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COUNCIL FOR THE BOROUGH OF DUNMORE

HELD:

Thursday, December 8, 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

PATRICK LOUGHNEY, MAYOR

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS, Esquire, Solicitor

MARIA McCOOL, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

2
3
4 MR. NARDOZZI: Can you please remain
5 standing for a moment of silence for Mrs.
6 Madlyn Mecca who lost her life tragically last
7 week in that house explosion.

8
9 (Moment of Silence.)

10
11 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Cummings.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mrs. Scrimalli.

13 MS. SCRIMALLI: Present.

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Burke.

15 MR. BURKE: Present.

16 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Verrastro.

17 MR. VERRASTRO: Present.

18 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Dempsey.

19 MR. DEMPSEY: Present.

20 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Hallinan.

21 MR. HALLINAN: Present.

22 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Nardozzi.

23 MR. NARDOZZI: Here.

24 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. McHale.

25 MR. MCHALE: Here.

1 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number three
2 is public comment on agenda items.

3 MR. MCHALE: Does anybody have any
4 comments tonight on agenda items?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none.

7 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number four is
8 a motion to approve the minutes.

9 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll make that
10 motion.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I'll second.

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

14 (No response.)

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

17 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

18 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

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

22 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number five is
23 a motion to approve and pay the open bills.

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

1 MS. SCRIMALLI: I'll second that.

2 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
3 second. On the question. All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

6 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
9 moved.

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number six is
11 a motion on personnel matters to promote
12 firefighter Todd Flaherty to the position of
13 full-time status.

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

16 MR. DEMPSEY: I'll second it.

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

19 MR. VERRASTRO: Yeah, just so that
20 everybody is aware that in the middle of the
21 year we made part-time firefighter Flaherty an
22 active reservist. We worked with the union.
23 We have a minimum Manning Clause of 15 men they
24 say on the floor per their union. It's in
25 their contract.

1 We're at 14 and one active
2 reservist. They allowed us to use him as an
3 active reservist to finish out the year, kind
4 of -- just so when we started this year out we
5 weren't going to have to worry about prorating
6 stuff, things like that. And it was a little
7 cheaper for us because we didn't have to start
8 paying into his pension yet.

9 But technically he's supposed to be
10 a full-time fireman, not an active reservist.
11 So -- and I would like to thank the union for
12 working with us and doing that. And it's --
13 part of the agreement is we would make sure it
14 was done by the end of the year.

15 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else on the
16 question?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
19 signify by saying aye.

20 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. MCHALE: The ayes have it and so
24 moved.

25 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Item number seven

1 is a motion to approve the Pennsylvania
2 Department of Transportation Project that will
3 add an additional lane to 1-81 North off-ramp
4 onto Drinker Street for right and left turns.

5 In addition, the plan will add or
6 improve crosswalks and a traffic signal at this
7 intersection to help alleviate some of the
8 congestion of vehicles coming off of 1-81.

9 Included in this project will be a
10 slight realignment of Meade Street to better
11 suit traffic flow coming on and off of Drinker
12 Street.

13 MR. HALLINAN: I'll make that
14 motion, Mr. Cummings.

15 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll second it.

16 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
17 second. On the question.

18 MR. HALLINAN: On the question, I
19 would like to just say I worked with PennDOT
20 and this -- I think this is a big safety
21 improvement for that area. If anybody knows
22 coming off I-81 northbound, get-off ramp coming
23 into Dunmore how frustrating it is to wait your
24 turn to go left and everybody comes up the
25 right and passes you and turns around in

1 Mr. Ehnnot's yard.

2 It's a tragic -- it's a really bad
3 area. And Mr. Burke also a neighbor there
4 complained about how his vehicle has been hit
5 several times during the last few years. So I
6 think this is nothing but an improvement for
7 that area and for I-81 and for the citizens of
8 Dunmore.

9 MR. VERRASTRO: I agree with you,
10 Hal. And I believe something needs to be done.
11 And I personally think that being that it's a
12 state road that they should either reimburse us
13 later on when the warranty runs out or just pay
14 for the upkeep of the sign -- the signal.
15 That's my concern about it.

16 That's the only reason why I don't
17 want it is just for the expense of it, not the
18 monthly expense of the electric bill but the
19 maintenance expense. That's my only -- and I
20 had -- I actually talked to Mr. Valvano here
21 tonight about it. Hopefully he'll be able to
22 work something with that.

23 MR. MCHALE: Quickly, I just add
24 what Sal said. I agree with Sal
25 wholeheartedly. For clarity purposes, the

1 contract that -- the work that's going to be
2 done on both ends of the bridge more or less is
3 going to be paid by PennDOT. What Sal is
4 talking about is the upkeep which I'm not happy
5 about either.

6 I think everybody now knows that all
7 of the O'Neill Highway will be redone as well
8 and a lot of that maintenance is going to fall
9 on us in future years which I really don't
10 understand. But it is state policy. They do
11 it everywhere, not just Dunmore.

12 So I struggle with this as well.
13 This is something that's been on our plate for
14 about a year. But I do think we need to move
15 forward because I have seen some horrific
16 accidents up there. I do think it's a death
17 trap that PennDOT believes this will take care
18 of it and I'm going to support it tonight.
19 Anybody else on the question?

20 MR. BURKE: Yeah, just for the
21 safety reasons I agree with you on that, Mike,
22 it's very dangerous there pulling out of there.
23 And that's why I'll agree with it. And I do
24 worry about Sal's concern too, but safetywise
25 I have to agree.

1 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. MCHALE: All those in favor
4 signify by saying aye.

5 MS. SCRIMALLI: Aye.

6 MR. BURKE: Aye.

7 MR. NARDOZZI: Aye.

8 MR. HALLINAN: Aye.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: Aye.

10 MR. MCHALE: Opposed?

11 MR. VERRASTRO: Aye.

12 MR. MCHALE: I vote aye as well.

13 Tommy, 6-1.

14 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Thank you. Mr.
15 Hetman from Lackawanna County is running late.
16 So he has asked for me to inform you that the
17 Adopt An Angel Program which provides Christmas
18 gifts for children in the care of Lackawanna
19 County Office of Children and Family Services
20 is seeking sponsors for the 2014 season.

21 Individuals, families, community
22 groups, and businesses can sponsor one or more
23 children in need. The office asks that one
24 hundred dollars be spent per child for gifts.
25 In 2013 the program allowed more than 700

1 children in the care of Lackawanna County
2 Office of Youth and Family Services to receive
3 Christmas gifts.

4 Anyone wishing to sponsor a child
5 can contact Lee Dougherty by calling 947-5519
6 or by e-mail. And I'll have that after the
7 meeting if anyone is interested and we can put
8 it on the Borough site tomorrow if you so
9 direct.

10 The other item is the Lackawanna
11 County Emergency Services has recently
12 installed a NextGen call handling system
13 upgrade. Most of the upgrade is technical
14 behind the scenes allowing calls to be
15 processed in a quicker and more efficient
16 fashion.

17 One large improvement is that users
18 can now reach 911 via text messaging on the
19 Lackawanna County system. To reach 911 in an
20 emergency users simply need to text 911 and
21 details of the emergency. Texts will be
22 received by the dispatchers of 911 and they
23 will act appropriately and accordingly.

24 I note that Mr. Valvano from Mr.
25 Farina's office is here. Do you have anything

1 this evening?

2 MR. VALVANO: Yes, Representative
3 Farina would like to thank the Borough,
4 Borough officials for a smooth transition. The
5 office is up and running. And we really
6 appreciate all your efforts. And he also would
7 like to invite all the Borough officials on
8 December 19th at 6:00 for an open house.

9 MR. MCHALE: Thank you.

10 MR. VERRASTRO: What time?

11 MR. VALVANO: Six.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Mr. Duncan,
13 anything on Neighborhood Watch before we
14 commence with public comment?

15 MR. DUNCAN: Gary Duncan, 117 Barton
16 Street, Dunmore. Just briefly on the Dunmore
17 Watch, did everybody get the e-mails? I sent
18 everybody an e-mail -- a copy. But I know,
19 Hal, you were nice enough to e-mail me back.
20 Did anybody not get a copy? All right. I have
21 extras.

22 MR. NARDOZZI: I didn't get it.

23 MR. DUNCAN: Paul, you didn't
24 either?

25 MR. VERRASTRO: I don't think I did.

1 MR. DUNCAN: I thought I sent it out
2 to everybody.

3 MR. VERRASTRO: When did you send
4 it?

5 MR. DUNCAN: 11/18.

6 MR. VERRASTRO: Then I might have.

7 MR. DUNCAN: They are buried
8 somewhere in your account. Who did not get one
9 on Council?

10 MR. VERRASTRO: I may have gotten
11 it.

12 MR. DUNCAN: Check your e-mail
13 account. Do me a favor if you did get it, can
14 you just send me an e-mail back that you at
15 least receive it? Otherwise -- or if you
16 updated or changed your e-mail accounts if
17 there is different ones than I previously had
18 so we're able to still get them to you.

19 MR. NARDOZZI: The one you sent me
20 might have went into Spam that deletes after a
21 day.

22 MR. DUNCAN: After the meeting can
23 you just verify the right e-mail?

24 MR. NARDOZZI: Absolutely.

25 MR. DUNCAN: After the meeting. I

1 don't want to leave anybody out. I know Vito
2 is over there in the corner. You and I will
3 talk tomorrow if we don't get inundated with
4 other things. But get in touch with me and
5 we'll both do these together.

6 The next Dunmore Neighborhood Watch
7 Meeting ironically is a week today 7 p.m., you
8 know, the same thing as always. Everybody is
9 more than welcome to come. Mayor Loughney is
10 here tonight. So it would be great if you want
11 to join us. We certainly welcome having you
12 then.

13 And I have one other question from
14 the last meeting and I know I spoke to
15 President McHale, the budget from the last
16 meeting, Mike, are we going to talk about that
17 tonight?

18 MR. MCHALE: Tonight?

19 MR. DUNCAN: Yeah.

20 MR. MCHALE: No. Next meeting we're
21 going to vote on the budget. Council is still
22 working on several items, health insurance
23 being the most major of those open items.

24 MR. DUNCAN: Okay. All right.

25 That's it for me. Thanks everybody. I hope I

1 see you all next Monday night at 7:00 right
2 here in this room.

3 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Next on the agenda
4 is a presentation from Friends of the
5 Forgotten.

6 MS. FAATZ: The Friends of the
7 Forgotten are planning to erect a memorial for
8 the Korean War veterans. We noticed that
9 Lackawanna County has no memorial for the
10 Korean Vets. We asked permission to Dunmore
11 Borough about two years ago. We wrote a letter
12 to Mayor Loughney.

13 But we need permission from Dunmore
14 Council to erect this memorial. We plan on
15 erecting it at the tank in Dunmore on the
16 right-hand side. We spoke with Mr. Arnone who
17 is very much in favor of it. We spent many
18 hours refurbishing the tank in preparation for
19 the memorial. We plan on -- I can't talk in
20 front of people, I'm sorry.

21 MR. NARDOZZI: You're all right.

22 MS. SCRIMALLI: You're doing a great
23 job.

24 MS. FAATZ: We want to also replace
25 the lighting system. We want to place it

1 in-ground instead of up because of traffic
2 situation because when traffic is coming
3 towards that area towards Wheeler Avenue and
4 Blakely Street with the lights, we want to put
5 the lighting underground.

6 In future time we would also like to
7 replace the flagpoles. We would like to put
8 more flagpoles up to represent the six armed
9 forces. The sixth one will be the Merchant
10 Marines. And we would be willing to keep it
11 up. And we ask Dunmore Borough to approve this
12 project for us. And that's it. Do you want to
13 know the dimensions and all of that?

14 MR. NARDOZZI: What were you
15 planning on putting up, Dee?

16 MS. FAATZ: The memorial would
17 include 2 and a half foot by 4 and a half foot
18 by 8 inches granite base upon which a 2 foot by
19 4 foot by 12 foot tall black granite structure
20 capped with a 2 and a half foot by 4 and a half
21 foot by 6 inch -- sandblasted to white granite
22 black.

23 The top of the structure would be a
24 US soldier made of bronze. The soldier would
25 have a green patina and stand approximately 30

1 inches tall. So it would stand approximately
2 7 feet tall.

3 Our organization has already
4 obtained Steve Colley who is an artist in
5 residence at Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock
6 and he's also in residence at Marywood
7 University. And he is the sculpture.

8 He is doing all of his work at
9 Marywood University. He's doing the
10 sculpturing. He's doing everything at the
11 University. And we obtained Parise Monuments
12 in Carbondale who is doing the base for the
13 memorial.

14 Parise Monument has asked if Dunmore
15 would possibly do the base for us -- the
16 foundation for us. If Dunmore would approve
17 that, it would save us a thousand dollars. So
18 all we need is approval from Dunmore and we can
19 begin our donation process.

20 We can't do anything unless we have
21 your approval. So we ask that we get your
22 approval tonight.

23 MR. MCHALE: Tom?

24 ATTY. CUMMINGS: I would suggest --
25 And I'm a hundred percent in favor but I would

1 suggest that you get a sketch drawing and a
2 written description that we can reply on and
3 carry into the future. And I suggest that you
4 have the engineer review it with regard to the
5 property, the metes and bounds of the property
6 and the line-of-sight triangle so that the
7 Friends of the Forgotten and the Borough of
8 Dunmore are not held liable for anything that
9 happens.

10 MR. MCHALE: Would it put you out if
11 we did this in two weeks at our next meeting if
12 we approved it at the next meeting? Would that
13 be okay? I think we're all in favor. I could
14 tell you if -- I'll secure a thousand dollars
15 worth of donations for your base.

16 MS. FAATZ: Okay.

17 MR. MCHALE: So but the approval by
18 Council if we can get those things just to make
19 sure that we're okay and we'll approve it at
20 the next meeting?

21 MS. FAATZ: Okay. What do you need
22 now?

23 MR. MCHALE: Tommy, what exactly do
24 you want?

25 ATTY. CUMMINGS: A sketch and then a

1 written description as you said it this
2 evening.

3 MS. VERRASTRO: We need the specs
4 for it.

5 MR. MCHALE: Just like a rough
6 drawing --

7 ATTY. CUMMINGS: So we know where
8 you want to put it.

9 MS. FAATZ: Well, the specs is in
10 the letter that we sent to Mayor Loughney.

11 MAYOR LOUGHNEY: I have the letter
12 here. They are looking for a schematic drawing
13 of it.

14 MS. FAATZ: Okay. The only drawing
15 I have is of the soldier. I could call Parise
16 Monuments and have him draw --

17 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Do you have an idea
18 where you want to put it on the site?

19 MS. FAATZ: It would be on the right
20 side of the tank.

21 MR. HALLINAN: On the La Cucina
22 side.

23 MS. FAATZ: We're going to move the
24 one that's there on the left side. And we plan
25 on putting the memorial on the right side.

1 MR. FAATZ: All the names would be
2 on it. Everyone that had passed away from
3 Korea.

4 MS. FAATZ: There is 57 casualties
5 from the Korean War. We're going to have three
6 sides of granite on the base which will list
7 the names of all the Korean Vets that died in
8 the Korean Casualty.

9 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Perhaps contact the
10 Code Office and that way they could define the
11 clear line-of-sight triangle at the
12 intersection so you could put it in the right
13 place.

14 MR. VERRASTRO: I'm sorry, could you
15 go up there for a minute so --

16 MS. FAATZ: He knows more --

17 MR. VERRASTRO: Ed, you have to say
18 your name for the record for us, please.

19 MR. FAATZ: Ed Faatz, F-A-A-T-Z.
20 I'm the President of the Friends of The
21 Forgotten.

22 MR. VERRASTRO: What we're looking
23 for if you could call the monument people that
24 are doing it for you I'm sure they are familiar
25 with the process. Ask them to give us the

1 size and the weight of the structure so that we
2 can give it to our Code Office to make sure
3 that it's not going to affect the line-of-sight
4 for anybody coming up to try to get -- stuff
5 like that.

6 And the only other thing is, we're
7 going to need a placement because there is
8 underground there. I know for a fact because I
9 installed it. When we did the tank I donated
10 all of that. So there is pipes under there.

11 And I have an idea and a memory
12 where they are. I could lay those out for you
13 because if you are going to dig a hole 4 feet,
14 you're going to hit them. There is actually --
15 the black top is underneath that stone that is
16 there.

17 This isn't going to be on the public
18 utility side, all of those wires you're saying
19 you're going to -- there is already underground
20 there. I don't know what they did 20 years --

21 MR. FAATZ: We want to upgrade the
22 electrical to current standards. If it was
23 done two years ago, things change. We want to
24 upgrade the electrical. Like Dee said,
25 everything will be underground so it's not

1 blinding the drivers coming through.

2 And we can get better lighting on
3 the flags and the tank and the memorial that
4 way. Another possibility we have contact with
5 someone who could provide a surface like an
6 artificial surface like astro turf, something
7 like that so it's safer to walk on than the
8 rocks that are presently there.

9 So we want to take care of that.
10 The granite has already been ordered from
11 India. There is only two places in the world
12 where you could get the black granite. So we
13 ordered that from India rather than from China.

14 It's the same granite that is used down
15 at the Vietnam Memorial at Washington, DC.
16 Parise Monuments has countless structures
17 throughout the nation. They're fabulous. And
18 they will provide a site map and all of that,
19 everything you need for it.

20 We're just hoping we can get, you
21 know, at least a tentative approval so we can
22 start the fundraising because it's going to
23 take a while to raise the money for it. And we
24 would like to dedicate this the Saturday after
25 Memorial Day, 2015.

1 It's not going to be as heavy as
2 people might think because rather than have one
3 solid piece of black granite, there will be
4 four walls that will be epoxied together. The
5 face as you first look at it will have the main
6 name plate, Korean Memorial for Lackawanna
7 County.

8 And then the 57 names are going to
9 be etched on the other three sides. They will
10 be etched similar to the Vietnam Memorial in
11 that you could take a paper and charcoal and
12 get a rubbing off it of a name if somebody
13 wants to.

14 We also plan to advertise throughout
15 the media for any names that people have that
16 maybe we don't have on our list. We don't want
17 to miss anybody. But we're going to leave
18 space. In case a name is missed, we can add it
19 the future.

20 We tried to get everything done.
21 But, you know, time is of the essence right
22 now.

23 MR. VERRASTRO: Mr. Chairman, may I?

24 MR. MCHALE: Please.

25 MR. VERRASTRO: I'd like to make a

1 motion tentatively that we -- we're going to
2 allow the monument to be placed contingent upon
3 Council's okay for the actual placement of the
4 monument.

5 MR. NARDOZZI: I'll second it.

6 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion --

7 MR. VERRASTRO: Is that worded
8 properly, Tom?

9 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.

10 MR. MCHALE: Tom, I have a motion
11 and a second. I have to open it up to public
12 comment?

13 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.

14 MR. MCHALE: Would anybody like to
15 comment on this?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none, I could
18 move forward with the vote, Tom?

19 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Yes.

20 MR. MCHALE: I have a motion and a
21 second. Anybody else on the 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 MR. FAATZ: Thank you.

6 MS. FAATZ: Thank you.

7 MR. MCHALE: I wish you luck.

8 MR. VERRASTRO: Thank you.

9 MR. HALLINAN: Thank you.

10 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Other public
11 comment on non agenda items.

12 MR. MCHALE: Would anybody like to
13 speak tonight?

14 MR. CLARK: Pat Clark, Jefferson
15 Avenue Dunmore. Just wondering since the last
16 meeting is there any update on the host fee
17 agreement with Keystone Sanitary Landfill, is
18 it signed? Is it formal? Is it done?

19 MR. MCHALE: No.

20 MR. CLARK: Is there any status
21 update on that?

22 MR. MCHALE: You reached out to me
23 during the week. I did speak to our attorney
24 who is -- I guess a letter has been sent from
25 Keystone to Mr. Lorince as far as I know. And

1 they hope to answer by the end of the week.
2 That's all he said to me. He hasn't gotten
3 into it.

4 MR. CLARK: It's not a signed
5 agreement right now?

6 MR. MCHALE: I haven't got a copy.
7 Vito, is it --

8 MR. RUGGIERO: I haven't received
9 it.

10 MR. MCHALE: I haven't gotten it
11 back yet.

12 MR. CLARK: The contract is not
13 contingent upon anything with zoning. Is there
14 any other reason that it would not be signed
15 yet?

16 MR. MCHALE: Not that I know of, no.
17 It was signed by me.

18 MR. CLARK: Is there any anticipated
19 timeline from Keystone on this?

20 MR. RUGGIERO: I could check
21 tomorrow again. I guess it's when Keystone
22 wants to sign it. I don't have that answer for
23 you.

24 MR. MCHALE: It may have been and
25 the attorney might have it. He didn't answer.

1 I didn't get him today when I called back on my
2 way home from work.

3 MR. CLARK: Since the last meeting
4 have there been -- you said budget was next,
5 right?

6 MR. MCHALE: Yep, two weeks.

7 MR. CLARK: Have there been any
8 changes in the budget plan process since the
9 last meeting in terms of expenses or revenue?

10 MR. MCHALE: No.

11 MR. VERRASTRO: We didn't have a
12 meeting to discuss it yet.

13 MR. MCHALE: We haven't met as a
14 Council yet to go through all that stuff. But
15 I handled the budget and we haven't made
16 anything now. I know what you're speaking of.
17 We haven't done anything.

18 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you.

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

21 MR. AMICO: Vince Amico, Adams
22 Avenue, Dunmore. I guess my question is, maybe
23 it was the elephant in the room last week or
24 two weeks ago, but I still can't grasp what the
25 rush was to sign two weeks ago.

1 You kind of said earlier in the
2 meeting -- you did say earlier in the meeting
3 it was in the paper that the landfill hasn't
4 come to talk to us since 1999. Why were you in
5 such a rush to knock it out last week? We
6 didn't we -- you know, we had a room full of
7 people for the last six weeks which we don't
8 have tonight for obvious reasons.

9 You had a room full of people that
10 voiced -- were a lot bigger than mine. I
11 thought were a lot bigger than mine. And we
12 seemed in a rush just to sign it. As soon as
13 public comment was over, Mr. Nardozzi made a
14 few comments and then, boom, you put the motion
15 on the floor.

16 And I still can't wrap my head
17 around it why we had such a rush. There was a
18 lot of things that people brought up on
19 environmental concerns, too much to even
20 mention now. I'm just curious just really what
21 the rush was.

22 MR. NARDOZZI: I don't think there
23 was a rush at all. This was two months. In
24 talking -- it wasn't that it was done in my
25 opinion in one night. It's a culmination of

1 two months.

2 MR. AMICO: Maybe I'm crazy, I
3 thought the way the process works is, you know,
4 you listen to your constituents. You take what
5 they have to stay at heart and sit on it a
6 little bit. I feel it was almost like a dog
7 and pony show last week or two weeks ago that
8 we got up and we spoke as a town.

9 And it wasn't people just getting up
10 and complaining saying we want more money, we
11 want this. We had some pretty poignant
12 concerns and that was it. And then all right,
13 now we're voting and we're done. Now we're
14 stuck for, you know, for 50 years or however
15 long it might be.

16 And, you know, I asked earlier, I
17 said why couldn't it be 10 years, 15 years.
18 And Mr. Verrastro he said I don't want to be
19 part of the Council that he leaves all of this
20 money on the table. And I don't think to this
21 day that you would have been part of that
22 Council.

23 I'm sure there's a reason why the
24 landfill came to you guys and/or came to the
25 Borough and said we're willing to talk now when

1 they didn't want to talk for the last 30 years.
2 There's a reason for that. And I think we let,
3 you know, I think we kind of got duped. That's
4 all I have to say.

5 MR. MCHALE: Thanks, Vince.

6 MR. NARDOZZI: Thank you.

7 MR. MCHALE: Anybody else like to
8 speak tonight?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. MCHALE: Seeing none. Mr.
11 Cummings.

12 ATTY. CUMMINGS: Public officials.

13 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Genovese, would you
14 like to say anything tonight?

15 MR. GENOVESE: Nothing, thanks.

16 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Ruggiero.

17 MR. RUGGIERO: No.

18 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Kearney.

19 MR. KEARNEY: Nothing.

20 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Marchese.

21 CHIEF MARCHESE: No.

22 MR. MCHALE: Is Didge here? Mr.
23 Judge, I'm sorry, I didn't see you.

24 MR. JUDGE: No.

25 MR. MCHALE: We'll start with Carol

1 tonight. I'm sorry, Mayor Loughney, I almost
2 went right over you. I apologize.

3 MAYOR LOUGHNEY: That's all right.
4 I would just like to send my sympathy and
5 condolences to the Mecca family and all of
6 those that were displaced in the fire and
7 explosion. It's a sad thing anytime anything
8 happens like that around the holidays. It's
9 just not right.

10 I would also like to thank our
11 police department, our fire department, and DPW
12 and all the utilities that were involved and
13 all the extra firefighters and EMTs from the
14 surrounding areas that came down and helped and
15 Chris Kearney for doing an outstanding job down
16 here with the relocation of some of those
17 residents. I would like to make that known.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.
20 Just to quickly -- Carol, I don't mean to cut
21 you off, to echo what you said Mayor. You
22 know, you sit and think of the tragedy that
23 happened up there and how bad it could have
24 been. And God rest Mrs. Mecca's soul.

25 But there were cops up there and

1 firefighters up there a couple minutes before
2 that happened evacuating everybody. And if
3 they didn't use their professionalism and do
4 their duty to get those people out of there,
5 just think of how many people could have lost
6 their lives.

7 I know Billy Jordan was there. I
8 know Gars was there. Mike Igo, Bon was there.
9 The firefighters that was on I think the A
10 shift was on. Just thinking about how bad it
11 was, how bad it really could have been -- and
12 you know, you often think about having a
13 full-time fire department, a full-time police
14 department.

15 And, jeez, did it pay off in spades
16 the other night. And I thank them for the
17 service they do. It usually is a thankless
18 job. But, you know, I thank you again. And
19 Chris Kearney and Vito who both got the call
20 3:00 in the morning and were speaking to me at
21 11:00 that night as the last two people left
22 this room to get into a hotel.

23 So hats off to you guys as well and
24 you don't look for praise but you deserve it.
25 So to anybody that I missed as well, Didge,

1 that ice that was up there, to get your guys
2 up there in short order to -- I know the
3 firefighters and the police were sliding all
4 over the place.

5 Hats off to everybody on a tragedy
6 that could have been a lot worse and thank you
7 to all of your guys. Carol, I'm going to turn
8 it back over to you. I apologize.

9 MS. SCRIMALLI: No, no, no, that's
10 okay. Actually I just would echo your exact
11 words and also, Mayor, you couldn't have said
12 it better. I just want to thank all of you who
13 did help at the scene of that horrificness.
14 Thank you so much.

15 My heart goes out to the Mecca
16 family and all the people that were displaced.
17 That's all I have.

18 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Burke.

19 MR. BURKE: I would like to echo
20 what everybody else said too. And, Vito, I
21 know Vito and Chris were here because I was
22 with them to see the last four people off. Do
23 you know if Red Cross has found a home for the
24 people who went to the --

25 MR. RUGGIERO: I wasn't updated,

1 Tim, as far as Red Cross goes for placements of
2 the residents that were -- the structure that
3 burned. They said they would keep us updated.
4 But I didn't receive a call, not as of yet.

5 MR. BURKE: You didn't hear anything
6 yet?

7 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We can't hear
8 what you're saying. Speak into the mic.
9 That's what you guys have them for.

10 MR. BURKE: Sorry about that. I was
11 just asking the question if the other people
12 that were here have gotten into a home if Red
13 Cross found a placement. Can you give us an
14 update on it tomorrow, Vito?

15 MR. RUGGIERO: I'll call the Red
16 Cross. I only know as much as they tell me. I
17 did speak with the gas company today, Dom
18 Brominski who is the director of the
19 Wilkes-Barre office will handle all of the
20 operations up here. Just for clarity purposes,
21 they cameraed the line.

22 They extracted the broken pipe --
23 the pipe that was there. They cameraed the
24 rest of the line. They put a new piece in.
25 That's the only status that's an ongoing

1 investigation within the gas company.

2 They have to send that piece of the
3 pipe to a lab they told me. So it will
4 probably be some period of time before they
5 come up with a conclusion of what caused it.

6 MR. BURKE: Okay. Thanks, Vito.
7 Vito was here. Thanks for all the work you
8 did. I seen you in action and you were
9 fantastic. And Chris staying here comforting
10 these people and especially the Red Cross too.

11 The Red Cross had the food and gave
12 them extra food. The police department taking
13 up there and trying to make them feel as
14 comfortable as they could be in this tragic
15 situation. All the departments did a good job;
16 Didge with the DPW, fire, police, everybody.

17 And we got to get answers too from the
18 gas company as soon as possible because there
19 are people afraid of this happening again. And
20 it's a scarey situation. And I feel so bad for
21 the Mecca family and anybody that had losses up
22 there.

23 But we have to get to the bottom of
24 this. And please advise us, Vito, as soon as
25 they come up with a conclusion why this

1 happened and how we can prevent it from
2 happening again. That's all I have to say.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Tim. And
5 quickly, Nard, you're probably going to do
6 this. Are you going to thank the people who
7 donated? All the -- there's a lot of
8 restaurants --

9 MR. NARDOZZI: Tons.

10 MR. MCHALE: Do you know them?

11 MR. NARDOZZI: Offhand, the Cara
12 Mia's in Dunmore, the --

13 MR. MCHALE: Chris, you probably
14 know too.

15 MR. KEARNEY: Cara Mia's really
16 stepped forward. They served lunch here for
17 all the people. And then they also donated
18 tray of sandwiches for the first responders
19 later in the evening.

20 Nina Macciocco from Nina's came and
21 did a dinner for everyone. Drinker Pizza
22 wanted to bring some stuff down. And
23 unfortunately we had so much food we had to
24 turn them down. Mrs. Hart brought stuff from
25 the school over to keep people entertained.

1 Dr. Noto brought his veterinarian experience
2 because we had some animals on the scene.

3 He brought blankets and food and
4 stuff for the dogs and the cats that were here.
5 And we had to turn people away because of all
6 the help. We suggested that they donate to the
7 Red Cross who told us don't give it to the Red
8 Cross, give it to Salvation Army.

9 So we had the Salvation Army here on
10 Saturday morning taking them out. And I
11 understand there is a fund-raising now up at
12 the First National Community Bank. If people
13 want to donate there, I think it's Friends of
14 the Smith Street Explosion fund. That's all.

15 MR. NARDOZZI: And just to follow up
16 a little on Chris, a lot of the food Nina
17 brought from her restaurant and a lot of it was
18 also made by Villa Maria in Scranton brought it
19 over too, Joe Macciocco.

20 MR. MCHALE: So thank you to
21 everybody. Okay. Sal, do you want to go next?

22 MR. VERRASTRO: I kind of want to
23 echo what everybody was saying. I was at that
24 fire scene. I showed up probably about five
25 minutes after the house actually exploded.

1 What our fire department and police
2 department did, the way it was run, they worked
3 very well, all the other agencies, all the
4 other departments that came they really did
5 everything that they possibly could have for
6 it.

7 It was a very tough situation.
8 There was a water main break that night. The
9 road was caving in. They were having trouble
10 finding -- not finding. They recovered so
11 quickly from the water problem. Water was
12 being shut off while they were trying to put a
13 fire out.

14 They had to relocate hoses from
15 hydrants. It took them all of two minutes to
16 do that to keep everything flowing. They had
17 a debriefing last night. I was at the
18 debriefing for about two hours, two and a half
19 hours it was. PP&L was there.

20 UGI was there. The water company
21 was there. They went over what was done, a
22 couple things they would like to change to make
23 it even easier for next time. They're going to
24 have two other meetings on that.

25 UGI and the water company had

1 some -- were talking a little bit about what
2 happened. Like Vito said, I don't want us to
3 say where they were with that because they are
4 still testing it. I don't want to put
5 something in a direction it's not supposed to
6 go, Timmy.

7 But we are on it. We're going to
8 make sure we're getting all kinds stuff,
9 information sent to Vito. And we're not going
10 to just let it go. They did say that they
11 retested everything before they started turning
12 lines on in that neighborhood again.

13 It's a shame what happened. And my
14 heart goes out to the Mecca family with it.
15 And hopefully something like that will never
16 happen again. But having a paid fire
17 department probably saved a lot of lives that
18 night because I got there -- and when I got
19 there, that house on the left wasn't -- it
20 literally went up in seconds.

21 It just -- when that blew up, there
22 was stuff flying everywhere. And that
23 building -- the adjacent building where all
24 those tenants were that they are having the
25 fund-raiser for -- and it is at FNCB. It went

1 out of control that fast. It was just like --
2 it happened and they really stayed on it.
3 Almost all of our firemen reported to it even
4 the off duties.

5 Other than that, I would also like
6 to wish the Bucks good luck on Saturday. And
7 thank you for coming. Have a good night.

8 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Sal.
9 Attorney Dempsey.

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, I'm just going to
11 basically repeat what everybody else said which
12 is not a benefit of being at the end of the
13 list for once this week. But my sincerest
14 condolences to the Mecca family and also I want
15 to thank Dunmore Fire Department, you know, the
16 police department.

17 Chris Kearney, I came down in the
18 morning that day. You were running around. I
19 saw you. You were taking care of people,
20 taking care of dogs. You did a terrific job.
21 Vito as well did an outstanding job. Didge,
22 the DPW, thank, you know, all of the local
23 business that came together and got these
24 people food and clothing and, you know,
25 everything else.

1 And lastly I would just like to
2 encourage everybody that can, to donate money,
3 food, clothing, you know, these people lost
4 everything. So if you can and are able to
5 donate, I would encourage you all to do that.

6 And if you need any of that
7 information, I'm sure one of us up here could
8 direct you the right way to go. But that's all
9 I have, Mike. Thank you.

10 MR. MCHALE: Mr. Hallinan.

11 MR. HALLINAN: I'm going to echo the
12 same thing. But the Red Cross -- again, you
13 know, I was down here to see Chris. He was
14 cleaning up dog duty in the gymnasium. That
15 was amazing. Vito, our -- our police and fire
16 were outstanding.

17 They were professionals. It was
18 amazing what, you know, how they explained to
19 me what was going on when we were up there.
20 And I didn't want to be in their way. I stayed
21 behind the yellow tape. But just it was -- the
22 comradery between them and the other -- even
23 the other towns that came and helped was
24 outstanding.

25 Tommy DePietro came down here

1 because of people that left their meds there
2 and came here -- and I mean, I don't want to
3 talk about the, you know, just the hometown
4 feeling of somebody that's in the neighborhood
5 coming down out of his day and says, what do
6 you need?

7 And he's offering free meds to these
8 people which is outstanding. And it's nice to
9 see. I've received it. I know what's it like.
10 And there's no better town. I know we have
11 issues sometimes, Mr. Clark. This town is
12 outstanding.

13 We pull together when we need to be
14 together. And somebody said to my wife Dunmore
15 stands strong for Dunmore. And it's no other
16 words are spoken. And I'm glad to see there's
17 an after-action, Sal.

18 I would like to be included on what
19 goes on with the different, you know, like
20 that. Obviously, they did an outstanding job.
21 I'm sure there is some things that should be
22 tweaked. And, God, we pray it never happens
23 again.

24 But at least we're doing things
25 to -- with a follow-up and an after-action

1 plan. Good luck with the Bucks. And like I
2 said, we have a tragedy on one end and a couple
3 days later we have the Dunmore Bucks that win.
4 And it puts it in perspective when you lose a
5 life. And, you know, I wish the Bucks well.
6 That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. McHale.

7 MR. MCHALE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Hallinan. Mr. Nardozzi.

9 MR. NARDOZZI: I echo what everybody
10 else said. Unfortunately we lost a life last
11 week, very unfortunate. And to the family, our
12 condolences from this Council. It could have
13 been a lot worse. I know Sal and I were up
14 there early on not long after it happened.

15 I think the only reason you beat me,
16 Sal, is because you live closer. But we got to
17 see firsthand right at the beginning how our
18 police and how our fire department operate and
19 how they worked with other departments. And
20 it's really good to know and see.

21 And we saw it for ourselves that
22 night, Sal, and you'll agree with me how well
23 they worked together. And like everyone else
24 said, there were other lives that were saved.
25 It wasn't mentioned here but I'll mention it

1 and Sal can back me up on it.

2 We had one of our police officers
3 was in the car right in front of the house that
4 blew up. We are very fortunate that nothing
5 serious happened to him. And I believe there
6 was some minimal damage to the car, but we're
7 very fortunate that that officer who was in the
8 car right in front of that house when it blew
9 up -- I'll tell you what, I'm a police officer.

10 I wouldn't want to have been in the
11 car in front of that house when that happened.
12 But -- and another officer was walking down the
13 street half a block away Billy Bonavolgia who
14 got pretty much blown over by the concussion
15 from the explosion.

16 So I got to see your guys, Sal,
17 worked marvelous everyone that was there; the
18 fire department, Chris -- Chief DeNaples, and
19 everybody that came to help our guys, the off
20 duties, the other towns. It's good to know
21 that in such a tragic moment that we are --
22 we're pretty much self-sufficient when it comes
23 to public safety.

24 But sometimes we need help. And as
25 much as we go to other towns and help them, the

1 other towns came here and helped us in our time
2 of need. And we really appreciate the City of
3 Scranton coming with their fire department. I
4 believe Throop, Dickson City, and Olyphant were
5 also here and Elmhurst they came with their
6 tankers.

7 Aside from all of that, all the
8 work, our DPW came right out. I know Sal
9 called Didge. I know Didge had other plans for
10 the day but he spent his day at Smith Street.
11 There was other things he was going to do and I
12 appreciate that, Didge.

13 MR. MCHALE: He was on vacation.

14 MR. NARDOZZI: He was on vacation
15 and he spent his day up there on Smith Street
16 helping out and doing whatever he had to do
17 with his guys. Chris, what you did down here
18 with everybody was phenomenal.

19 It was something that was needed.
20 Thank God we have this facility that was able
21 to handle it. And, Vito, what could I say,
22 Vito put long tireless hours in. I know I was
23 talking to Vito one morning at 6:30 in the
24 morning and then 11:00 at night.

25 That's a pretty long day. So, Vito,

1 my hats off to you. You did a phenomenal job.
2 I want to recognize that. But again, it's
3 unfortunate we lost a life. But it could have
4 been a lot worse.

5 Secondly, obviously best of luck to
6 our Dunmore football team. What a fine example
7 these young men have presented for us. Who
8 would have thought that after week one loss to
9 Scranton Prep that we would even be in this
10 position today playing for the state
11 championship.

12 So I would just like to express to
13 Coach HENZES, staff, and players the very best
14 for Saturday. Hopefully instead of watching it
15 on TV, we'll all be in Hershey on Saturday.
16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. MCHALE: Thank you,
18 Mr. Nardozzi. You just add the Buck sentiment
19 and I wish them well as well, finer young men
20 and examples to our youth cannot be better
21 than these guys have. Best of luck to them.

22 And again, thank you everybody
23 involved in tragedy the other day. Look for a
24 motion to adjourn.

25 MR. VERRASTRO: So moved.

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MR. NARDOZZI: Second.

MR. MCHALE: We're adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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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
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