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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Monday, December 22, 2014

TIME:

7:00 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 :

MICHAEL MCHALE, President

PAUL NARDOZZI, Vice President

SAL VERRASTRO

TIMOTHY BURKE

CAROL SCRIMALLI

THOMAS HALLINAN

MICHAEL DEMPSEY

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2

3

4

MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings.

5

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

6

MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

7

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

8

MR. BURKE: Present.

9

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

10

MR. VERRASTRO: Present.

11

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

12

MR. DEMPSEY: Present.

13

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

14

MR. HALLINAN: Present.

15

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardoizzi.

16

MR. NARDOZZI: Here.

17

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

18

MR. MCHALE: Here.

19

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number three

20

is public comment on agenda items.

21

MR. MCHALE: Is there any comments

22

on agenda items tonight?

23

(No response.)

24

MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

25

ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number four is

1 a motion to approve the final 2015 budget. The
2 budget was advertised for the 30 day review
3 period. And it was open for inspection at the
4 Borough Building.

5 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that
6 motion, Mr. Chairman.

7 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

8 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
9 second. On the question. Okay. I'll go
10 through on the question. Some of the
11 highlights and if anybody does have any
12 questions we'll remain afterwards.

13 I could give you my e-mail, cell
14 phone or probably call anybody and they'll be
15 able to answer as well. The highlights of what
16 we're going to do tonight to pass the budget
17 that has 44 mills which is a 10 mill reduction
18 from last year.

19 Also included in this budget is the
20 elimination of the \$150 garbage fee. That is
21 being offset obviously by the additional
22 landfill revenue that we negotiated in the
23 agreement several weeks ago. So that on the
24 revenue end that's the large thing.

25 We do have details I think that was

1 left at the door. There is other ones here if
2 anybody would like to take a look at it. Or
3 again, afterwards please ask any questions.
4 I'm not going to sit and bore you by going
5 through line by line of accounting jargon.

6 But on the expense side of things,
7 we do have our union contracts with all four of
8 our unions for the next several years, I
9 believe. Right, Sal?

10 MR. VERRASTRO: I believe three
11 more.

12 MR. MCHALE: Three more. We
13 negotiated over the past two years with all of
14 them. So they are pretty structured. Most of
15 the expenses as you could imagine are payroll
16 expenses. Our debt service expenses are about
17 1.8 million dollars. It's inclusive of
18 interest.

19 That's a large portion of it as
20 well. But obviously between payroll and
21 benefits and pension expense, that takes up
22 large majority of our 10.2 million dollar
23 budget. For -- or well, we'll talk about our
24 TAN in a little bit. So I won't talk about
25 that too much.

1 But our TAN note even though we are
2 putting a TAN note on tonight at an interest
3 rate of 1.64, we are hoping that we may not
4 have to use that. To give you an idea, we did
5 end the year with a cash position. We're going
6 to end the year of with cash position of about
7 half million dollars.

8 So you could imagine where we were
9 in last several years, we've been growing to
10 the point -- it's conservative amounts. It's
11 half a million dollars. It's well north of
12 that. But just in case anything comes up over
13 the next ten days we'll be covering.

14 So what else do we talk about,
15 anything? We do have as has been quoted in the
16 paper a budgeted amount for additional cops.
17 And the comments that come with putting five
18 additional cops on -- we're down about six or
19 seven cops over the last several years. We
20 never filled the positions.

21 So we have been using a lot of part
22 time which are becoming more and more difficult
23 to fill. But we tentatively put five positions
24 on for our police force. That doesn't mean
25 we're going to hire them. We could hire one,

1 two, three based on where we are with our
2 money.

3 To give you an idea of what the
4 reduction of the taxes are, the net increase it
5 was received from the landfill was
6 approximately 1.5 million dollars. It may be a
7 little bit less than what was anticipated. But
8 we are -- this budget is on a cash basis.

9 So for the two months October and
10 November we get paid every quarter. So the
11 fourth quarter of 2014 will be made in January
12 of 2015. So we have two months that we're
13 going to be at the 41 cents. And then we're
14 going to change to the \$1.20 come December 1st.

15 So there's a little bit of lag there
16 that we are still at the lower amount for the
17 two months there on a cash basis. So we'll
18 have 10 months at the \$1.20 this year. And
19 then every year thereafter it will change again
20 based on cash basis.

21 So the 1.5 million dollars that is
22 the net difference -- a little bit more than
23 that is being returned in the 150 and the 10
24 mill reduction takes out the entire amount of
25 the increase that was received on the revenue

1 side on that end.

2 There's been comments that we need
3 to address some of our debt. To give you an
4 idea if you were at the last meeting we talked
5 about a structural -- we had a surplus in that
6 we were projecting. And we are going to have a
7 surplus at the end of this year.

8 I told you our cash position on a
9 conservative end. That will -- what this
10 Council wants to do is use any -- we had
11 planned on doing a modest tax decrease without
12 the landfill revenue. We're going to use that
13 money to invest in our infrastructure.

14 We have firefighters back there who
15 are using some antiquated equipment that we're
16 looking into as we speak. We did put a lot of
17 money on a cash basis into the DPW. Didge over
18 there will tell you that most of his trucks
19 have been replaced and his heavy equipment has
20 been replaced.

21 That's been on a cash basis and our
22 police cars are relatively up-to-date. So
23 investing in our infrastructure and having to
24 pay down debt that's what we're going to use
25 the surplus that we've achieved in the past

1 several years. We're going to keep our nose to
2 the grindstone, keep our expenses in check and,
3 you know, not spend like we have so much money
4 because we don't.

5 We're going to run a tight lean
6 budget and use anything extra to pay down the
7 debt. In the next several years as has been
8 explained a hundred times in the Scranton Times
9 we do have increases coming in the landfill
10 fees and the next Council will be able to
11 adjust accordingly to whatever -- you know,
12 whether it's a further reduction in taxes or
13 reduction in debt or infrastructure whatever
14 the case may be that will be for the next
15 Council to decide. So I think I've spoken
16 enough. Does anybody else want to chime in?

17 MR. VERRASTRO: I think we're also
18 going to roll some of it into a special fund
19 for the -- a landfill account for an inspector
20 and/or if we need an engineer, anything of that
21 sort to double-check anything in the future if
22 need be.

23 MR. MCHALE: Sal is talking about
24 we're going to restrict a portion of the
25 revenue that we are getting from the landfill

1 for anything -- for hiring any professionals to
2 inspect, any testing, so on and so forth every
3 year. We're going to restrict that cash in a
4 separate account for use for that basis.
5 Anybody else?

6 MR. NARDOZZI: I just want to --
7 Mike, my hats off to you for all the hard work
8 you did and the rest of Council. You worked
9 throughout the year and Vito you manage a great
10 staff in the office. But in reference to the
11 budget here, you know, a lot of this is your
12 work and I just want to tell you thank you so
13 much.

14 MR. MCHALE: I appreciate that.
15 Vito deserves a lot of -- he's the one who
16 pulled all this stuff together. I thank you
17 again, Vito, for everything you've done.
18 Anybody else on the question?

19 MR. BURKE: Mike, are we going to
20 do like we were talking about like a penny a
21 ton maybe for the --

22 MR. MCHALE: That's what he was
23 talking about. That's the amount we were
24 talking about a penny a ton.

25 MR. VERRASTRO: You don't trust me?

1 MR. BURKE: No, I didn't hear a
2 penny.

3 MR. MCHALE: That's okay. That's
4 about \$25,000 a year to give you an idea.
5 Anybody else on the question?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
8 second. All those in favor signify by saying
9 aye.

10 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 MR. MCHALE: Opposed.

12 (No response.)

13 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
14 moved.

15 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five is
16 a motion to approve the 2015 tax millage rate
17 by ordinance. The General Obligation will now
18 be 20 mills dropped 10. Debt Service, 19
19 mills; Pension Services, one half of 1 mill;
20 Public Street lighting, 1 mill; Fire Equipment
21 and Training, 2 mills; Firefighter Services, 1
22 mill; Rescue Services, one half of 1 mill
23 totalling 44 mills.

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

1 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

2 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
3 second. On the question?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
6 signify by saying aye.

7 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
11 moved.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is
13 a motion to waive for 2015 the ordained refuse
14 fee.

15 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll make that
16 motion.

17 MR. BURKE: Second.

18 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
19 second. On the question.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
22 signify by saying aye.

23 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

24 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
2 moved.

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven
4 is a motion to approve the 2015 Tax
5 Anticipation Note with FNCB at a rate of 1.64
6 percent. This will be my understanding a draw
7 down similar to a line of credit.

8 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that
9 motion, Mr. Chairman.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Second.

11 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
12 second. On the question.

13 (No response.)

14 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
15 signify by saying aye.

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
20 moved.

21 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number eight
22 is a motion to approve a professional services
23 contract with Martin and Martin to conduct an
24 independent review of the Keystone Sanitary
25 Landfill expansion application.

1 Some months passed you authorized
2 Martin and Martin. But they held off pending
3 certification from DEP that it was a final
4 application -- I'm sorry that is was a complete
5 application. That having been done, they set
6 forth in the agreement those areas where they
7 will concentrate. The documents are very
8 voluminous.

9 Some are redundant and just reprints
10 of everything from the past years. They saw no
11 reason in their professional opinion to
12 scrutinize every page. That would be time and
13 dollar prohibitive.

14 They addressed in the agreement the
15 areas where they will concentrate which I think
16 they glean from, you know, questions posed by
17 the Borough of Dunmore. They are capped out at
18 \$20,000; 10 Throop, 10 Dunmore. It's taken as
19 a combined document because it was getting very
20 difficult to separate out each item where
21 Dunmore would take half and Throop would take
22 half.

23 So we basically combined and we're
24 each in for 10. And it is my understanding
25 that now that the application is deemed

1 complete, we will be eligible for reimbursement
2 from DEP for the review up to \$10,000.

3 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tom. Do I
4 have a motion?

5 MR. VERRASTRO: I'll make a motion.

6 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second it.

7 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
8 second. On the question.

9 MR. VERRASTRO: On the question.
10 Tom, when do we make the first payment to them?
11 Or is there just going to be a final bill?
12 They gave us their hourly wages here.

13 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yeah, it's --

14 MR. VERRASTRO: They are not asking
15 for a deposit or a starting cost?

16 ATTY. CUMMINGS: No. No, we're
17 bound by it. And they just want to go forward
18 and they put themselves in a very tight 30 day
19 window.

20 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else on the
21 question?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
24 signify by saying aye.

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

1 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
4 moved.

5 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number eight
6 and a half is Mr. Duncan for the Neighborhood
7 Watch.

8 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton
9 Street. I just want to ask the Council members
10 and Vito if everybody got their e-mails from
11 the meeting that we had last week. I hope so.
12 I couldn't print any up tonight. My printer,
13 I'm out of black ink.

14 And, Carol, I spoke to you 30
15 seconds before the meeting. If you do get an
16 e-mail account that is working -- I just feel
17 bad about leaving you out of the conversation
18 and sharing the information with you.

19 I did send a copy to the e-mail
20 address I had but if you could get me a new one
21 I'll certainly include you or I'm sure one of
22 the gentlemen will. I just want to go over a
23 couple things. Didge is here tonight.

24 And first off, I just want to thank
25 a few people quickly. First and foremost I

1 want to thank the members of the Dunmore
2 Neighborhood Watch and Dunmore community who
3 have been with us from August of 2013, made all
4 the meetings throughout 2014 and going forward
5 into '15.

6 So I want to thank those people who
7 started out coming to the Neighborhood Watch
8 and they come to Council. And that's what
9 community is all about. So I thank those
10 people first and foremost.

11 Our last meeting I want to -- I want
12 to specifically thank the Councilmen that came.
13 I know you folks had meetings that night. So
14 Sal, Mr. Hallinan, Mr. Dempsey thanks for
15 showing up. Tim Burke for the previous
16 meetings. Tim's been at meeting after meeting.
17 We appreciate that.

18 And after the weekend in New York
19 City with the assassination of two police
20 officers I have to say, Thank God I live in
21 Dunmore. We either have Bill Springer or Rich
22 Barth at every meeting. Tom Richardson never
23 misses a meeting.

24 They put their lives on the line all
25 the time in big towns, small town. I certainly

1 wouldn't want to be a policeman. You know, I
2 bow my head and ask for 30 seconds for the two
3 gentlemen that got ambushed this weekend if we
4 can do that as a group, please.

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(Moment of Silence.)

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MR. DUNCAN: Thank you. I want to
thank the firemen, especially with everything
that happened recently up the street and you
guys too. You're out there trying to save
everybody and anybody. You put your lives on
the lines.

We thank all the first responders.
Neighborhood Watch, I'm speaking for all of us.
We know what you do for us. We know you're out
there. And after this weekend, I can't say
thank you enough.

Some questions, Vito or whomever,
if there is any way we can maybe have Joe
Lorince come back to a meeting. We get
questions about some concerns with property and
things. If I could just put it on the record
formally and if Joe could make our January
meeting is going to be January the 19th, which

1 is the third Monday of the month.

2 So if Joe could free up some time.
3 He doesn't have to spend the whole meeting.
4 I'll let him go first but just to answer some
5 questions from the folks. Didge, I know you're
6 here tonight.

7 One of the complaints that came up
8 from the last storm, Ferguson Court they said
9 that was a sheet of ice. So I know you guys
10 are busy and you're doing your best. I just
11 wanted to bring it your attention. I'm so
12 happy I got to see you tonight.

13 I talked to the people that own
14 Christ The King church. There was concerns at
15 the last meeting the gentleman that was there
16 can back me up on that. They said there was a
17 lot of ice and everything on the sidewalks down
18 there.

19 There's school kids that go through
20 there. There's Country Day Apartments. I
21 spoke to one of the principals involved. They
22 said they're going to look at it. So I hope,
23 you know, hopefully that won't happen again.

24 I don't know if there is a dumpster
25 ordinance in the Borough. But 1215 Clay, one

1 of the people that came to our meeting said
2 there was a dumpster there for about six
3 months, which is -- seems like an ungodly
4 length of time.

5 MR. HALLINAN: Yeah, I asked Joe
6 about that. And he said they are still working
7 on it. When I did go by, they are working on
8 an apartment. It's a home. It's not an
9 apartment. So they are remodeling the whole
10 thing. So it's a working container. It's not
11 like it's just -- it's not abandoned.

12 MR. NARDOZZI: And, Tom, they are
13 dumping it.

14 MR. HALLINAN: Yes, they are dumping
15 it.

16 MR. NARDOZZI: It's not like the
17 trash and whatever else they are throwing in is
18 sitting there forever. It's being emptied.
19 Actually what they do, they're bringing back
20 another container. They haul that one off and
21 bring another one.

22 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. Thanks a lot.
23 And if you'll all just review the minutes of
24 the meeting that I sent you. I'm not going to
25 go through everything. But they were some of

1 the issues that we were concerned about.

2 And then you folks seemed -- one of
3 the other issues from the people from the
4 Neighborhood Watch, they can't always hear.
5 The microphones I'm sure they are working and
6 everything. But that's a concern just in terms
7 of communication.

8 That said, I want to thank everybody
9 for your support from the beginning. Merry
10 Christmas to everybody. Happy New Year to
11 everybody. And thanks to the police and fire
12 for everything you guys do for us.

13 MR. NARDOZZI: Thanks, Gary.

14 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Gary.

15 MR. DUNCAN: January 19th is our
16 next meeting so everybody is welcome.

17 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number nine is
18 public comment on non agenda items.

19 MR. MCHALE: Anybody like to speak
20 tonight?

21 MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson
22 Avenue. I missed the first part. But have we
23 received the signed landfill agreement?

24 MR. MCHALE: We did.

25 MR. CLARK: Have we issued the --

1 has the Borough issued the zoning opinion
2 letter?

3 MR. MCHALE: I spoke to Joe on
4 Saturday. He was formalizing it. He has up to
5 90 days to do so. Vito, do you know if he's
6 formally given it?

7 MR. RUGGIERO: It was supposed to be
8 by close of business today. So I'll find out
9 first thing in the morning.

10 MR. CLARK: Was there any -- did we
11 get any feedback from the landfill on a 30 day
12 window of signing a piece of paper -- the
13 contract itself -- why it took so long?

14 MR. MCHALE: No.

15 MR. CLARK: Was it ever tied to
16 the opinion of the zoning letter?

17 MR. MCHALE: No.

18 MR. CLARK: Formally or informally?

19 MR. MCHALE: No.

20 MR. CLARK: If the opinion of Martin
21 and Martin goes over that amount, is there a
22 contingency plan in place for that?

23 MR. MCHALE: We'll pay it.

24 MR. CLARK: So we have -- I wasn't
25 clear on Attorney Cummings. It's up to 20,000

1 for the initial contract we're splitting with
2 Throop 10 and 10.

3 MR. MCHALE: It's 10 and 10 because
4 that is what DEP will allow us to be refunded.
5 So although Martin and Martin didn't believe it
6 would be much more than that if at all, we made
7 a commitment that we'll pay. We'll pay our --
8 definitely our share.

9 MR. CLARK: So DEP will refund each
10 borough --

11 MR. MCHALE: Up to 10.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: May refund subject
13 to their review.

14 MR. CLARK: And it's up to DEP
15 subject to their review.

16 ATTY. CUMMINGS: But at a prior
17 meeting, Dunmore Council already authorized the
18 10 regardless of reimbursement. So that's
19 already comitted. Then we'll attempt to get
20 the reimbursement. That's why this document is
21 dated subsequent to the determination complete.
22 That's when it kicked in where we would be
23 eligible.

24 MR. CLARK: Okay. And, I'm sorry,
25 the zoning opinion we should hopefully have it.

1 MR. RUGGIERO: I should have it by
2 tomorrow morning. From what I understand by
3 close of business today Mr. Lorince was going
4 to issue his opinion.

5 MR. MCHALE: I'll e-mail it to you,
6 Pat.

7 MR. CLARK: All right. Thank you.

8 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else tonight?
9 Please.

10 MS. NARO: Melanie Naro, Drinker
11 Street, Dunmore. I want to applaud Council for
12 the budget. I expected this room to be filled.
13 I don't know if you did. You had a 10 million
14 plus budget. And there was no comment on it.

15 This room has been filled the last
16 couple times I've been here. I don't think
17 this town is a one issue town. But I'm really
18 concerned that people aren't concerned about
19 our budget. And you guys -- seven people are
20 in charge of 10 million dollars.

21 And I applaud you for what you do.
22 The last meeting I was at, you guys got
23 attacked. And so I've said it before when I
24 was here. Thank you for your public service.
25 It's not an easy job.

1 I am sure when you're shopping, when
2 you're out to eat that people attack you good
3 and bad. Thank you for things that you do well
4 and attack you for things that they don't agree
5 with.

6 So I for one on this holiday season,
7 I thank God that we have seven of you who are
8 committed to Dunmore. And I hope in January
9 you have more people at your meeting.
10 Sometimes -- I mean, I used to think when
11 people didn't come to our meetings it means
12 that we were doing a good job and people were
13 happy.

14 So I'm going to say that to you I
15 guess people are happy. So have a blessed
16 holiday.

17 MR. NARDOZZI: Thank you, Mel.

18 MS. SCRIMALLI: You too.

19 MR. MCHALE: Thank you. Anybody
20 else tonight?

21 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Comment from public
22 officials.

23 MR. MCHALE: Vito, do you have
24 anything further?

25 MR. RUGGIERO: No.

1 MR. MCHALE: Didge.

2 MR. JUDGE: No.

3 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

4 MR. KEARNEY: No.

5 MR. MCHALE: Tom.

6 ATTY. CUMMINGS: No, sir.

7 MR. MCHALE: Attorney Dempsey, do
8 you want to lead us off tonight?

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Sure. Very shortly I
10 just want to thank you, Mike and Vito. You
11 guys do all the heavy lifting with the budget.
12 You guys do a terrific job. Mike, since you've
13 been here -- I've only been on Council the last
14 year.

15 But since you've been here -- and I
16 don't want to take anything else away from any
17 other Council members. But you do the heavy
18 lifting with the budget. And you take a lot of
19 crap for that, not deservedly so.

20 So you are an unbelievable asset to
21 this Borough. And if they lose you next year,
22 you know, we might be in a little bit of
23 trouble. But thank you on that. And also I
24 just want to wish everybody here a Merry
25 Christmas. Melanie, thank you for your kind

1 words. I do appreciate it. And our
2 firefighters back there, I don't know if you
3 were here last meeting where we thanked you
4 guys. But you guys put your life on the line
5 every day and especially in that terrible
6 accident. So thank you very much for that.
7 And that's all I have tonight.

8 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Michael.
9 Mr. Hallinan.

10 MR. HALLINAN: Mike, again, I've
11 said it from day one since I've been elected.
12 You're amazing with the numbers. And I don't
13 mean to over -- you know, blow your head up;
14 but you did a great job of saving this town and
15 pulling it up out of, you know, it was in dire
16 straits there.

17 And again, I appreciate it. And I
18 want to say it on the record. And I'm sure the
19 towns people really -- when they know and they
20 sit down seriously they'll know what a good job
21 you've done. Again, thank you again. To our
22 firemen, our policemen, what happened in New
23 York, I mean, everybody's got to realize every
24 day you go to work and you don't know whether
25 you're coming home.

1 And what can I say to, like, thank
2 you. It's the only words I have. I really
3 appreciate what you guys do. Our DPW guys,
4 they do a phenomenal job. You don't know how
5 many times we've talked about the budget, I get
6 threatened on the street. Don't you touch our
7 DPW. So they are doing a great job.

8 But for you guys that put your lives
9 on the line, like I said, you know, 911
10 everybody was running away and you guys were
11 the only ones running in you and the police.
12 And we saw what happened in New York today.
13 That was really sad.

14 I'm happy for the 10 mills. I'm
15 glad that the refuse fee is done. I'm happy
16 that the Bucks -- I wish they won. And I wish
17 everybody a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.
18 Thank you for your service, gentlemen.

19 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tom. Paul.

20 MR. NARDOZZI: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman. First, I'd like to wish everybody
22 here and everyone in town Merry Christmas.
23 Second of all, I reiterate what Tom said. It
24 was a dream season we had this year with the
25 Dunmore Bucks. I just want to take my hats off

1 to Coach Henzes, the staff, all the players.
2 Hopefully sometime in January, Mr. President,
3 we can do some kind of presentation for the
4 team and the band and the cheerleaders.

5 They were -- I'm going to tell you,
6 I don't really watch much band or crimsonettes.
7 But ours were one of the best. I did watch
8 them this year. They were excellent. So right
9 from top to bottom, everybody did a great job.

10 No one -- we all appreciate the job
11 our police, DPW and particular the firemen do.
12 Smith Street incident was really big. You
13 guys, thank you very much for your response and
14 the job you did up there was phenomenal.

15 But on that point, I know Sal --
16 Mr. Verrastro and myself, we've been approached
17 by residents in the area that are looking to
18 have a sit-down meeting maybe sometime after
19 the holidays, Mr. Chairman. I spoke to you
20 briefly today about it.

21 We can get the utilities -- a
22 representative of the utilities, us on Council,
23 you know, our public safety, fire, and police
24 department to have some kind of a town meeting
25 with them. They are scared.

1 I know our fire department has been
2 going up there since that incident a few times
3 just on the smell of gas. Thank God nothing
4 has occurred. But people up there are having
5 a hard time sleeping. And I think it would
6 behoove us to -- Joe Talutto used to say that.
7 It would behoove us.

8 It would behoove us to have a
9 meeting for them with the utilities, maybe put
10 their minds at ease. In reference to the
11 budget, Mike, I'll just reiterate again.
12 You've have done a phenomenal job.

13 Another point that has not been
14 brought out besides the fact that we are
15 lowering the mills -- 10 mills which is
16 substantial and doing away with the trash fee,
17 we have paid off our TAN the last four years in
18 a row in April.

19 And that is unheard of. This town
20 in particular, we were lucky if we paid it off
21 in December sometimes, even carried it into the
22 next year. But the last four years with Mike's
23 guidance -- and he is a numbers man. We paid
24 the TAN off in April every year.

25 And hopefully we will not need the

1 money that comes from this year's TAN. So my
2 hats off to you again and everybody on Council
3 for their hard work and our staff like I said
4 before. And again, one last time Merry
5 Christmas to everybody. Thank you.

6 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Paul.

7 Mrs. Scrimalli.

8 MS. SCRIMALLI: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. I would like to thank Mike McHale
10 for his very hard work on the budget as well as
11 Vito and the rest of this Council. Mike, you
12 have worked so hard. I just can't say thank
13 you enough.

14 Everyone I speak with are amazed at
15 the abilities that you have and everyone else
16 also working together as a team for this
17 Council. So thank you again. And also the
18 firemen and the police, I just want to say
19 thank you so much for your hard work.

20 I wish you a very Merry Christmas, a
21 safe and healthy Christmas and Happy New Year
22 and a blessed New Year. I also wanted to
23 mention that we lost quite a few wonderful,
24 wonderful people in these past couple weeks,
25 including Paul Straskulich, Thomas Voytek, Joe

1 Pinto, Billy Gallagher, and, of course,
2 Mrs. Mecca. So just to bow our heads for just
3 a few seconds and just thank God that, you
4 know, they were able to have wonderful lives in
5 this town, good town but yet we're going to
6 miss them terribly.

7
8 (Moment of Silence.)

9
10 MS. SCRIMALLI: And that's it's. I
11 just want to wish you all a Merry Christmas.
12 And thank you all for coming. Melanie, thank
13 you for your very kind words. Merry Christmas
14 and Happy New Year to you too.

15 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

16 MR. BURKE: Yes, I'd like to thank
17 you again, Mike, every year with the budget,
18 unbelievable. Vito, thanks for your work on
19 budget too, buddy. All the departments did a
20 great job, fire, police, DPW, especially the
21 accident up Smith Street there.

22 And I'd just like to wish everybody
23 else a Merry Christmas. And thank you, Gary,
24 too for your hard work with the Neighborhood
25 Crime Watch. I know you put a lot time in

1 there. And it's been very valuable to the
2 people of Dunmore. I appreciate that. And
3 thank you for coming out, everybody. Merry
4 Christmas to all. That's it, Mike.

5 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Verrastro.

6 MR. VERRASTRO: Thank you. First
7 again, Mike, I want to echo everybody with the
8 budget. I appreciate all that you've done with
9 it. You do -- we bark orders out and you put
10 them in a piece of paper try to make the
11 numbers work. And I appreciate that. Thank
12 you very much.

13 I know sometimes I can be testy when
14 I'm barking them out to you. But it's not in
15 any, you know, there's no disappointment in it.
16 Also I want to wish everybody here a happy
17 holiday -- all their holidays. I hope they're
18 safe. Again I want to thank all the
19 departments.

20 We had another good year. You know,
21 thankfully everything worked out. Hopefully it
22 will work out in the future. Our budgets have
23 been coming up very good. A lot of it is
24 because of the way we've been trying to work
25 with each other.

1 We just can't spend money we don't
2 have. And we've been working with that and we
3 appreciate that. To give some people an idea
4 if they are wondering what 10 mills does, I
5 didn't -- I unfortunately forgot to write down
6 what the assessment is.

7 But if you're in the Borough of
8 Dunmore right now and your taxes came in this
9 year and your taxes were approximately \$800.
10 You were paying just your Borough tax. Your
11 Borough was \$800, that's probably a little bit
12 more than the average person is paying. But it
13 is very close.

14 At \$800 between your garbage tax and
15 the 10 mills, you are looking at approximately
16 \$300 less you are going to pay this year in
17 taxes. Approximately 150 on the 10 mills, plus
18 the \$150 garbage fee.

19 And we're still keeping the Borough
20 structurally. The infrastructure itself we're
21 going to be moving on it so it doesn't fall
22 apart. We want to try to maintain it the best
23 we can and improve it because I think Dunmore
24 is a great town.

25 I think we get, you know, people are

1 jealous of that. That's why we get so much
2 negative publicity when a big issue comes up.
3 That's just my opinion on it.

4 I don't know of too many people that
5 leave this town and say they're leaving because
6 they hate this town. They are leaving because
7 they have to go someplace else for either job
8 reasons or school or something of that nature
9 and they don't come back because they found a
10 job somewhere else, which is unfortunate.

11 But I don't know of anybody that
12 leaves this town because they don't like
13 something that is going on here. We're one of
14 the few towns that have a paid fire department
15 and it's a very good one. Our police
16 department is one of the biggest in the area.

17 I think Scranton is the only one
18 that is actually bigger than ours right now.
19 That's a lot of weight to put on the shoulders
20 of people that are figuring out a budget. So
21 we do what we have to do to make those things
22 work.

23 But it's for everybody's safety in
24 this town. So I want to thank everybody for
25 your cooperation with it. And I want to thank

1 everybody on Council also because even -- we
2 don't always agree on things. We always come
3 up with a solution so it's not a personal
4 thing.

5 MR. NARDOZZI: Sal -- Mr.
6 Chairman --

7 MR. VERRASTRO: Are you going to
8 knock me down to five minutes tonight, Paul?

9 MR. NARDOZZI: Six. Just on your
10 one point about it being a great town. I don't
11 know if anybody saw after the championship game
12 last week, Timmy Drewes was interviewed on TV.
13 And his comment on TV was, "If you're thinking
14 of moving, move to Dunmore. It's a great
15 town." So I thought it was the quote of the
16 year.

17 MR. VERRASTRO: I thought you were
18 going to chop me.

19 MR. NARDOZZI: No.

20 MR. VERRASTRO: I won't take up any
21 more time tonight. Again, thank you everybody
22 on Council. Thank you, Tom, Vito, Didge I
23 probably forget to mention you. You do a lot
24 of running around to put out the fires that
25 aren't real fires that are nuisance things and

1 we appreciate that. So thank you very much.
2 Have a good year everybody.

3 MR. MCHALE: Thank you,
4 Mr. Verrastro. Just to briefly, I appreciate
5 all the kind words. These guys and the
6 predecessors before have worked very, very
7 hard. And I get a lot of accolades because I
8 put the stuff together. But everybody has
9 ideas and everybody works very, very hard.

10 Although I thank the kind words, it
11 really should go to everybody here. But again
12 thank you. To the guy sitting in the back, you
13 weren't at the last meeting. But we did have
14 some very good comments for you guys and what
15 you guys have done.

16 The Smith Street fire as I said last
17 meeting kind of puts it into perspective what
18 you guys do every day -- you and the police.
19 And as I said the last meeting, without you
20 guys and whatever shift was getting there first
21 and getting people out of those houses like you
22 did, there would be a lot more people who
23 passed away.

24 So you put your lives on the line
25 for others and I can't thank you enough for

1 that. When anybody ever says anything about a
2 paid fire department when you're there in less
3 than a minute most times, to me it pays for
4 itself 10 times over. So I thank you
5 personally.

6 DPW too, Didge, any time I call you,
7 10 minutes later it's taken care of. And
8 even up on the Smith Street fire, you were on
9 vacation and you came in to take care of this.
10 And again, a guy who is dedicated as you is
11 hard to find. So I thank you and your members.

12 A lot of the stuff that you see that
13 the accolades that we got tonight over how
14 things are has to do with a lot of our union
15 members. When we were in trouble, we did sit
16 down with these guys and they came to the table
17 and understood. So we thank you. We really
18 do.

19 On a totally side note, there is not
20 a lot of people here. But in my other
21 full-time job other than Council, just to keep
22 an eye on there's a scam going on there with
23 the IRS. If you get a -- ever get a phone call
24 from the IRS, it's not the IRS. The IRS
25 doesn't make phone calls.

1 A friend of mine -- my mother
2 actually got it recently too. So it's a scam
3 going on. They are saying they are going to
4 sell your house. They're going to lien your
5 house. The IRS doesn't do that. They'll send
6 you notice and so on and so forth.

7 Please be cognizant of that and pass
8 that along. It's going rampant. I have at
9 least 30 clients who had this happen to them
10 over the last couple months. So -- and that's
11 it. So I'd like to again reiterate what
12 everybody said. Merry Christmas to everybody,
13 happy holidays and we'll see you next year.
14 I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

15 MR. NARDOZZI: Motion.

16 MR. VERRASTRO: Second.

17 MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and
4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
5 notes taken by me of the above-cause and that this copy
6 is a correct transcript of the same to the best of my
7 ability.

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