them 2 cents to print
6 that sheet out and for postage and everything.
7 They don't take a cut of the 150.

8 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: -- 4 or 5
9 percent per bill --

10 MS. BRIER: You can't talk out.

11 MS. ZANGARDI: Hold on a minute.
12 You have to come up to the podium. You still
13 have to come up to the podium. She has to get
14 it down.

15 MR. WOLFF: That's the answer.

16 MS. SANTASIERO: But in years past,
17 we had a tax collector. We paid our taxes at
18 the Dunmore Borough or the Fidelity Bank. Now
19 all of a sudden you to have pay to Berkheimer.
20 It wasn't cost -- I don't see where it's --
21 how much does the tax collector get a year?

22 MR. WOLFF: About 2,500.

23 MS. SANTASIERO: So what does he do?
24 Berkehimer is collecting the taxes. But
25 they're saying you have to pay -- write out the

1 checks to Mike Ruddy because the treasurer --
2 so what does he do? He cashes the checks and
3 puts them in the account. He's getting paid
4 how much a year?

5 MR. WOLFF: About 2,500.

6 MS. SANTASIERO: You said 2,500 or
7 25,000?

8 MR. WOLFF: 2,500. Two thousand,
9 five hundred.

10 MS. SANTASIERO: So then what does
11 he do?

12 MR. WOLFF: He -- honestly he
13 oversees -- he oversees, he reviews the bills.
14 The tax collector hasn't collected taxes in
15 Dunmore for 40 years, 50 years. That is true.
16 The office has collected it. And our clerk
17 retired this year, which is why Berkheimer came
18 in.

19 MS. SANTASIERO: Well, gee, how
20 about if I get a job as a clerk in the borough
21 and I won't even charge you. I'll come down
22 and collect the, you know, collect the taxes
23 and they could deposit them or whatever they
24 have to do.

25 MR. WOLFF: Okay.

1 MS. SANTASIERO: How about that?
2 I'll do it in my spare time.

3 MR. WOLFF: I'm sorry. I didn't
4 hear you what you asked.

5 MS. SANTASIERO: I said how about
6 if --

7 MR. WOLFF: Oh, all right. Well,
8 that will cost money. Thank you.

9 MS. SANTASIERO: All right. That's
10 what I wanted to point out.

11 MR. TOOLE: Hi, everybody, Council,
12 Mr. Wolff, Mr. Perry, Max. So I think -- Tom
13 Toole, 619 Bednar Street. So I think the
14 problem is obviously the garbage tax, but the
15 solutions that were there we let go because we
16 had the sewer line that could have went to
17 Dunmore that was 200,000 a year and they let
18 that go to Throop.

19 The gas treatment facility, that
20 went to Throop. So it seems to me that this
21 Council doesn't want to work with Mr. DeNaples.
22 And I live by the landfill. And like everybody
23 else, I have to smell it. I'm not happy about
24 it. But it's there.

25 So let's put a little pressure on it

1 and get the money out of it. So we just let
2 that go which adds up to millions and millions
3 of dollars. So I'm just wondering why did we
4 let that go? The landfill is not going
5 anywhere.

6 It's the largest natural gas
7 producing landfill in the county. It's
8 actually -- they say it's in the world. So
9 it's not going anywhere. So why don't we put
10 the pressure on it and get the money off it.
11 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

12 MR. DEMPSEY: Anybody else want --

13 MS. EARLEY: Hi, everyone. My name
14 is Tracey Earley. I live at 211 West Elm,
15 E-A-R-L-E-Y. The landfill I know is like the
16 biggest topic in this town. And it's -- it's
17 good when it -- when you want it to be good.
18 It's bad when you want it to be bad.

19 I know a lot of you don't support
20 it. But, you know, you're getting money from
21 it. You know, does Louie do this for you, does
22 he do that for you? It has to come together in
23 some way, shape, and form.

24 And like someone said, maybe some
25 type of negotiations, because again, it's not

1 going anywhere. And it's big business. And my
2 question maybe is, instead of putting this fee
3 on the -- the people and enraging them calling
4 it what it is when we know this relationship
5 with the -- with the landfill, why not promote
6 more business in Dunmore, like, bring some new
7 businesses in for tax revenue instead of
8 putting it on the -- on the tax payer all the
9 time.

10 You know, there's got to be other
11 ways. The pocket park, I'm sorry, I disagreed
12 with that whether it was grant money or not.
13 You could put a business down there, you know,
14 something that we don't have. We have a lot of
15 stuff maybe we need in Dunmore and people could
16 generate, you know, the Dunmore Borough could
17 generate revenue from businesses.

18 But I don't think there's any
19 economic development for that or am I wrong to
20 bring business to Dunmore? May I ask? Is
21 there any economic plan for our borough?

22 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, we do have a
23 downtown Dunmore plan that we're working on
24 right now. We're trying to secure grant
25 funding for that. I talk to business owners

1 all the time.

2 I know we have a person who's
3 putting a significant amount of money in the
4 Old Drinker Pizza. I'm not sure what his end
5 plans are. But there are businesses popping
6 up. And for me, if anybody has any questions,
7 they're always welcome --

8 MS. EARLEY: I think like big
9 business. I'm not saying that that won't be a
10 successful business to generate revenue. But I
11 think you have to go after some bigger
12 industries.

13 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, I've set up
14 meetings between Gertrude Hawk and local candy
15 shops. I talk to businesses all the time. If
16 anybody ever has a question about business,
17 call me anytime. I'm happy to talk to anybody.
18 I talk to business owners all the time.

19 MS. EARLEY: I mean, I'm a small
20 business owner, and I contribute very little
21 to the big picture. This is what I mean. I
22 don't know if you could bring in any type of
23 bigger industry and revenue here --

24 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, I'd love to.
25 Sheetz, more Sheetz, I'll talk to anybody.

1 We're here.

2 MS. BRIER: And that's why we're
3 doing the Keystone Industrial Park road.

4 MAYOR CONWAY: We have a great town.
5 We have great services. I think it's a good
6 spot to start a business.

7 MS. EARLEY: Well, I think maybe we
8 need some more of that to generate that money
9 that's falling on all the citizens.

10 MAYOR CONWAY: I don't disagree.

11 MS. EARLEY: Yeah, I don't know.
12 Maybe we could get some type of committee to,
13 you know, bolster some business to come here to
14 Dunmore.

15 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, I'm with you.

16 MS. EARLEY: I have some ideas.
17 We'll talk.

18 MAYOR CONWAY: Perfect.

19 MS. EARLEY: Thank you.

20 MR. ALFIERI: Hi. My name's Tony
21 Alfieri, A-L-F-I-E-R-I. I live at 121 Bush
22 Street, Dunmore, pretty much my whole life.
23 The reason why Throop doesn't have the problems
24 that you guys have is because they work with
25 Mr. DeNaples. They don't fight Mr. DeNaples.

1 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm Susanne
2 O'Donnell. I live on 2008 Delaware Street in
3 Dunmore.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Please speak
5 up. We really can't hear you.

6 MS. O'DONNELL: I'm sorry. I really
7 don't like speaking. But who decides where the
8 fine money for the dump goes -- the fine money
9 from the dump.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Council. And then it
11 has to be approved by the landfill and DEP.

12 MS. BRIER: And it could be only be
13 used for two different things.

14 MS. O'DONNELL: What are the two
15 different things?

16 MS. BRIER: Can only be used for
17 recreation. There was stipulations about what
18 it could be used for.

19 MS. O'DONNELL: Okay, because nobody
20 knows how to recycle. And I really think that
21 the DPW needs to put out more information
22 because none of us put our garbage out right.
23 And wasn't there an ordinance that we all had
24 to have cans at one time?

25 MR. DEMPSEY: There is the recycling

1 information on our website.

2 MS. O'DONNELL: It's very vague.

3 But you can't put flyers out. You can't let us
4 know more because people just throw things that
5 aren't supposed to be in. And everybody
6 complains about it. But yet, nobody does
7 anything about it. And garbage cans, aren't we
8 supposed to have garbage cans, not bags of
9 garbage on the curb?

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, I think so.

11 MS. O'DONNELL: Everybody who smells
12 the dump, we're supposed to be calling so maybe
13 we could get more fine money for recreation.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: Anybody else?

15 MR. O'MALLEY: Jim O'Malley, 802
16 Cooney Street in Dunmore. Just two questions
17 first, my property is a little weirdly situated
18 where I have a home and a bare lot that is two
19 separate -- it's deeded all one deed, but it's
20 two separate properties with the taxes and
21 stuff like that.

22 I received two separate refuse fee
23 bills. I called to Berkheimer. And they told
24 me that I would have to speak to the Borough
25 regarding that. I don't feel I should have to

1 pay a second one for a bare property that there
2 is no dwelling unit.

3 There's no utilities on the
4 property. There's nothing. So maybe that's
5 something.

6 MR. WOLFF: That is correct. You
7 are correct. That is what I mentioned earlier.
8 I didn't mention the vacant properties. You
9 call the Borough. Faith will take your call
10 and we'll get that. You'll just have to sign
11 an affidavit. With that case we might have to
12 send it and get it. But we'll correct it.

13 MR. O'MALLEY: Absolutely. The
14 second thing I just want to touch on I know Mr.
15 Lucciano mentioned a little bit. The landfill
16 is kind of like an elephant in the room. If we
17 manage to get that shut down or that shuts
18 down, we're going to be back in here talking
19 about our mills going to 40 mills in our taxes.

20 Where would we dump our garbage?
21 How would we cover those costs? We're already
22 a million in the hole every year. What would
23 we be at that point? Again, I think some of
24 the people touched on it. We need to work with
25 the landfill. We need to work with Mr.

1 DeNaples. It's not going anywhere. Do I love
2 it? No, but it's got to go somewhere. That's
3 all.

4 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Is there anybody else
6 that would like to speak?

7 MR. FANELLI: I didn't think I was
8 going to speak tonight. My name is Darryl
9 Fanelli. We're on Chestnut Street in Dunmore.
10 And that's F-A-N-E-L-L-I. I read somewhere
11 that, you know, the cost of the -- this
12 landfill fee is going for maintenance and
13 repairs.

14 The one number I saw quoted was
15 \$50,000 for tire repairs. Would that money
16 maybe be better invested in fixing our roads?
17 Would it maybe be more cost effective? We've
18 had a literal sinkhole open in front of our
19 house for a month. Half of the time when
20 repairs are made, it's like a band aid
21 basically, like, slapped over the hole with tar
22 patch that doesn't even make it through a year.

23 You know, is our \$150 maybe better
24 spent fixing our roads than repairing these
25 vehicles constantly? Maybe that's a question

1 that we need to discuss. That's all I have to
2 say.

3 MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

4 MR. PALERMO: I have a question for
5 the Mayor. You talked about business. A
6 couple years ago I was here for few meetings on
7 a business going on Clay Avenue, the old
8 Dempsey linen property. That never developed.
9 Was there something with the people developing
10 it or was there some other issue because that
11 would have been big tax revenue coming in. I
12 don't know what happened with that.

13 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, my
14 understanding the CIL was in the process of
15 purchasing it. They were going to do some sort
16 of retail on the first floor with apartments on
17 the upper floors. And I think they just
18 abandoned the project, the Center for
19 Independent Living.

20 MR. PALERMO: So it was the company
21 itself decided not to do it.

22 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, it's the Center
23 for Independent Living. I think they just
24 ended up bagging the project. I know it's on
25 the market again. I don't think anybody's

1 purchased it.

2 MR. PALERMO: I know a lot of people
3 in the neighborhood were against it.

4 MAYOR CONWAY: I remember.

5 MR. PALERMO: My wife and I, we were
6 for that project. I mean, it's just an empty
7 lot, just grass growing there.

8 MAYOR CONWAY: That's my
9 understanding of it.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, sir.

11 MR. HOULIHAN: Mike Houlihan,
12 H-O-U-L-I-H-A-N. The last lady brought it up.
13 I've heard different numbers, 44,000, 50,000.
14 Can someone on Council please tell me that we
15 don't budget every single vehicle that we have
16 in the municipal over a period?

17 Like, everyone in here says I'm
18 going to need tires on my personal car every
19 four years. I don't know how long they last on
20 a fire truck or garbage truck, maybe a little
21 longer, maybe a lot less because they are on
22 the road a lot more. Is this part of the
23 shortfall?

24 And if so, why isn't part of the
25 revenue of our taxes every single year spread

1 out -- if we have four garbage trucks if a tire
2 is \$250 and they have six on a truck, it should
3 be allotted over a period of time. So can
4 someone tell me, is this part of the shortfall
5 and was it unexpected that we were going to
6 need tires on garbage truck or for them?

7 MR. WOLFF: No, to answer your
8 question, it's because of many -- it's about
9 \$40,000 a couple years ago that we spent on
10 tires for garbage trucks. And it's not for
11 wear and tear. It's not that we can plan. We
12 can't plan for holes in tires. We can't.

13 So and they're costly. So, yes, we
14 do plan a certain amount for maintenance. But,
15 no, unexpected we cannot, no.

16 MR. HOULIHAN: My other is a small
17 issue. I reached out to Council, Beth. She
18 reached right back to me. My neighbor 111
19 Mortimer Street has not cut their grass yet,
20 ever if somebody can address it, please. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Anybody else? Yes,
23 sir.

24 MR. NAPLEY: Stephen Napley, East
25 Pine Street, Dunmore, been here since 2013. I

1 just have two things I want to say. It's \$150
2 this year. What will it be in 2030? What will
3 it be in 2029? Is it going to go up?

4 And then there's 100 people here
5 tonight. Knock on your neighbors' doors, get
6 them to come to the next meeting. There's like
7 14,000 people, I think, in Dunmore. Let's get
8 them here.

9 MR. BORNSTEIN: Good evening. My
10 name is Ted Bornstein, B-O-R-N-S-T-E-I-N, 1631
11 Quincy. And I just had a couple of questions.
12 And I understand it's not a question and answer
13 segment.

14 My hope is that they can be publicly
15 answered. During the beginning of the meeting
16 you talked about an ongoing budget deficit.
17 But what is the systemic cause of the deficit?
18 How is this ongoing and we haven't adjusted for
19 it in the past?

20 Additionally, I think it's on
21 everybody's mind. How does this decision get
22 made in December and it is not communicated to
23 us until mid-July? I know why -- and, you
24 know, you also mentioned that the costs are
25 going up and that's the reason that we need to

1 intake more money.

2 The costs are going up for every
3 constituent in this room. We're all seeing
4 higher gas prices, higher grocery prices,
5 utility prices that we've never seen before.
6 Was there any accountability taken in for the
7 costs going up for the constituents of Dunmore
8 when looking at this fee and just saying we're
9 not going to waive it?

10 And then, you know, what -- I would
11 love to know what steps that the Borough has
12 taken to mitigate the costs we've had in the
13 past. Every small business, large business is
14 forced to squeeze blood from a stone. So what
15 steps has the Borough taken to mitigate costs?

16 You know, we're talking about our
17 first responders. And they deserve to be paid
18 handsomely. And by all means, I would never
19 take anything away from them. But do we need
20 to have all of these other costs allocated?
21 Can we put other funds together somehow,
22 someway?

23 And the last thing I want to say is
24 right, wrong, or indifferent with this refuge
25 fee -- refuse fee -- for a small cost of about

1 \$11 a month it brought all these people
2 together. It's going to bring more together.
3 So at the very least, I appreciate you bringing
4 us all together and bringing more awareness.

5 MS. HOGAN: Maryann Hogan, Hill
6 Street in Dunmore, H-O-G-A-N. I know I -- I'm
7 sorry, people. I just have another question
8 because I know I've been -- I've been here a
9 long time. I remember trying to negotiate with
10 the landfill.

11 My question to probably Mr. Wolff
12 is, what is the contract with the landfill? I
13 can remember vaguely something about, oh, you
14 get an extra penny a year for the next 99 years
15 or something like that. Is that what the
16 contract is, like, when is the contract for the
17 landfill up?

18 MR. WOLFF: It's for the life of the
19 landfill. It is a penny a year. It's at \$1.58
20 a ton.

21 MS. HOGAN: For 99 years.

22 MS. BRIER: And that was negotiated
23 in 2014. It had nothing to do with us.

24 MS. HOGAN: I know that. I know
25 that. I know all you guys were not here.

1 MS. BRIER: Well, some of us weren't
2 and some of us were --

3 MR. HOGAN: A penny a ton -- yeah, a
4 penny year it's going up.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Why does Throop
6 get \$3 a ton?

7 MS. BRIER: They had a better deal
8 in 2014.

9 MS. HOGAN: The question is, these
10 people did not negotiate that with the
11 landfill. Don't blame these people -- these
12 Council members for that.

13 (AUDIENCE CROSS TALKING)

14 MS. HOGAN: Everybody has a right to
15 speak. You could speak up here so everybody
16 could hear you, please. So the contract with
17 the landfill is up when, Mr. Wolff? When is
18 the contract up with the landfill?

19 MR. WOLFF: They just had a ten year
20 extension, correct?

21 MS. OVEN: Our contract.

22 MR. WOLFF: The life of the
23 landfill.

24 MS. HOGAN: That's the extension.
25 No, I'm talking about the tipping fees, the

1 contract with the Dunmore Borough has with the
2 landfill.

3 MS. BRIER: The life of the
4 landfill.

5 MR. WOLFF: I'm answering your
6 question. It's for the life of the landfill.

7 MS. HOGAN: So you're saying you
8 can't renegotiate that. You are --

9 MS. BRIER: We've tried.

10 MS. HOGAN: I believe that.

11 MS. BRIER: We've tried.

12 MR. LOUGHNEY: Can I say something,
13 if I may and I know I shouldn't. We have a
14 resolution here to renew and negotiate with
15 Keystone Landfill. It was 2024. We're
16 still -- and I don't want to get into it
17 because we're still in the process. But that
18 was in 2024. So we're in the works of doing it
19 and trying to get something done.

20 MS. HOGAN: Thank you.

21 MS. BRIER: The Keystone Landfill is
22 not under any -- any obligation to change.
23 They like the deal. The deal was made in 2014.
24 I've done some research on it since 2014.
25 21,295 tons of -- 21 million, sorry, 295,000

1 tons of garbage have been -- and the difference
2 between us and Throop.

3 And again, this is not something we
4 did. We -- I personally was not on Council.
5 But I came to every meeting and begged them,
6 beg that Council -- and Paul Nardelli{sic} who
7 was here mad -- mad at us -- Paul Nardelli, he
8 was on Council. And he voted for this
9 terrible, terrible deal.

10 Dunmore at that time actually --
11 actually -- let me finish. Dunmore at that --
12 actually hired a consultant. And the
13 consultant said don't take that deal. So the
14 difference in our deal and Throop's deal over
15 the last 12 years since 2014 is 10 million
16 dollars.

17 We would not have the problems we
18 have now if we didn't -- hadn't made that
19 horrible deal. I'm just telling you that
20 because it's open-ended. When I first got on
21 Council I looked into it. I wanted to talk
22 to -- to renew or to renegotiate. It ain't
23 us -- up to us to renegotiate.

24 MS. ZANGARDI: However, I would like
25 to piggyback on Mrs. Brier. Keystone has

1 reached out to us to make offers. We will not
2 sit and work with it and negotiate. I disagree
3 with it. I'm not in the majority. However, we
4 have been -- there has been conversation and we
5 have not agreed to it. That's number one.

6 Number two, Council -- not this
7 Council, the burn off of the methane that is in
8 Throop we refused. So it's -- right, I mean,
9 true and refused it. So to me, we keep
10 shooting ourselves in the foot. And it falls
11 back on you. I disagree with it. But, you
12 know, there has been one conversation -- one
13 meeting and that's it.

14 MR. WOLFF: They get to speak once
15 and that's it.

16 MS. TOMASETTI: Hi. My name is
17 Donna Tomasetti. I live at 1515 North Webster
18 Avenue in Dunmore. And I just have one quick
19 question. We asked -- many, many people here
20 asked a lot of questions tonight, gave a lot of
21 feedback, gave a lot of ideas.

22 My question is, when will we hear
23 what you have to say to answer all of that
24 stuff and how will we hear it? Will you put
25 something online, will there be -- because if

1 we took our time to come here in front of all
2 of you, then the very least that all of you
3 could do is answer us. I'm done.

4 MR. DEMPSEY: Would anybody else
5 like to come up? Going once -- seeing none.

6 MR. WOLFF: Public officials. I
7 just want to thank our clerical union for --
8 they made a lot of concessions. They work with
9 us to get a good reasonable contract for the
10 Borough and also fielding a bunch of phone
11 calls to get some things adjusted with this
12 fee. So I just wanted to thank our clerical
13 staff. And thanks, everyone, for showing up.
14 It's not over yet. The meeting's not over.

15 MS. ZANGARDI: The meeting's not
16 over.

17 MR. WOLFF: All right. We're trying
18 to finish the meeting. If you're leaving,
19 please leave. But we're trying to finish up.
20 We're not done yet. Mr. Perry.

21 ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing to add
22 other than thank you all good residents for
23 coming and expressing your opinions. We
24 appreciate it.

25 MAYOR CONWAY: Yeah, I just want to

1 say my kids are in bed. We're all adults here.
2 The rollout of this did suck. It was not the
3 right way to handle it with the residents of
4 the Borough.

5 I don't have a vote on this thing.
6 But I think we could have definitely been more
7 transparent about that. So I don't mean to
8 speak for these people. But for me, if I were
9 to get that bill two days after I saw it on
10 Facebook I'd be pretty annoyed as well and
11 frustrated.

12 And I understand people are on fixed
13 incomes. And maybe that's something we could
14 look into like a hardship program if it is
15 something that you can't deal with in your
16 budget.

17 I mean, I look at my budget every
18 month and with child care and groceries and
19 gas, and it's really no different with the
20 Borough like you're looking at diesel fuel. I
21 was looking at that today.

22 It's up 43 percent from last year.
23 I mean, the costs are just -- it's not
24 sustainable for anybody now, your budget, not
25 our budget. So I know 150 is a lot to take.

1 But I appreciate everybody coming tonight and
2 voicing your frustration.

3 I think moving forward as a Borough,
4 we should definitely be more transparent about
5 how we interact with folks from the community
6 because you guys aren't here at every meeting
7 if we're talking about this stuff. And it's
8 not fair to you guys.

9 So we should have more of a presence
10 online. I know not everybody is on Facebook
11 either. But there is definitely ways we could
12 get the word out on what we're working on here.
13 So I hope you just accept again, not on their
14 behalf, but on my behalf, I do feel bad about
15 how this was presented.

16 So I hope moving forward we could
17 fix that. But Katie Feeney was here earlier.
18 And if you do have somebody in your family who
19 has any sort of Autism or Alzheimer's or
20 anything like that, it's an awesome program
21 that she's putting together.

22 I think the time, say you have a
23 parent with Alzheimer's or something and they
24 go missing, I think it's something like with
25 these transponders that she has, the time that

1 they're missing goes from like 20 minutes to 2
2 minutes.

3 So it's -- it's really a critical
4 time. So I figure this is probably the best
5 time to address everybody here because there's
6 a lot of people here. But anyway, that's all I
7 have to say. I appreciate everybody coming.
8 Thanks.

9 MR. WOLFF: Mr. Loughney.

10 MR. LOUGHNEY: That was like after
11 communion. Everybody just got up and walked
12 out. I know how the priest feels now. As the
13 Mayor said, everyone up here, we discussed it.
14 We've all discussed it. And we're embarrassed
15 by how it was handled.

16 I'm speaking for myself, but we've
17 all talked collectively. And we're embarrassed
18 how it was handled. We have talked about this.
19 Someone here said we didn't discuss it. We
20 have executive sessions before the Council
21 meeting.

22 Those executive sessions are where
23 we deliberate and go back and forth on what we
24 think we should do, what we should pass, what
25 we shouldn't. This garbage fee was brought up

1 time and time again. I was not at the December
2 8th meeting.

3 However, if I was, I wouldn't have
4 voted to rescind it either. I would have voted
5 with my colleague here because I know the
6 desperate -- the desperate need we need for
7 this money. If you sat here with us and saw
8 what goes on every day in this Borough, how Mr.
9 Wolff has to handle situations, Mr. Judge, our
10 chiefs, our fire chief, police chief, if you
11 saw how they have to handle situations, if a
12 tire goes on a fire truck, there is no saying,
13 shit, we forgot to budget that.

14 It doesn't happen. You go and say
15 we need that truck on the road. Let's get that
16 tire and let's get moving. So the 150, you
17 know what the mistake was -- and I'll say this
18 and I'll probably get booed, but whatever.

19 We stopped it. Had we not stopped
20 it -- now, when I say we, had the Council not
21 stopped it in 2014, you wouldn't be sitting
22 here. It would be accepted. It would be --
23 there would no need to rescind or install it
24 every year. You got 12 years without a garbage
25 fee. Twelve years without a garbage fee.

1 We didn't have this saying, hey,
2 thanks for taking it out. What we had is now
3 it's back in. It's reinstituted. It's \$12 a
4 month. And I know, I'm not -- hey, I'm not
5 happy with it. I'm not happy with it. And
6 here's why I'm not happy.

7 There is \$200,000 of uncollected
8 garbage fees from the past time we ran it. I
9 want us to go after that money, but the time
10 has expired. So we can't. So I would like to
11 get something in place so that we in the
12 future, we aren't behind \$200,000 with people
13 that didn't pay and still get their garbage
14 fee -- get their garbage picked up.

15 It's not fair for the people that
16 did pay and get their garbage picked up. So
17 I'm asking everyone here, we all know each
18 other. We all know -- the \$150, pay it in
19 installments when you can. That's all we can
20 do. We have to keep this town moving.

21 And everyone up here gives their
22 time. If you know what we made, you'd say why
23 are you doing it? We make \$3,000. That's what
24 we make. We don't -- we're aren't rich. We
25 aren't lining our pockets like we get letters

1 you're lining your pockets.

2 If I was, guess what, my wife and I
3 would be out to eat every night. I guarantee
4 you. I'd be buying Joe a beer down at
5 Ragnacci's. But I'll tell you this. If there
6 is anybody up here -- if there's anyone out
7 there, and I wish everybody was here -- that
8 thinks this Council is doing something
9 illegally or wrong, please feel free when the
10 next election is up to run.

11 It's the only way. If you want to
12 have a voice, come to the meetings and speak to
13 us. We'll listen. Just because we got elected
14 doesn't mean we have the answers. None of us
15 up here got a -- went to school to be an
16 elected official.

17 So I'm saying, had I been at that
18 meeting, I would have gone with my colleagues
19 and voted to rescind that and implement that
20 fee because I know what our town needs. I've
21 known for years and years what our town needs.
22 And I would never do anything to put anyone in
23 jeopardy, in dire straits or financial
24 disability of any type.

25 So that's my spiel. Thanks for

1 listening. I wish everybody had the -- that
2 was from my heart. That wasn't something I --
3 that was from right here listening to people.
4 So again, it's \$150. Pay it when you can.

5 And the people that have apartment
6 buildings, if you don't have the second
7 apartment or third apartment rented, fill out
8 the affidavit and send it in. It will be
9 rescinded.

10 But again, I thank you for your
11 time. This is -- I can't believe the crowd.
12 When everybody said it's going to be packed, I
13 said we were going to get 25 people because you
14 know how many people came before tonight? We
15 had one. And he's back in the corner. Pat
16 Smith comes to every meeting.

17 And you know what we do, we just
18 acknowledge him because -- am I right, Pat?

19 MR. SMITH: That's right.

20 MR. LOUGHNEY: He thinks we stand up
21 for him when we stand for the Pledge of
22 Allegiance. I'm not kidding you. So again,
23 this is nice to see. And hopefully get up, get
24 to the podium or get on your phone and call us.
25 If you have an idea where we could get some

1 finances into this town, please.

2 We are in negotiation with the
3 landfill. And again, I probably shouldn't have
4 said it -- now it'll be all -- you turn that
5 off. It will probably be all over. But we
6 have been for two years, and we're continuing.
7 So let's see where it goes.

8 Let's see where it gets us. But
9 bear with us. And let's help the Borough out
10 as best we can. Thank you.

11 MR. O'MALLEY: Okay. Thank you,
12 everyone, for coming this evening. Like the
13 Mayor said, the rollout was terrible, okay, to
14 say the least it was terrible. But, you know,
15 going back to the landfill, we did meet with
16 Mr. DeNaples.

17 We had some productive discussion
18 with him and others from Keystone. And like
19 Mrs. Brier said, they are under no obligation
20 to do anything. Okay, we simply want more
21 money. They don't have to say, oh, okay, all
22 right. Here's more money.

23 Why would they do that? We have in
24 my opinion the worst host municipality
25 agreement in the entire country. Find me one

1 that's worse than this one, okay? It's the
2 worst. And we get, what, \$1.58 a ton this
3 year. I think back in 2014 the average host
4 municipality was getting over \$4 a ton. And we
5 were getting 41 cents.

6 Okay, so that's where I'm at. But
7 we have had good discussions. I don't have any
8 animosity towards anybody. And I want the best
9 for this Borough. That's all we care about up
10 here. We do. We're not trying to hurt
11 anybody.

12 My dad just turned 80 years old the
13 other day. They got the bill in the mail,
14 okay. They're going to pay it. I got the bill
15 in the mail. I got three kids. I got to pay
16 it. But the rollout was bad. And for that,
17 you know, I will apologize on behalf of my
18 colleagues here.

19 But again, I think we have the worst
20 host municipality agreement in the entire
21 country. And that is something that we have to
22 deal with now, all of us, all 14,000 of us have
23 to deal with that on a daily basis.

24 And it's going to grow taller than
25 the Statue of Liberty. And we're going to be

1 getting, what, \$1,60 in two years? That's
2 nothing compared to -- we shouldn't have any
3 taxes. We shouldn't. I mean, like, if you
4 look at landfills, right, and the host
5 municipalities across the country, so many of
6 them don't have any taxes.

7 And we have high taxes. It
8 shouldn't be that way. Okay, it just
9 shouldn't. So that's all I have.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Trip.
11 Janet?

12 MS. BRIER: Yeah, I mean, I would
13 like to thank everyone for coming as well.
14 When I think about where we could be with this,
15 I -- when I first became a Councilwoman, I came
16 to my first meeting and realized I didn't know
17 anything about municipal government. So I went
18 to a, what do they call it, a boot camp.

19 I mentioned to the person who was
20 conducting the boot camp -- it was a three-day
21 boot camp -- that we had the largest landfill
22 in the state. And he said, oh, you must be the
23 wealthiest borough in the state.

24 I said, well, unfortunately not and
25 due to -- for whatever reason we know that

1 there's always pressure applied. The folks
2 that were here did not make a good deal for us.
3 They just didn't. And as I said before, I was
4 at every meeting and I begged them, begged them
5 not to take this host municipality deal because
6 it was so flawed.

7 So right now I've actually
8 personally sat down with Mr. DeNaples and
9 Mr. O'Brien and their engineer Mr. Barrett, I
10 mean, we -- we would like to have a new
11 landfill host agreement. They're under no
12 obligation to give us a new host agreement,
13 unfortunately.

14 If you look at the agreement which I
15 have done, it's very, very -- you know how
16 most, like, even a rental agreement is like
17 pages and pages. This is like I think three
18 pages. There's almost nothing to it. But they
19 do provide free tipping fees, but again, a
20 penny a year, a penny a year.

21 And this is an institution that
22 we've given them every Zoning approval, every
23 Planning approval. I mean, no one has ever
24 said no in this town. And we came in to say
25 no. But, you know, we're late to the game. We

1 got elected late to the game.

2 The other thing is a woman talked
3 about the smell. Many people talk about the
4 smell. We all smell it. I call every single
5 time. It matters if you call. I have met with
6 DEP down -- the DEP Secretary, Secretary
7 Shirley twice down in Wilkes-Barre. Trip, you
8 came with me. Mayor Conway came with me.

9 We tried -- we tried to ask them,
10 you know, if you call when do you smell it?
11 You smell it in the morning. You smell it in
12 the evening. And you smell it on the weekends.
13 If you call at that time it says just leave a
14 message if it's an emergency.

15 I mean, the landfill doesn't smell 9
16 to 5 -- oh, I'm sorry, 8:30 to 4. That's when
17 DEP is open. The landfill smells typically in
18 the morning, typically in the evening, and
19 typically on the weekends. So when you call,
20 it says not to leave a message unless it's an
21 emergency.

22 I always leave a message because I
23 think that smell is an emergency. But a lot of
24 people don't. And a lot of people are very
25 hesitant to leave your name. You have to leave

1 your name and your address. Again, I must have
2 called hundreds of times.

3 But a lot of people are very
4 hesitant to do that. I asked the Secretary of
5 the Department of Environmental Protection to
6 change that voicemail, just change the
7 voicemail so people will, you know, feel free
8 to leave a message and also to extend the
9 hours.

10 So and here's another thing. If
11 they do not show up when you call, that -- it
12 doesn't count unless they show up and smell it
13 with you. That is the only thing that counts
14 as quote/unquote a mal odor. So I have called,
15 I'm not lying, hundreds of times.

16 Maybe twice they showed up when I
17 called. Sometimes it's hours. Sometimes it's
18 days. Sometimes it's never. I called the
19 other day. I went to the Y the other day and
20 it reeked. So I called. And they said, you
21 know, they -- I called before because it
22 wasn't -- it was before time. I got there
23 around 7 to the Y.

24 So it was before they were open,
25 left a message with a person because eventually

1 you will get a person if you stay on. And they
2 never even -- they never called me back. They
3 never showed up. So a big part of this problem
4 is DEP as well.

5 And I think if all of you guys got
6 the number, I'll give you the number tonight.
7 I have it right here on my phone. I have it on
8 speed dial. If all of you call when you got a
9 smell, it would take -- it would matter. It
10 would matter.

11 But people -- I understand if people
12 are hesitant to call because people are
13 fearful. And I get that. I get that. I often
14 say my husband has to turn my car on in the
15 morning, seriously. So, you know, we fight.
16 We fight. We fight for Dunmore. I fight for
17 Dunmore.

18 My colleagues here fight for
19 Dunmore. We work for Dunmore. We work really
20 hard for Dunmore all the time, all the time.
21 We spend so much time trying to, you know, do
22 the best things for our Borough. And we have a
23 great borough.

24 And it's a great place to live. But
25 and again, what we like is to see people show

1 up. We like people to be engaged in their
2 community because it is a great community.
3 And, you know, when we call on people to go,
4 for instance, to the night out, it will be
5 packed here tomorrow tonight, to go to Race For
6 the Cure, it will be backed, to even the Indo
7 community, they'll have 5,000 people here.

8 So it's not like we don't
9 participate because we do. We show up. But we
10 have, you know, sadly increasing expenses that
11 are primarily, you know, we have a great, great
12 police department. Those guys risk their lives
13 every single day.

14 We have a great fire department.
15 Those men and women, they do risk their lives.
16 And you know what, they're there. And they're
17 there 24/7. We're the only borough in this
18 state that has a full-time fire department.
19 And that costs a lot of money. It just does.

20 And they deserve that money. It's a
21 3 percent raise every year typically, you know,
22 so we haven't raised the garbage fee in 24
23 years. How much do you think the salaries have
24 gone up in 24 years? So, you know, we tried to
25 be reasonable people.

1 But we have to be able to balance
2 this budget. And we're not able to balance the
3 budget with our current tax rate. We're just
4 not. And we've been, you know, struggling for
5 years.

6 When I came into office, we had 18
7 million dollars, 18 million in debt service.
8 18 million dollars Dunmore was in debt. I
9 didn't know that. I thought our biggest
10 problem was going to be the landfill, 18
11 million dollars. And that was in 2019.

12 So and it was in 13, 13 different
13 loans at, you know, a certain bank. So what we
14 did was, we decided to refinance. I thought we
15 have to refinance. I'm an accountant. I'm a
16 CPA. But again, I don't know municipal
17 government.

18 I didn't know municipal government.
19 I tried to educate myself and learn it. But I
20 knew that that was unsustainable that type of
21 debt service for a small town of 14,000 people.
22 So we put an RFP out to every bank from
23 Hazleton to Honesdale, every bank, no one
24 responded, not one bank responded except the
25 one that where we were already dealing with.

1 So we went to Philly and got a bond
2 issued that was on the -- and the deal we were
3 getting from that bank was it was a variable
4 deal. So right now with interest rates at what
5 they are, we would be paying a ton of money.

6 We got a fixed rate, 1.686 interest
7 rate because it was before everything exploded
8 until 2035. And it's a declining balance as
9 well. So what we're paying today we'll pay
10 less in two (inaudible.)

11 So, you know, there's two school
12 board members. That went up 5.2 percent. I
13 don't know if all of you people will be at the
14 school board meeting because that goes up every
15 year, 5.2 percent. It was in the paper.

16 So, I mean, we have this fee of
17 \$150. We hope to make about -- if everybody
18 pays, we'll make 700,000. We don't anticipate
19 that. If we had kept that as Councilman
20 Loughney said if we had kept it since 2015, we
21 would have 6 million more dollars now.

22 But that's water under the bridge.
23 You know, we don't have that money. And so we
24 had to do this. I apologize for the way it was
25 rolled out because it was abysmal. And that's

1 on us. That's on me. It's on all of us. And
2 I do apologize for that. But I just like to
3 put what is actually happening in perspective
4 in terms of the landfill. Thank you.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Janet.
6 Beth?

7 MS. ZANGARDI: A few things. I
8 would like to congratulate Erin Feeney on --
9 I'm sorry, the Feeneys on doing Erin's Way.
10 That's an awesome outcome. Their daughter
11 drowned in their pool. She was autistic. So
12 she turned it into such a great asset for the
13 community.

14 There is a purse bingo here. And
15 it's for the senior center. It will be in the
16 gymnasium over there. It's in September.
17 Please support the Dunmore Senior Center,
18 October 4th. October 4th.

19 Keystone Sanitary Landfill donated
20 recycling containers to the Borough. Call
21 570-343-7611, press 7, leave your name, your
22 address and your phone number. I am
23 arranging -- well, actually September 12th
24 we're going to be distributing the recycling
25 containers.

1 Regarding the DeNaples family,
2 Keystone Sanitary Landfill, there was a
3 meeting. He made an offer. We will not
4 cooperate with him. And while I originally ran
5 on blight and the sanitary landfill, once he
6 came to us and made an offer, I thought, well,
7 we need to cooperate here.

8 I agree with Friends of Lackawanna.
9 And I agree with the landfill. But we all need
10 to sit down and get together and cooperate.
11 And we're not. Do I agree with the money he
12 offered, not really. I would like more. But
13 we won't even discuss.

14 So while I agree with the hosting
15 fee, you have to sit down and discuss. You
16 don't even have to agree. We don't even have
17 to fight about it. We do nothing. And that's
18 where the disconnect is with me and the current
19 situation with Council.

20 I also agree with Trip. You're
21 right. We wouldn't have a financial problem if
22 we had done better. Mrs. Brier is right. We
23 wouldn't have these issues if we had done
24 better originally. But we didn't. And now is
25 where we're at. And we need to sit down and

1 discuss and we won't. This Council won't agree
2 collectively.

3 That's all I have. Thank you. I'm
4 sorry to drag everybody out. By the way, I do
5 apologize. We did handle that stupidly, you
6 know? And I am sorry about it. We should have
7 done better. We should have done better for
8 everybody including ourselves.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Kathryn.

10 MS. OVEN: I would like to thank
11 everyone for coming. I know it's late. And we
12 appreciate your input. We understand your
13 concerns. And the rollout was not -- the
14 rollout was not in good taste.

15 But there was other factors that
16 were involved that led to that. I'm not making
17 an excuse. But it's a little bit more
18 complicated than we just didn't roll it out in
19 time. Really ultimately we were looking for a
20 revenue source for the Borough because we are
21 several hundred thousand dollars short every
22 year.

23 We've been using the Sewer Authority
24 money. And we only have 1.5 million dollars
25 left. Our discussion is how we could create a

1 revenue source so we could continue to provide
2 services for the Borough.

3 We want to make sure that we have
4 fire and DPW and our police to protect us. So
5 that's really why we were looking at a revenue
6 source and this ordinance came up. So it
7 wasn't done haphazardly.

8 Financially we're not in the best
9 situation because we drained most of the Sewer
10 Authority money and our costs have gone up
11 substantially. We spend a lot of money on
12 healthcare. It's up 26 percent over the past
13 five years for employer sponsored plans.

14 And as I'm sure you guys know, my
15 healthcare has gone through the roof. So, you
16 know, this was done. We were trying to be
17 financially responsible. We had some prior
18 Councils that weren't.

19 So, you know, we obviously have to
20 be better at how we disseminate information.
21 So I appreciate you guys coming. And as far as
22 the landfill, we have a very good relationship
23 with Mr. DeNaples. So I think there's been a
24 lot of misinformation particularly by some
25 Council members that were not willing to

1 negotiate.

2 MS. BRIER: That's not true.

3 MS. ZANGARDI: It is true.

4 MS. OVEN: The discussion of the
5 contract has really not been something that's
6 been at the forefront of the conversations that
7 we've had with him. Maybe that's something we
8 could change.

9 But people to say that we're not
10 talking to him and, you know, he's been very
11 generous. He's helped us Schautz. He's done
12 other things. So I don't like that as the
13 public, you know, being out in the public that
14 we don't have a good reputation with him.

15 Prior Councils did not negotiate
16 good contracts with the landfill. You could
17 look back to the initial one. There was no
18 discussion of a fee. It defaulted to 41 cents.
19 For 30 years we got the state minimum.

20 We would have made thousands --
21 millions of dollars more had that been done
22 properly. So there's a lot factors at play.
23 And, you know, I appreciate all you guys
24 coming. And I hope you know that our goal is
25 to do the best we can for the Borough. And

1 that's what we try to do every day. So thank
2 you for coming.

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Well, this
4 is the problem with going last because every
5 single person here makes great points. And
6 we've been here now for two hours and 15
7 minutes. So I'm not going to repeat
8 everything.

9 I agree with most of -- pretty much
10 everything everybody has said. No one wanted
11 to roll this fee out. It was, you know, dire.
12 It was dire. We needed to do it.
13 Unfortunately, we just couldn't keep kicking
14 the can down the road.

15 When it was gone in 2014, all of
16 those increases, health insurance, workers
17 comp, salaries, you know, that all compounds
18 for 10 to 12 years and we can't keep kicking
19 the can down the road. The good part about
20 this meeting is, maybe this is the kick that
21 the landfill and we need to hopefully work out
22 a better deal.

23 And that's, you know. I think
24 that's on the forefront. We've talked about
25 it. So hopefully this meeting and a little bit

1 of pressure from the community, we could get,
2 you know, a better deal done in the future. So
3 without repeating everything else everybody
4 else said, I will look for a motion to adjourn.

5 MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

6 MS. OVEN: So moved -- second.

7 MR. DEMPSEY: All in favor?

8 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: We're adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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