COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, September 14th, 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: Mr. Hallinan is absent. Mrs. Mackrell Oven.

MS. OVEN: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. McDonald Zangardi.

MS. ZANGARDI: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Mrs. Brier.

MS. BRIER: Here.

MR. WOLFF: Number three, public comment on agenda items.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone from the public care to comment on anything on the agenda?

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Dempsey, just we'll be making an amendment. 6-A, will be a personnel matter for Colin Scartelli and Jude

Stefanski for Schautz part-time employees for Schautz.

MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. Nobody for the agenda, correct? Moving on.

MR. WOLFF: Number four, motion to approve the minutes from the August 10th, 2026 meeting.

MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

MR. O'MALLEY: Second.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone on the question? All those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

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

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

MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have a second?

MS. OVEN: Second.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone on the question? All those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: The ayes have it and

so moved.

MR. WOLFF: Number six, motion to appoint Martin F. Monahan as Police Chief.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a motion to appoint Martin F. Monahan as Police Chief.

MS. BRIER: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: I have a motion.

MS. ZANGARDI: I'll second.

MR. DEMPSEY: I have a second. On the question?

MAYOR CONWAY: Yes, I'll go. So before you vote fully, I just want to discuss Mr. Monahan because this is an important appointment. And I think his record deserves to be discussed. Mr. Monahan -- Mr. Marty Monahan has more than 27 years in law enforcement experience.

He spent the majority of his career with the Scranton Police Department and ultimately served as Deputy Chief and Operations Commander where he oversaw patrol, detectives, administration, SWAT, the Bomb Unit and Street Crimes.

He was involved in policy development, budgeting and accreditation and

regularly worked along side the FBI, ATF, Secret Service, State Police, the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's Office.

He also spent 23 years with Scranton Special Operation's group, including serving as a team leader, squad leader and commander. He's investigated homicides, robberies, and aggravated assaults and has extensive experience training police officers at the local and federal level.

And I think when we talk about someone's character, it's important to look at what people who have actually worked along side this person have to say. And District Attorney Brian Gallagher sent a letter to Council and myself giving Marty what he calls his strongest possible support.

The District Attorney says he worked with Marty for approximately 15 years including on homicide and arson investigations and describes him as having exceptional investigative skills, sound judgment, unwavering professionalism and an unmatched commitment to finding the truth.

He says he trusted Marty's work then

and continues to trust him today without reservation. It's a pretty significant endorsement coming from our County's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, particularly from someone who has actually worked with Marty on serious investigations for 15 years.

Now, throughout this process we did our due diligence. We had really great qualified candidates who applied. And I respect everyone who put themselves forward because it is not easy. But looking at the experience, the leadership background, the references and the person himself, I'm very comfortable with this decision.

I believe Mr. Monahan is exceptionally qualified to be a Chief of Police in Dunmore. And I believe he's a person of integrity. And I almost forgot to mention that he is a Dunmore High School graduate most importantly. So with that said, Mr. Monahan has my full endorsement as our next Chief of Police in Dunmore.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you, Mayor. Would anyone else like to comment on the question? Hearing none, all those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MR. WOLFF: Number 6-A, motion to appoint Colin Scartelli and Jude Stefanski to part-time employment for Schautz Stadium.

MR. DEMPSEY: Do I have motion to appoint Colin Scartelli and Jude Stefanski?

MR. O'MALLEY: So moved.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

MS. OVEN: I'll second.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone on the question? Just on the question, these are high school kids that we use on a part-time purpose to help with field maintenance and different things that go on at Schautz. Both are two great kids that I have gotten to know over the years and can't go wrong with either of them. So that being said, all those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MR. WOLFF: Number seven, motion to approve Resolution 6 of 2026, the Lackawanna County 2026 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and

Mitigation update.

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

MS. BRIER: I'll make a motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

MS. OVEN: Second.

MR. DEMPSEY: On the question?

MR. WOLFF: Sure, Mr. Dempsey, so this is all the municipalities within Lackawanna County have signed on for this. As per federal guidelines, we are required to have this assessment and mitigation plan. Instead of doing it individually, all the municipalities in Lackawanna County have signed on. So that is what we are formally adopting this in a resolution form.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Anyone else on the question? All those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MR. WOLFF: Number eight, motion to approve Anita Einholf to conduct health inspections.

MR. DEMPSEY: I'll look for a

motion.

MS. ZANGARDI: I'll make that motion.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

MS. OVEN: Second.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone on the question?

MR. WOLFF: Just real quick, we had a company that was doing the health inspections for us. Anita has actually been doing them for us for the last four years. They suddenly parted ways with that company. Anita has offered to conduct those inspections for us to -- because we need them -- companies need them regularly. So we can't delay in getting those inspections done.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone else on the question? All those in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MR. WOLFF: Number nine, Treasurer Financial Report, Mark.

MR. BURTON: Good evening, Council. A brief summary for the financial report for

the month of August. We had a net loss for the month of $993,000, which brings our year to date net income to $728,000. As far as the expense side is concerned, business licenses and permits we received the second quarter 26 Comcast franchise fees. That was $41,000.

And through the month of August, we've collected $232,000 in refuse fees. As far as expenses are concerned, we just had our standard monthly expenses. The big one, our annual payment for the bond was 1 million dollars and debt interest on the bond was $83,000.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, Mark.

MS. OVEN: Thanks, Mark.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Kearney.

MR. KEARNEY: The past several weeks we continued hosting parties here in the community room. Two weeks on October 4th, the seniors will have their annual purse bingo, which is their biggest fundraiser of the year. They use the gym and in here.

Two weeks after that the Indo-American Community will have a two day fall celebration. They've had it for five or

six years here. That is Friday and Saturday, the 16th and 17th. And then we do the gym floor or the 19th. I scheduled it after all of that stuff.

And the gym remains busy with some of the elementary school practices are here several nights a week and biddy basketball starts at the end of October.

MS. BRIER: October 19, right, October?

MR. KEARNEY: Yes. That's all I have.

MR. WOLFF: Mr. Judge.

MR. JUDGE: How are you doing? We're picking garbage and what else -- potholes. We're trying to keep up with the potholes. I'm a little short on guys right now. We're just trying to keep up with things. Do you know what I mean?

MR. DEMPSEY: Appreciate it, Didge.

MR. JUDGE: We're behind on the garbage this week because we didn't get -- we're off Monday and we had a truck down on Tuesday. So that's two days, you know?

MR. DEMPSEY: Should people leave

out the garbage then if they --

MR. JUDGE: Yes, leave it out. Leave everything out because we'll -- I'm going to sit down with you guys later on and see if we could maybe do something, okay?

MR. DEMPSEY: Sure.

ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Didge.

MR. WOLFF: Chief Barth.

CHIEF BARTH: Good evening. This is my August monthly report for the Police Department. For the month of August, we responded to 1,227 calls for service. The number is down by 203 calls from the month of July.

Our major breakdown is it was 11 criminal arrests, 9 non traffic citations, 41 traffic and 26 written traffic warnings for the month of August. Personnel, I still have one officer out on heart and lung since midJune and then I had another one that was off on short term disability return to duty August 15th.

For the month of August we had 26 shifts that were sent out for overtime that were unable to be filled with part-time officers. Our part-time payroll, our officers

worked 369 and a half hours for the month which equals 46 shifts so a majority of the shifts equal the part-time officers.

We still do urgent need for additional part-timers. We did an online recruitment. And we didn't get any officers to apply at all. Training wise, prior to the start of the school year, myself and several other officers took part in a joint training operation with the members of Dunmore School police.

The exercise was a great activity. It included active threats scenarios along with some of the newer guys getting to tour all the facilities down there. So that was a great training. So from new business from the start of the year until the end of August, our meters at the corners collected $8,490. That includes coin, credit card, and pay by phone transactions.

Even during our battery situation we are still averaging around $750 a month in revenue. They collected $150 in parking fines for the month. And two citations were sent down to magistrate for nonpayment. During the

month we continued to assist with our Bucktown Music Fest for traffic and crowd control.

And we also assisted with the first day of school crossing of the kids and we continue to assist every morning and at the end of the day with letting the kids in and dismissals.

MS. BRIER: How about the parking meters?

CHIEF BARTH: Okay, so an update on that, I finally was able to -- the situation they had the company -- it was a smaller mom and pop type shop. So they had already allocated 200 of their batteries to Rochester because they were that far back. So unfortunately, our batteries just got sent out on Friday.

So I'm anticipating we have them by Tuesday. They're coming UPS. It was -- I know we had talked about having somebody drive to Rochester. But it wasn't as bad. I think it was like $14 or something to have them shipped. So it wasn't -- it wouldn't be worth it sending a guy out there with $4.50 gallon of gas, you know?

MS. BRIER: How many batteries do we need?

CHIEF BARTH: We got 20 for right now. We're down like 14. So we'll have six. And I'm anticipating that probably after we should get another ten. But he initially wanted to fill our initial 20 order. So he wanted to get us at least up and running. So we should be -- by midweek we should be back at full capacity.

MS. BRIER: Great. Thank you.

CHIEF BARTH: All right. Just before I go, I'd like to congratulate Marty Monahan's appointment this evening to the rank of Chief of Police. I've known Marty since grade school. I could say without hesitation he's a great officer and even a better person.

I look forward to working with him as the Chief, no doubt that he would do an outstanding job continuing to move our department forward. I would also like to take a moment to sincerely thank Mayor Conway and members of Council for putting their faith and trust in me over the past six months while I served as the acting Chief.

It's been an honor and a privilege to serve in that role. And I'm truly grateful for the opportunity and support I received from you all. Thank you.

ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Chief.

MR. WOLFF: Chief DeNaples.

CHIEF DENAPLES: Good evening, the expenditures for September, a couple steep ones this month. We had seven sections of hose that failed the annual testing. So they were ordered last week. That's $2,975. Them hoses were probably in excess of 10 to 12 years old, maybe even older.

We also had a breakdown on the Interstate with the ladder truck the other day. It had to be towed to American Fire Services in Dickson City. That repair was $1,990. It was the coolant line. We lost all the coolant in it. That fitting actually broke, just probably age and wear and tear, no particular damage to it.

That's pretty much the expenditures for the month. Also -- I'm sorry, that expenditure was wrong. That was a fire prevention material was $1,990. The truck

repair was 2,583. So I had to update this report after it was sent.

As far as overtime for the month of September, was 480 hours of over time. Again, there could be more with the call-ins for incidents, call-off coverage, etc. Thirty-four part-time shifts were put out when the schedule was originally done.

As far as what events that the Fire Department has been participating in, we've been doing EMS standbys for Jr. Bucks games on Sunday down at the school complex. And that is going well. Calls for the month of August from August 1st to August 31st, we responded to a total of 92 calls.

Last month there was 60. So we're up a little bit. Nine were fire calls, 12 were hazardous situations. We had three other type calls, 17 medical type calls, 22 nonemergent, 26 public assists and three rescue type calls. So that is my report for August call volume and September.

ALL MEMBERS: Thanks, Chief.

MR. WOLFF: Number 11, public comment.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone from the public like to speak?

MS. IGOE: I'm MJ Igoe. And I live at the Bucktown Center apartments on the corner of Apple Street and West Drinker. And I gave to the Borough Manager what has been left of a pedestrian crossing sign that was in the center of that corner.

It's what's left of it now is two cardboard pieces. We don't -- how am I going to put this to you. The people in the borough don't seem to understand that there are speed limits. And from the top of Drinker Street from -- I'll tell you 81, there is no traffic light or stop sign until they hit the light at Drinker and Blakely.

So it's a speed zone. There is a serious problem. And there's a serious problem day and night. And I know that people are aware of it and people just allow it to exist. But someone is going to get killed. This is what's left of the sign. There was a full and complete sign that sat two days, three days ago on the corner across from Saint Joe's, at which time I witnessed a young boy on a scooter get

injured.

And he was on the curb. Prior to that incident, I was up on the corner of Potter and Blakely, and there was an elderly woman who was sitting on the curb or on a concrete bench, I'll put it, one of the parking things. And with an aide that was helping her, they had walked to the bank. And on their way back, she couldn't continue.

The woman had to hold the woman up by her hand because the woman couldn't sit up right. I left my vehicle. I went to them. I called for emergency services. I asked them to please, you know, don't do the siren. It's not necessary. The woman is okay, but she is elderly.

And I don't know if there's a heart history. I know nothing about her. I don't know either one of them. There are no call boxes in our area anymore. There's no safety measures. There's no -- no visual sign of a police officer. And that -- that really concerns me because there are a lot of seniors in our community.

The woman got the attention. The

EMTs came. They put her in the ambulance, etc. Recently, 3 million dollars has been awarded to Drinker Street Towers Two, which will be up on Drinker Street near the Sabia Complex, I'll put it that way.

And that's going to have a five-story building. The first floor is going to have retail or commercial. And the rest of it's going to be apartments. Again, you have additional people moving into the borough and no -- no attention is being made for safety.

A week ago, I saw a policeman sitting in his car at the corner of Apple and Drinker. And he is yelling out of the car to someone attempting to make a turn from Apple onto Drinker. In a car is not acceptable. We can do far better than this. We have to do better than this.

I was recently at Target. They have six of these pieces in their parking lot where people are crossing, where the cars would normally come to six of them. And that's one commercial business. We definitely need to address our safety issues.

I don't know if we have to get

PennDOT, if we have to get somebody from AAA, if we have to get a safety article written for the Dunmorean. But people need to be aware. People have the right to cross the street. And you need to stop when you see people in the crosswalks.

I think that's all I want to say tonight on it. I've addressed the pedestrian issue before because one of the women in our building did have a fall on the corner of Apple and Drinker. And she required 11 surgeries from one fall. And she's okay today.

I guess she's, you know, on oxygen, has a walker, whatnot. But it's the speed. And there's no -- nobody stops it. And if I've yell out the window at you, if I yelled at you on the street, I will keep yelling at you. I'll say to you, How fast are you driving? Or I'll yell slow down.

And the issue then is gets into the kids with the scooters because now it's not just the kids on the scooters, it's adults riding children's electric vehicles who told me to go "F" yourself, lady. Go walk your dog. I tried to explain to them there's a young boy in

Clarks Summit that has lost part of his leg as a result of him running into a vehicle on an electric scooter.

He was 11 years old. You know, maybe the parents need to be cited. I'm not here to judge them or the child. But again, these are not vehicles that should be on the street, whether it's an adult or child.

MR. WOLFF: I'm sorry, we have a five-minute limit.

MS. IGOE: I know. I'm done. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, just a reminder a five minute limit.

MS. IGOE: I'm aware.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you so much.

MS. KILLIAN: Hello. I'm Marie Killian. I live in the 1700 block of Marion Street right the other side of the florist over there. I would call it the Indy 500. We have a hill going down. We have a hill going up. That's right where I am. I'm right in the middle.

And I was sitting on my porch last Sunday and just to see exactly what it was

because I know it's crazy, I decided to write down every unlicensed motorized vehicle that went up or down my street fast because of two hills.

Twenty-seven of them in two hours. Most of them were children on scooters, motorized scooters. There is no license on a motorized scooter or an e-bike. They are free to ride wherever they want. But they're not free to ride on a city street.

This is so dangerous. And even though there are stop signs on Clay Avenue and Marion Street right before you come onto my block, you can't believe the speed a car could pick up in a block. I don't know why this -- you're going to have to stop at the end of my block anyway.

I'm horrified by this. I'm going to see a little kid hit. And just as my friend MJ mentioned about the boy in Clarks Summit, we are familiar with the family of the gentleman who was driving that car legally and at the right speed limit.

Two families have been torn apart, the family of the child, the family of the man

who hit the child because the kid is 11 and doesn't know to stop at stop signs. They don't belong on a street. Please, people before we're attending funerals, I'm serious.

If I sound like I'm overreacting, I'm not. This is very serious. Get unlicensed vehicles off the roads of this borough. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you.

MR. FISK: Stephen Fisk, Church Street. Between my sore throat and my ability to ramble, I'm going to read my notes so that I don't -- I try to keep to the five minutes. I'll do my best. And if I can't, I'm sure you'll tell me I'm over my time.

I'm still waiting for a legal opinion on the erroneous garbage fee that was enacted. And I have actually two friends in two different law firms looking at it, both of them promised they would get back to me before today's meeting and didn't. So as soon as I have something to talk about, I'll share it with the group.

Here's information that Mr. Wolff had sent me. Mr. Wolff, thank you for sending

me the information I requested. And in speaking to Mr. Burton on the phone, Dunmore's payroll in 2025 was nearly 6 million dollars. And benefit cost for the same period was 4.3 million dollars.

A key benchmark for an employer is benefit cost of total payroll. Again, just -- I worked in HR for 40 years. So this is all kind of normal or regular to me. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average benefit cost for a private sector employer is about 32 to 38 percent of payroll.

According to the DEC -- DECD, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the average percent of benefits to payroll for office and clerical positions is about 36 percent; for DPW employees, it's about 35 to 45 percent; for police and fire, it's 45 to 60 percent because of the minimum municipal obligation, the pension payments that have to be made it really escalates that cost.

The total percentage of the benefits to payroll for Dunmore was almost 72 percent in 2025. And you wonder why we are facing

financial challenges. The percentage of benefits to payroll for Dunmore was again, 72 percent.

The standard according to the Department of Economic and Community Development for police and fire, which is the highest of the three, is 45 to 60 percent. Something's wrong. There's just something wrong with this. It seems to me that we can't afford these significant costs.

And I think something's got to be done about it. It's my opinion and only my opinion that Council will be raising our taxes in 2027. They couldn't do it this year. But they can do it next year. And I think we're going to have to see a tax increase unless there's a systemic change made with how things are run.

Again, I worked in the private sector so I'm not experienced in municipal government. But 72 percent of pay dedicated to benefits is just unsustainable. We can't keep putting tax burdens on us, on the employee -- on the residents. It's just not fair.

And I'm not -- I'm not advocating

that we start reducing employee benefits. But there are different things you can do to look at it. And I don't know if Dunmore has a two-tiered benefit system for new hires as opposed to current employees.

But things have to be looked at. We have to look at paradigm shifts because what we're doing now isn't working. And I just want to talk about a quick example of things that could be done that aren't being done. Back in about 2015, I worked at the Commonwealth Medical College.

And there was a Dunmore Councilman on staff with me. And he knew I worked in HR. And he knew I worked with workers' comp. And he asked me if I could help out because Dunmore's workers' compensation system was in the tank. This was 2015.

So I shared with him my experience. And I shared with him that for one of my employers, we went to the state and we got approved for the Governor's Excellence Award for Safety. The Governor actually came to our location and presented us with this award.

And it's because we had a bona fide

state-approved safety committee. Our number of claims went from 96 to 33 just in one year. And our number of lost workdays went from 481 lost workdays to 87 the next year to 18 to the third year.

And we did it by forming a state-approved safety committee. Now, the employer I worked for had 65 buildings, 1,200 employees, and we had maintenance, police, HVAC, plumbing, groundskeeping, electricians, carpenters, garbage collection, snow removal, painters and office staff. So I asked the Councilman does Dunmore have such a program?

And he said, no, and we'd be interested in starting one. Apparently, the funding that he was going to find to pay me was never found, so nothing ever came of it. But I ask the question why doesn't Dunmore have a state-approved safety committee? And let me tell you all it takes.

You have one meeting a month. Somebody takes minutes. You have an equal number of labor and management or you could have more members of labor, if you prefer. You review accidents that happen during the month

for employees. You suggest and make corrective action to try to improve these things.

And you do a monthly inspection once a month. You might go to the mechanic's garage or to the DPW location or to the fire department, and you walk around and you do inspections.

MR. DEMPSEY: Just giving you heads up.

MR. FISK: Already? Oh, I'm in trouble. Okay, I'm going to have to stop then.

MR. DEMPSEY: You can --

MR. FISK: I only have maybe about another minute or so. This is all it takes. So let me tell you what you get from that. By having a state-approved workers' compensation safety committee, you receive 5 percent discount on your premiums.

According to the information that Mr. Wolff sent me, Dunmore paid 3 million dollars over five years for workers' compensation cost -- 3 million, which is unheard of from my perspective. Five percent of that was $150,000 that could have been in our pocketbooks, our wallets, just by having a

monthly meeting. That's all it takes.

But the real benefit of a workplace safety committee is not that savings. It's reducing accidents. We went from 481 lost workdays to 18 because we got together with our employees and we said we want to create a safer workplace. I don't know why these things aren't looked at.

But I'm not here just to complain about costs and taxes. I'm trying to make recommendations. They're not hard. It's really low-hanging fruit. And I really think that we need to start looking at ways of doing things because what's currently happening now isn't working. So I thank you for your time.

MS. OVEN: Thank you.

MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

MS. HOGAN: Mary Ann Hogan, Hill Street in Dunmore. I have three little things today. I would like confirmation from someone from the borough as to what donation was received from DPW -- for DPW if you need clarification, I'm not talking about the recycling containers.

MR. DEMPSEY: What what donation

do you mean? Like -- like trucks?

MS. HOGAN: Yeah, I would like the actual confirmation from borough as to what was received on record.

MR. DEMPSEY: I think three garbage -- two garbage trucks and three plows -- four plows.

MS. HOGAN: Two garbage trucks and three -- four plows.

MR. DEMPSEY: Four plows.

MS. HOGAN: Okay, not three garbage trucks.

MR. DEMPSEY: Two garbage trucks.

MS. HOGAN: Two garbage trucks and four plows with trucks.

MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. HOGAN: All right. I just want to make sure everybody's aware because I don't want to hear it through the grapevine, which is --

MR. DEMPSEY: Just so you're aware, we didn't announce that because the person that donated it asked it not be announced.

MS. HOGAN: Well, you don't need to say who it is as a benefactor, but make an

acknowledgement letting people know that, hey, we have three new garbage trucks now. So maybe the garbage will be picked up and we won't have engine issues or whatever.

Speaking of DPW, there was a few recent retirements. When are the replacements going to be replaced? Is that on the agenda anywhere of replacing staff? They're just going to have to work short-handed and work overtime? That's your plan? Not a good plan. Not a good plan.

Third question, as far as recycling goes and I asked this last month, Mr. Wolff, have you actually put on paper what the cost and expense would be, Waste Management versus what we currently pay for Recycling Center now? Is there actual paper figures, paper calculations?

MR. WOLFF: I think it was about two years ago I did speak with Waste Management along with other municipalities. And I don't remember the exact number, but it was -- it was only a few hundred dollars off of what we currently pay. Okay, so there wasn't much cost.

MS. HOGAN: Other municipalities switched to Waste Management. They do a much better job of recycling than the Recycling Center does because all that does is go to the garbage.

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, a lot of it was because we do not collect as much cardboard as the other municipalities. That was the reason given to me. I'm not a recycling expert, but that was Waste Management.

MR. SARDO: Vince Sardo, 237 South Apple. Good evening, Council, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Wolff, Solicitor. I just want to start off by saying on Friday, September 11th, it was the 25th anniversary of 9/11 where 2,753 civilians, 343 firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers, a total of 2,977 lives lost that day.

So if I can, Council, I'd like to take a moment of silence to honor the lives of people that lost their life that day, especially the 343 firefighters and 71 law enforcement officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to save --

MR. DEMPSEY: Of course.

MR. SARDO: Thank you. Council, on

May 14th, 2025, there was a WBRE 28/22 news report that had talked about the growing concerns over firefighter burnout in part of Lackawanna County, which was Dunmore. And despite the borough's push for transparency, it says that they have yet to answer questions regarding staffing issues.

So, listen, I know there's a process with Civil Service. I mentioned last month to you about if we could hire, and it was explained to me that you are in the process or there was a Civil Service test given. And I know there's, you know, written exams, verbal exams, physical requirements.

And but from my understanding, all these things have been done. And the list has been certified. So I'm just wondering why at this meeting, you know, there's no people hired because if I could get into how many hours of overtime -- and this kind of addresses the last two issues with Mr. Fisk and the last speaker.

And I'm just going to say firefighter 1 through 12 because that's how many firefighters are currently working. When I currently worked as a firefighter, we had 24

full-time firefighters and about 30 part-timers.

Right now we're working with 12 firefighters on the floor to sustain four guys per shift and only five part-timers. So as of right now, overtime as of today -- and there's five days left in the pay period. So this is going to go further than the numbers I'm going to read off.

Firefighter one had 605.5 hours to date. Firefighter two has 309 hours. Firefighter three has 492.5 hours. Firefighter four has 496 hours point five. Firefighter five has 360 hours. Firefighter six has 311. Firefighter seven has 485.5. Firefighter eight has 573. Firefighter nine has 229. Firefighter 10 has 405, and Firefighter 11 has 504.5, and Firefighter 12 has 405.

The reason I'm bringing this up, Council, is because it was brought to my attention recently that after numerous responses through the Chief's office by the union and to Council, it would be more prudent to actually hire full-time firefighters.

And this is going back to the report

that News Scene 22 did because they actually get into it further in the article about the burnout and the health and safety issues that it causes working excessive hours. Because you see, the recommended amount of hours to work for overtime on a 24-48 hour shift is about 200 to 250 hours per year.

We have firefighters at this point that are already over 600. And the overtime if they continue at this rate is going to be 8 to 900 hours. I mean, that is four times what the national recommendation is. I mean it's absurd. So it's a risk to the public. It's a risk to the firefighters.

So I was just wondering why we're not hiring tonight at this meeting, which would be immediate relief to the firefighters currently working the floor that are mentally and physically burnt right now because of those problems. So again, back -- getting back to the financial -- that's the safety aspect of it.

Getting back to the financial aspect of it, it was told to me that about $70,000 per firefighter right now. Because you see, a

full-time firefighter only starts at 60 percent of what a full-time firefighter would make. It takes 10 years to max out 4 additional percent per year to get to the full-time rate.

So they're starting off at 60 percent, it would be about 210,000 employee -- if you went back to 2023 when the union started talking to the Chief and they started imploring Council to hire people, back to 2023, if you had hired three full-time people, the overtime rate back then was close to 280,000. This year, it's going to be close to 300,000.

We would be saving on average of anywhere from 70 to 90,000 per year just in overtime. In just three years, that's 250 to $270,000. So to me, it just doesn't make sense when we have firefighters right now working 48 hours. They're off for 24. They come back and work another 36 or another 48. That is absurd.

That's dangerous actually for the public and it's dangerous for the firefighters themselves. And you know, Mr. Wolff, you were a Fire Department Captain, training officer, more importantly a safety officer and a Pennsylvania State Fire instructor, more

training than I had on the job. Are these numbers safety issues that, you know, are feasible for firefighters?

Okay, I'm going to wrap it up. Okay, and then so just talking about the financial part of it too, I'm just going to wrap it up by saying my mom used to say we get more flies with honey than we do with vinegar. I feel like Council's approach the last eight, nine years have been the vinegar approach as far as Keystone Landfill.

We always had the Dunmore dump when I was a kid. It's now Keystone landfill. It's always been there. It's always going to be there. I just feel that instead of fighting, fighting, fighting, which, you know, it's been kind of what's been going on I feel that if we just kind of work and renegotiate, it'll help the borough. It'll help the residents. We won't have garbage fees.

Hopefully, property taxes will come down because it's brought to my understanding that he's offered different money to Council or gas plants that were moved out of Dunmore for other money and these have all been rejected.

So I implore you to please negotiate and also please hire. Thank you, Council.

MR. O'MALLEY: We really haven't had any fights with the landfill.

MR. SARDO: Well, not -- not fights.

MR. O'MALLEY: -- good relationship with them. We met with them.

MR. SARDO: Well, Trip, there might not be fights. But from what I was told is there's been numerous of offers to Dunmore Council which would alleviated the burden for the taxpayers, and they've been rejected. So maybe I'm not -- maybe I used the wrong word. I apologize.

But I feel that if we negotiate and try to help, especially senior citizens. I mentioned last time I have an 88-year-old aunt that's basically wondering if she's going to be able to keep her house because of all these additional costs. Now, to me, it's no problem. But for some of the business owners that have multiple units in this property, they're going to be paying 2, $3,000 more for garbage fee.

My aunt, you know, she's struggling right now, and now to having -- yeah, it

doesn't sound like a lot of money to us, the general people, maybe not. But the senior citizens especially on fixed incomes, it's a burden. So I think if we could look at the overtime and hire people to reduce the full-time rate, you know, the hours would be a safety issue.

And it also would be a financial advantage. And also if we could look at renegotiating with Keystone Landfill. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Greg, can you address the hiring?

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, So that's for the hiring. We just got the certified list -- I don't know the exact date -- a couple weeks ago. We didn't have an opportunity to interview yet. It's just a matter of time. So we actually -- we're going to be interviewing and hopefully have someone hired at the next meeting.

MS. PHILLIPS: Good evening, Jeannie and Jerry Phillips, 204 Terrace Street, Dunmore. I'm here tonight -- I have some pictures I'd like to share -- my husband and I

would like to share with Council. We've had multiple visits down to the borough over the past, I'd say, at least three to four, maybe longer years, calls to the borough regarding the property across the street from our house.

But the property actually sits on the corner of Terrace and Smith Street. The house address is 310 Smith. Next door is a business. I'm not sure what it is. There is no name on the business for me to bring to the Council tonight.

We have some pictures we'd like to share. As I said, it's the condition of the property. The property prior to them coming in and taking over the house and the -- I think was St. Anthony's Hall at one time was maintained by the gentlemen who lived there before, well maintained.

Since then, and we've been in our house approximately 30 -- I guess 30 years or so. The problem is that they care for the property right at the house level. And you'll see that in the pictures. But they do nothing about what's on the slope.

Gentleman before, obviously hired

somebody. They took care of the property very well. Right now it's completely overgrown. You'll see that in the pictures. We've made multiple calls, multiple visits. They have sent some kids up with weed whackers at any given time to weed whack.

They'll go about 12 inches into the property on Terrace Street. You can't really go up any further. It's dangerous. They're kids. At this point, what we're looking to find out is what is the resolution? Our understanding was that the gentleman that whoever owns the business and the house has been sent multiple letters, has been talked to, but there's been no resolution.

Right now the bigger issue that we have, it's not only overgrown, but as you can see in the one picture, there is a tree that hangs over right onto Terrace Street. It's split almost. And it's actually three quarters of the way over Terrace Street where our cars are parked, our house is through all of the electrical lines.

The concern I have, my husband has as a family, if the tree comes down, it's going

to take the lines down. If the tree comes down, it'll take our cars out. If it comes down far enough, it'll go into our house. Never mind the problem with the rodents, we've seen an increase in the past probably two years with skunks and rats, things like that, all concerns because of the overgrowth and nothing's been done.

So the reason that we're here tonight is to find out what can be done, what is the resolution and when can it get done? I've been to Council. I've talked with Beth Zangardi. I believe Mike Brazil was up to look at the property as well. And right now, all we want to know is how and when is there going to be a resolution because we take care of our property.

We make sure our grass is cut and everything is maintained. I would assume that that would be the same standard for the gentleman who owns that property, the house, and the business next door.

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, I don't have an exact update on that. If Mike is aware, he would be the person to ask. Does he have your

contact information?

MR. DEMPSEY: Can we have him?

MS. ZANGARDI: Can I speak to this? Mike and I did talk about this a couple of weeks ago. And I had suggested they start being fined for not maintaining the property because it's the same thing every year. They cut the front, but they don't cut behind the house or along Terrace street.

And that finally, I just suggested because I've been in contact with them for quite a few years, start fining the company.

MR. WOLFF: So I don't know if -- I don't -- I'm sorry, I don't have an exact update, but that is the process. And we just met with a resident today. The process is long and if people don't want to comply. It's not great. We can fine them.

But the goal isn't to fine them -- or we can take them to the magistrate. The goal isn't to fine them. The goal is to get them to clean up the property. We don't care about the fine. We want them to clean up the property.

MS. PHILLIPS: Exactly. But my

concern is if they've got letter after letter year after year --

MR. WOLFF: That's where I'm going with this. I do recall -- I think that's -- check with Mike Brazil tomorrow. Give him a call. But I think that's where we're at.

MS. PHILLIPS: So then we need to call Mike Brazil. Is that what --

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, follow up with him tomorrow. But I believe -- I believe he probably sent them a violation notice and sent, I think -- just follow up with him. That's where we're at because when we have these habitual offenders, that's where we get -- we just send them to the magistrate. But to the best of my knowledge, that's the process.

MS. PHILLIPS: And again, our biggest concern is our home, our property, our vehicles, and our family as well as the people that are on our street because especially if there's a rodent problem, we have a family that has a small child that's on that street and certainly no one wants to get out of their vehicle at night and get sprayed by a skunk.

MR. WOLFF: We do share your frustration because we deal with it everywhere. And people don't want to comply, unfortunately. It's a long and drawn-out process -- legal process.

MR. PHILLIPS: And it's something that's been going back since Joe Lorince. That's how far it's been going back. And there is a concern and some people might say, well, you know, there are -- we know of definitely two skunks that are -- that are residing there. We have a little boy that lives next door. And skunks historically sometimes carry rabies. So we are concerned with that.

MR. LOUGHNEY: Jean, before you -- before you go, not from there, but over here, if you could give Mr. Wolff your phone number and he'll have Michael call you.

MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, absolutely. Okay, absolutely. I appreciate that and thank you for your time. And please look at the pictures. They're very clear.

MR. DEMPSEY: They look expensive to print. Do you want them back?

MS. PHILLIPS: If you want to keep

them, you can. It doesn't matter.

MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. We can scan them in give them to Mike.

MS. BRIER: Is it possible, I don't know if we can do this on private property because we've had these issues around Dunmore to send our guys up there.

MS. PHILLIPS: They sent them up there. They sent kids up there. I mean, I guess my question is to that, Janet, and not to just ask is, why is the borough having to have the responsibility because we take care of our property. I'm sure most of everybody in here takes care of their own property. We're now just going to allow someone to -- like we shouldn't have to --

MS. BRIER: No, we have to go to the magistrate and we have to fine them. That's a given. But in the meantime just to relieve your situation, like, a one time -- I don't know if we can do that.

MR. WOLFF: It's a -- we do it in some instances we have. But generally speaking, it's kind of -- it's not a practice that we like to get into. There have been some

instances, but generally speaking, no, we don't want to do that for a variety of reasons.

MS. BRIER: Okay.

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you for your time, and yes, I will.

MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you, Jean. Thank you, Jerry.

MR. DEMPSEY: Does anyone else want to come up?

MR. HOULIHAN: Mike Houlihan, H-O-U-L-I-H-A-N, 107 Mortimer. I'll start off with a small note I addressed Council last meeting about 111 Mortimer Street not cutting grass. Well, it was addressed. Thank you very much, immediately within a week.

My bigger problem is last meeting I'm pretty sure we probably knew about the donation of these trucks. Everybody in Dunmore probably knows who donated them. I'm not here to try to mention the name. But when it comes to a budget, you say to me -- what did we say, three or four plow trucks fully loaded? They're dump trucks with plows. They're not cheap and two garbage trucks.

Didge, I don't even know where to

begin with the price of a garbage truck. I wouldn't even know what to throw a price on it. That's a lot of money. We're sitting $800,000 less on the budget last month. What does that total to? That's a lot.

So for Council not to bring this up at the end of last meeting or whether this lady brought it up tonight, it wasn't being brought up again. I think that's an insult to all of us. If something's donated to our community, we have the right to know. We don't -- we don't need to know who it was from. That's fine.

But there's a value there and a big value. And Didge is probably so excited to get these vehicles because they're always breaking down. But the borough wouldn't have known about it tonight. That's an insult. We need to know these things, whether it's a building being donated, whether it's any kind of a vehicle it should be brought up immediately at the next Council meeting.

And that's all I care about tonight is that please address this in the future because it's happened before. We all know

vehicles have been donated to Dunmore for a long time. I'm not here to address who it's from. We all know. But someone should get the credit -- maybe not by name, but the Council should say this is the value of these vehicles in our budget.

And I know you can't put these six or seven vehicles in next year's budget. It's spread out over a year. We talked about this last Council meeting, tires and whatnot. It should be financed over years, not one year, but like to know the total of these five or six vehicles because we have the right to know what value does that take off of our budget, whether it's over a four-year project or a five-year project. We have the right to know this. Thank you.

MS. ZANGARDI: Mike, to respond to that. It was a gift. We don't have the value to it. That's number one. Number two, we never hid it. Number three, I brought it up at the last meeting. So it's never, in my opinion, been hidden by this Council. And that's number one.

Number two, we don't know the value

because it was a gift. And it has never been hidden by anybody up on this Council. And what was the third thing I said? We don't hid it. We don't know the value. The fact that it's a gift, I mean, what do you want us to say? Go up -- we all know who it's from.

MR. FISK: Don't you need to know the value to insure it?

MS. ZANGARDI: I don't know, Steve. I'll go ask.

MR. HOULIHAN: So to address the question, I could probably find out within 24 hours what a garbage truck is worth. I could probably Google that roughly a plow truck. Tell me it's a Chevy 350 with a full load plow. I can value that.

All I'm asking is, I'm not saying anybody did anything wrong if there's a value there. And if we're going to do an estimate of what we saved on these vehicles, it's not that hard. It's not hard at all. We buy vehicles every day.

I'm in construction my whole life. These are not cheap. These two garbage trucks are -- Jeez, I'm thinking well over $100,000.

And the plow trucks with fully loaded plows, probably 80 to 120 grand too. So it's not the pennies and the nickels. But there's a value there that should be budgeted for the future.

And the people should -- should know. And I apologize for saying it because I didn't hear it at the last meeting. I had to leave. So it must have came up after. But tonight, it was brought up as it wasn't. So blame me for that. I wasn't here at the end.

MS. ZANGARDI: We never hid it.

MR. HOULIHAN: Okay, I'm just trying to get a point across. That's all. Thank you.

MS. BOWEN: Mary Ann Bowen, 103 Swinick Drive. This is for the Council I'd like to address. What are you going to do about the garbage fee? We asked. There was nothing in the paper. We asked you to let us know before this Council meeting, not a thing was done about the garbage fee.

I don't want to pay the garbage fee because I think it's ridiculous. You knew in December and you billed us in July. So now what are you going to do? Is anybody going to address me?

MR. DEMPSEY: I mean, we haven't discussed anything about the garbage fee.

MS. BOWEN: But it's due tomorrow.

MS. ZANGARDI: May I respond?

MS. BOWEN: Sure.

MS. ZANGARDI: And Greg Wolff said this at the last meeting -- and I think we all admitted it at the last meeting. What we did wrong was we sent it to Berkheimer for them to start the work on processing it. And then as soon as it was done -- and, Greg, please correct me if I'm wrong.

As soon as that was done, we sent it out. We realized, obviously from the uproar that we probably should have waited until the new year. But we had started the process. Berkheimer did their chores, did what they had to do and then we sent it out. So that's where our -- and we all admitted it, I think, the last meeting that we did wrong.

MS. BOWEN: No, you didn't say that at the last meeting.

MS. ZANGARDI: Okay. Regardless, you don't have to pay it if you don't want to. It's a fine --

MS. BOWEN: I just want to know what you're going to do about it. We asked all the Council members and nobody -- nobody opened their mouth.

MR. LOUGHNEY: Mrs. Bowen, it's going to stay in effect as far as I know.

MS. BOWEN: Why?

MR. LOUGHNEY: Because it's been passed. It's been through. There's nothing -- we can't go back and do -- resend it now. In the future -- in the future, you can. But right now, right now, right now, this was passed and it's going through. People have paid. There's been people that have paid it already.

MS. BOWEN: Yeah, because those are people that pay their bill as soon as it comes like us people, our old -- the old people. That's what we do. This meeting was never in the paper. This meeting was never in the paper. The last meeting was never in the paper.

MS. BRIER: It has to be in the paper.

MS. BOWEN: It wasn't.

MR. WOLFF: Ma'am, it's advertised at the beginning of the year.

MS. BOWEN: Oh my God, the beginning of the year, all the meetings?

MR. WOLFF: That's what we're -- it's every second.

MS. BOWEN: Who's going to remember that?

MR. WOLFF: It's on the website as well.

MS. BOWEN: I don't go to the website.

MR. DEMPSEY: It's every second Monday of the month and fourth Monday when --

MS. BOWEN: But actually you should advertise it. You should advertise it in the paper. And also, the last meeting that we had, not one thing was in the paper about it.

MS. BRIER: We can't control the paper. They report on what they want to report on.

MS. BOWEN: Well, why didn't you have somebody here?

MS. BRIER: We can't tell them --

MS. BOWEN: She takes meetings right

here.

MS. BRIER: Yeah, she's always here.

MS. BOWEN: Yeah, so why doesn't she put it in the paper?

MS. BRIER: She doesn't work for the paper.

MS. ZANGARDI: She's privately paid.

MS. BOWEN: Why is she even taking those meetings if it's never going to be in --

MS. ZANGARDI: We have to do it by law.

MS. BRIER: She does the minutes for us so you guys could look at the minutes.

MS. BOWEN: Well, nothing is ever mentioned in the paper like crime is never mentioned in the paper either --

MS. BRIER: We're not in charge of the paper, Mrs. Bowen.

MS. BOWEN: Well, I know. But I'm just concerned about the garbage fee and why you're charging us when you get all those donations from Mr. DeNaples, 3 million dollars.

MS. ZANGARDI: With all due respect to be frank with you, and I'm going to speak for myself and probably a few other. We

probably never should have tabled the $150 fee ever because that's part of our --

MS. BOWEN: You shouldn't have.

MS. ZANGARDI: Yeah, you're right.

MS. BOWEN: You should have never given us that. You should have never given us that --

MS. ZANGARDI: We never should have tabled it.

MS. BRIER: In 2014 it was tabled.

MS. BOWEN: This is how many years you did it.

MS. BRIER: This is a fee that was enacted in 2002. In 2014, they tabled it.

MS. BOWEN: But why did you do it all those years and not this year?

MS. BRIER: We needed money.

MS. BOWEN: You need money. Oh, I rest my case.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anybody else like to address Council?

MS. ZMUDA: Nicole Zmuda, Z-M-U-D-A, Varley Street. I appreciated Council's clarification last month about how the refuse fee was not tabled that that discussion

happened during an executive committee meeting, which was helpful and provided clarity for me who was, you know, certainly surprised getting the invoice from Berkheimer.

A consideration, maybe, I understand that probably a lot of really important discussions happen during those executive committee meetings that we don't necessarily need to be a part of. But if there could be some carryover for the Council meetings that are -- that do have transcription that the minutes are publicly available just so that there's better clarity that if folks are concerned or interested if they're not able to make a meeting, and they want to look at the meeting minutes after they've been approved to understand maybe why some decisions have been made, especially if there's an important decision like a new tax or something like that.

Again, that might be helpful. I know I would have -- that would have been helpful for me. So I hope that the Council might consider when bringing those motions to the Council meeting where there are minutes taken that there could be some background if

there was prior conversation at an executive committee meeting or something like that that happens outside of the public.

ATTY. PERRY: Ma'am, just to clarify, it wasn't a decision made at an executive session of the meeting. Decisions were made at the meeting that was not recorded, the second meeting of the month. We did not have a stenographer there. So it wasn't an executive --

(AUDIENCE CROSS TALKING)

MS. BRIER: We never have a stenographer at the second meeting. We always have one at the first meeting.

MS. ZMUDA: Is this second meeting open to the public?

MS. BRIER: Yes, of course. It's a public meeting.

MR. WOLFF: The minutes are on the website.

MS. ZMUDA: So I certainly don't want to -- I appreciate that information. I was remembering language that I thought I heard clarified at the end of last month's meeting. And again, I -- just so that I understand, when

I looked back at the meeting minutes, there was a vote on the refuse fee that happened December -- January to reinstate it. I didn't -- and I went back through the meeting minutes, and I didn't see any rationale provided for why that was being reinstated.

So when several members of the community brought it up and said it wasn't in the meeting minutes, is there like a Florida Act violation or something? The response that I thought I heard was that it was covered during an executive committee meeting, not at a regular meeting.

ATTY. PERRY: No, it was at a public meeting.

MS. ZMUDA: Without -- without meeting minutes.

ATTY. PERRY: Well, the second meeting we don't have our stenographer at our second meeting every month.

MS. ZMUDA: As a general rule.

MS. BRIER: Yes.

MS. ZMUDA: So I guess maybe I'd like to amend my consideration for Council if there -- if there isn't a stenographer, which

I, you know, I'm certainly not going to question. But again, something big like that as long as it's somewhere in the meeting minutes, I think that may have helped alleviate some of the concern and surprise that the community experienced. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Would anyone else like to address Council tonight? Yes, sir.

MR. O'MALLEY: Jim O'Malley, 802 Cooney Street. Who is our Council representative for the Scranton Sewer Authority?

MS. ZANGARDI: Me.

MR. O'MALLEY: So can we possibly get an update maybe for the next meeting? I still can't believe we even still talk about the Sewer Authority. We're like 12 years past this thing. But what amount the borough is still due once the easements, which I believe is the issue with the Sewer Authority, once all funds are finalized, what is the borough approximately due once that all is finalized?

MS. ZANGARDI: So we just had a meeting about three weeks ago. And our

Solicitor is Larry Durkin from Drinker Street in Dunmore. Prior to that, it was Shrive -- Jason Shrive for long before I was there.

So when I started, I used to -- I said to Jason more than once every time, I want to close out. I'm bringing money home. I'm bringing money home. In the meantime, Jason left and Larry Durkan has been there for about a year and a half.

And Larry is really aggressively pursuing closing that out. There are a couple -- well, I'll give you one, Dunmore School District wanted $40,000 to close their easements. We had to pay them. So we have to pay the outstanding easements for the citizens.

Some of them at this point are deceased. So then we have to go to the court system, but it all has to be paid out. We are hoping to be done at least next year. But it's not going to be as much as I hoped. I'd be grateful if it was a million dollars at this point.

However -- yeah, I'd be grateful. To me, Larry Durkin is fantastic at it. But I think we let it go on too long because you

know --

MR. O'MALLEY: Sure. I mean, I totally agree. I can't believe we're still talking about the finalization of a sale of an entity like 12 years ago.

MS. ZANGARDI: I've gone to meetings for the last seven years. And, you know, it's the progress that Larry has made is fantastic. And there is a light at the end of the tunnel. However, the money is not going to be what I hoped for. But I don't have an exact number because there's still outstanding easements that have to be paid.

And then we have to go to the courts and have those easements closed out because they're deceased and so on and so forth. But there's not as many as there were. As a matter of fact, those meetings are also advertised. And they're open to the public.

And they're at the Scranton Municipal Building on Washington Avenue. Okay, but it's a great question. And it's finally moving. And I'm the one, by the way. I'm one for Dunmore. The rest of them are Scranton, okay?

MR. O'MALLEY: Sure. Thank you.

MS. ZANGARDI: Thank you.

MS. OVEN: Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Anyone else like to address Council? Seeing none.

MR. WOLFF: Number 12, public officials. The only thing I have is, Mr. Fisk, We do have -- where are you? We go to the safety committee. We are struggling. I will say that just because of schedules and some different things.

So I recognized the deficiency. I reached out to a consultant a few weeks ago, and he's going to start working with us to get that certification status. So it is something that we've been doing.

Again, we've been struggling, especially the last few months, some attendance issues, some scheduling issues. But it is something we're aware of. And it's something that we're working on.

The goal is -- is obviously saving money, but to reduce our injuries. We've had a rash of injuries with the DPW that we're really trying to curb. So we are aware of that. And

we are working on that.

MR. FISK: Just a question for the clarification. Was it certified by the state? I think you said you had one, but you don't --

MR. WOLFF: They had one. Chief, maybe you could speak to that. Years ago, I don't know if it was -- I don't think it was ever certified.

CHIEF DENAPLES: We did have one years ago. It was never certified by the state. That was something the borough was trying to work toward back then, but it never materialized.

MR. FISK: (Inaudible.)

MR. WOLFF: Yeah, understood, and that's -- that's our goal.

MR. FISK: And that -- and that's the thing because if it's -- now that you're self-funded because that's what you had mentioned you're self-funded because of the escalating premium cost. You no longer will qualify for that reduction of your premium. You can't be -- you can't get the premium discount if you're self-funded. So it would just be the benefit -- deriving the benefit of

a safer workplace.

MR. WOLFF: Correct. That's ultimately our goal. And then just quickly, the other thing I said, you know, anyone could stop in at the Borough Building at any time and ask any questions. We're there 8:30 to 4. You're more than welcome. We have -- I'm there longer than I like to be during the day.

But we are there. We are. I know there's some -- this is the last right to know request I completed. So we are working. But I do have other tasks to complete. So we're doing our best to get everybody the information they have.

I've offered this to other people. Stop down. If there's something specific, it's a lot quicker if you stop down. You fill out paperwork if you want it official, that's not why I'm trying to get out of it. Stop down and talk to us. Hey, yes, that's what I'm specifically looking for.

And our Treasurer can grab it real quick. We're more than happy to accommodate you in any way that we possibly can. Other than that, thanks for everybody coming tonight

and have a good night.

ATTY. PERRY: I have nothing. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mayor Conway?

MAYOR CONWAY: Also to Mr. Fisk but I won't make him speak because I don't want him to get into trouble again. But it seems like you have an incredible amount of experience in this field. And I think what Greg just said, we're open to any ideas.

This shouldn't be community versus Council. If you guys have great ideas, come to the Borough Building at any time. My e-mail's open. My phone's on. I think I speak for Council as well. Not all of us are HR experts like Mr. Fisk is.

And if you see that there's opportunity to save somewhere, by all means call us and let us know. That's all I wanted to say about that. And then I just wanted to congratulate Chief Monahan. And I also wanted to give big thanks to Chief Barth, not easy position we put you in. But I appreciate you righting the ship over the last couple months, did a great job and appreciate all your

service.

MR. WOLFF: Me as well. Sorry, Chief, I forgot.

MR. LOUGHNEY: I wish I went before you because everything you're saying, I'm going to repeat. Chief, thank you. Chief Monahan, looking forward to working with him. His grandfather, great grandfather, was the Chief at one time. Steve, where have you been? You know, great input.

That's why we have the meeting. Great to hear from you, great to hear from everyone that got up and spoke. Ladies, the sign and the vehicles, we are well aware of -- I'm down by the high school. And if I can tell you how many times I went out and tried to tell these kids, that intersection down there by that gas station, they don't stop.

They just fly right through it. Honestly, I got -- I did get a couple of them, and I did inform their grandparents, not their parents. So I don't know if it got relayed back down. But that's where I ask. So and everyone -- our next meeting, Mrs. Bowen, is the 28th. It'll be -- it'll be two weeks.

MS. BOWEN: Will it be about the garbage?

MR. LOUGHNEY: Whatever you'd like, just come down. I remember you and Ronnie coming down years ago. It's good to see you back. It's actually good to sit here and see a room full of residents. It really is. There's been meetings we've had here that I said before we had one gentleman.

And we would make him get up and say something just so we had a record. But it really is good to see you.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you for recognizing the situation with the scooters and motorbikes. And I understand that you stop these people and you told the grandparents. That's not the way we have to do business though. Isn't there something on the books that way through the police to stop it?

MR. LOUGHNEY: Yes. Yes, there is. And they are -- they are enforcing it when they can get it -- understand, a cop car going against the little scooter isn't the best thing to happen. You get the kids if they're at the convenience store or something. That's where

we got to get them. And I think some have been confiscated already.

CHIEF BARTH: Ma'am, we've had three citations that have been issued just in the last two weeks alone.

MR. LOUGHNEY: And some of the scooters have been confiscated. We're trying to do our best. So again, thank everyone for coming. I appreciate it.

MR. DEMPSEY: Trip.

MR. WOLFF: Please keep it down.

MR. O'MALLEY: I'd like to congratulate Marty Monahan on becoming our new Police Chief. And I want to thank Acting Chief Barth on a job well done running the department for the past six months. We appreciate your service to our community. And we look forward to working with you and Chief Monahan moving forward. And that's all I have.

MR. DEMPSEY: Mrs. Brier.

MS. BRIER: Yeah, I mean, not only has Chief Barth done a tremendous job the last six months, but he's been our captain for as many years as I've been here. And, I mean, he's always been a go-to guy. He goes above

and beyond what's required of him. You know, he does the Night Out.

He does, you know, he does all kinds of things for Dunmore. He's always there for our kids, you know, when they're coming back from sporting events and victories. And, I mean, he's just -- and everybody -- he's the most approachable guy you could ever meet.

And people do approach him. And he always finds a solution for us. So we're super grateful for all your service to this town because, you know, it's really, really not easy. We're excited about Mr. Monahan. And I am very grateful for the other guys who applied for this position.

You know, the Chief -- Chief Barth did not apply the permanent position. But there were a number of other police officers who did who also have, you know, have been giving us sterling service over the years. And I'm grateful to those folks as well and for everybody to come. It does -- we do appreciate when you come. Thank you.

MR. DEMPSEY: Miss Zangardi?

MS. ZANGARDI: I just wanted to

clarify a few things. Anita Einholf is the health inspector. I just wanted to clarify. That's what she was hired to do to be the health inspector for businesses that -- for businesses that have to have, like, restaurants, stores, food stores, so on and so forth.

Mark Burton, the office accountant Treasurer, he mentioned about a bond. The bond was a refinance to bring down the community debt when we took office, and we're almost there. Thank God.

MS. BRIER: When we took office, the debt on the books was 19 million dollars, 19 million dollars. Okay, so there were 13 different loans at that time -- thirteen different loans, all different interest rates. This is when I came into office.

I'm an accountant. I almost had a heart attack. I actually called our outside auditor and said this can't be right. He said it's absolutely right. So I said the first thing we need to do is consolidate this debt. We had 13 different -- and all different interest rates.

So we did put an RFP out to every bank from Hazleton to Honesdale. And we got a response from one bank. And it was -- it was, you know, a loan that would bubble. In other words, like, if we were at 2 percent when it came and, you know, when then the interest rates went way up, we would have had to pay more.

So we went to a bond issue in Philadelphia. And our rate now is 1.868 through 2035 when the bond will be paid off. So it's also a declining balance. So we pay a little bit less every year. But we still pay a fortune. If we did not have that debt, we would have a lot of money.

But we came into this situation where there was tremendous, tremendous debt service. I don't know what prior Councils did or what they bought for that money. I have no idea. All I know is that we had to deal with it.

We've dealt with it. We're on a schedule through 2035. I'll probably be dead by then. But that -- we were very, very responsible. And when PEL came in,

Pennsylvania Economic League came in, they said that was the best thing we ever did was refinancing that debt. Yeah, we're stuck with it.

MS. ZANGARDI: We inherited it. We inherited it. And, you know, thank God Janet is a CPA and guided us. There is a purse bingo for -- to benefit the Senior Center that is going to be in this building -- Chris mentioned it -- on October 4th.

I have tickets if anybody is interested in purchasing tickets. It's a great cause. I wanted to follow up with Marie Killian. I would suggest regarding the scooters because we've all had them. We've all -- I just saw two of them today, teenage boys driving down Warren Street, no helmets.

Call your state legislators. Enforce a law, a helmet law, a no-ride law, sidewalk law. I mean, but I would call Marty Flynn, Kyle Mullins' office. And I would suggest for everybody to do.

I would also -- there's a couple of things we can do, and I would like -- I would have pushed for it. But, you know, we're seven

members, and we're doing the best we can with what we had and what we inherited.

But we're trying, and it's not an easy task for any of us, you know. And that's all I really have. But thank you for coming. I appreciate it.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. Miss Oven?

MS. OVEN: I would like to thank Acting Chief Barth for everything he did. As Janet said, you've served the residents of Dunmore for years and appreciate you getting us through this time. Congratulations to Chief Monahan.

There was a lot of great candidates that applied for the position. I think he's going to be a wonderful chief and a great leader. Thank you to everyone for coming. We do appreciate all your input. We don't, you know, have the answers to everything.

So safety committee, we've talked about that. But as Beth said, we're trying to do the best we can with what we have.

MR. DEMPSEY: Thank you. I go last so I'm not going to repeat everything that everybody said other than, Chief Barth,

tremendous job as always, above and beyond. Thank you for stepping in.

I just -- I also want to congratulate Mr. Monahan on the Chief appointment. He couldn't be here tonight unfortunately because he is out of town on his other job. So we will have some sort of ceremony for him, where, you know, hopefully you know, he'll be in this room or somewhere else where, you know, the public can come and, you know, meet him and get to know him a little bit.

So that's all I have tonight. Other than that, I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. LOUGHNEY: So moved.

MR. DEMPSEY: Second?

MS. ZANGARDI: Second.

MR. DEMPSEY: All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. DEMPSEY: Opposed? Ayes have it and so moved. We're adjourned.

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.

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Maria McCool, RPR
Official Court Reporter

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