

## SAUCON VALLEY LIBRARY TASK FORCE MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2011  
Time: 5:00 PM  
Location: Lower Saucon Township

Present: Lower Saucon Township: Mike Karabin, Lynn Koehler, Kim LaBrake, Tom Maxfield  
Hellertown Borough: Lamar Handwerk, Joseph Pampanin, Gail Nolf  
Hellertown Area Library: Jessica Goedel, Alison Finkbeiner, Robin Rotherham, Mike Evangelista  
Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township Manager; Charlie Luthar, Hellertown Borough Manager;  
Cathy Kichline, incoming Manager for Hellertown Borough; Tina Krasnansky, Assistant Manager  
and Financial Director, Hellertown Borough

1. Approval of Minutes from January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting – Kim asked if there were any comments or additions to the January 13<sup>th</sup> minutes? Jack said he's working on a page on the Lower Saucon Township website where the minutes can go. It will also have a schedule and an agenda of the meetings. If that's okay, they will bring the minutes to the meeting as a draft and then post it on the website the next day. Kim said the January 13<sup>th</sup> minutes are approved and will be posted on the website.
2. 2011 Schedule of Meetings – Jack said we had talked about this at the first meeting. The idea was introduced about having monthly meetings in the beginning and then maybe spacing them out. He thought we could stake out some dates in the event you want to meet monthly. He handed out copies of dates for the monthly meetings. The intent would be to put this out on the websites, in the Valley Voice and just announce this is the schedule this group will try to follow. If for some reason, you decide you don't want to meet in July, we can just put a notice that the meeting is cancelled on the website. It would be the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM at the Township and we are welcoming the public to attend and provide input. If this is okay, he will put it in the Valley Voice. Kim said we'll start off monthly at this point.
3. Overview of Financial Plan & Timeline Prepared by HAL in June 2010 – Jack said he has copies of this to pass around. Robin said this plan and timeline was created in June after meeting with the Lower Saucon Library Committee. The Committee asked us to provide a timeline for the Township. This is what they came up with. As she presented it at that time, she said it was a plan. It wasn't set in stone. It was something to move forward on. They came up with: Year 1 – Per capita contribution to Hellertown Area Library (HAL) would be \$15.00. That equals \$147,000.00. Your Township savings would be \$20,000.00. Year 2 – same deal – Township savings \$20,000.00. Year 3 – Your per capita would be whatever the Borough of Hellertown is paying to the HAL at that point. They are now at \$10.65, so your Township would pay what Hellertown pays. If they can afford in three years to give us \$15.00, that would be great, but as a library, we really like to keep our municipalities in the same per capita. At that point, the Township savings would be \$65,000.00. The \$15.00 contribution doesn't really seem like you are saving a lot, but if you want to join our library, we are going to have to do some things to accommodate you. You are basically going to fund it. Year 1, with your contribution, we will meet our state personnel standards. The state says we have to have so many workers in the library per capita. We would put money either away, save or start construction if the committee would recommend that, and we'd have that \$112,000.00 to do that and we'd have fixed costs, insurance, etc. and we'd try to save some money for the future. Year 2, that's how your money would be spent. Year 3, we're assuming if we had to construct, it's finished, it's done and now we really have to increase our personnel as you are there and we want to offer programs and things you are used to. Our fixed costs now go up because we have a bigger building, more electricity, and we would still be able to save some money for the future. What are we going to do with your money? You are going to give us your money and we are going to try to make it work with what we have now and save your money as capital so that we can increase our floor space and services to you. You are going to basically give us \$224,000.00 and we will go out and try to find grants and capital funds to match that. We figured if we got that from an architect who did the elevator construction, the cost per square foot would be about \$148.00. It's going to cost us almost \$500,000.00 and that's to get us 3,000 square feet which would double our floor size. That's a very doable plan. In order to do this, our building would have to change. Our staff will need to change. Year 1 we would try to do things that would accommodate the Township in

lieu of all our construction. What we would have now we would try to make work. We would use the downstairs for the children's area and move computers to the current children's area. They are out in the middle of the library now and they'd have their own little spot. We'd have to purchase computers to meet Township needs. We would still not be able to offer the level of programming that Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) could offer you because we would be renovating, but we would be addressing your technology needs. We would probably, at this point, do some staff increases, but we'd also apply for an exemption from the State until we could meet our staffing needs. Year 2 we could start designing an addition to the library. We may start construction. We may find grants that year. If we're in construction and if you ever lived through construction, you are limited to what you can do. We would try to do programming as much as possible and would apply again for an exemption for State staffing needs. In year 3 we would expect everything would be completed. We would meet the State staffing needs and would have the staff on board. We could then have programs to meet Hellertown and Lower Saucon's needs. We just think we can offer library services.

Mike K. said it Year 1 and 2, apply for exemptions from the State. How confident are you that they will give those exemptions? Robin said she is fairly confident they will give that for staffing exemptions. She personally has not applied for too many exemptions from the state, but we are showing them we are progressing toward becoming a better library, but we can't do it until we have the room to put them. Where is she going to put staff now? Someone asked if the staffing requirements are based on patrons served or square footage? Robin said patrons served. Someone said you would have a valid reason based on space. Robin said she doesn't have place to put them. Joe said he was reading up on the by-laws and it says exemptions, the limit of funding, it's called out in there, but it's only supposed to be temporary. Robin said yes, you wouldn't want to apply every year. Mike K. said when you apply for the exemption, can any other entity contest your exemption, for example, BAPL says we are required to meet these requirements, and they are getting an exemption, could that take place? Robin said she guesses it could, but she knows BAPL applied to close more weeks over the summer and she wouldn't have dreamed of contesting that. She would hope they wouldn't either. In fact, theoretically, they wouldn't even know.

Mike K. said on capital funds, where you say matching grants, do you have any anticipation where or who they may come from? Robin said she would suggest a lot would come out of the Keystone Grant program. They wrote and received a \$75,000.00 grant for the elevator, which was a match. It is a matching grant, so she must actually almost have the cash in hand before she can write it. She understands once you successfully get one, your odds of receiving another one are pretty good. Joe Hoffman helped very much with that grant. Charlie said there's a Keystone Library grant which goes up to \$500,000.00 for improvements. Robin said they applied for a mini-grant. Mike K. said are there any others out there? Robin said there are some library services and technology grants out there. There are some private funders that probably we could tap into for small pieces. They were very successful in their capital campaign for the elevator. She thinks the people who use the library were very supportive and they gave very freely. Someone said they got donations from Lower Saucon people also. Someone said they fundraised a lot of money.

Mike K. said back to the Lower Saucon Township financial funding, you are saying \$15.00 per capita contribution. What did you calculate that on to get to those numbers? Robin said she calculated that coming in at a savings, but being able to support Lower Saucon Township and HAL giving you good library services. Mike K. said \$15.00 per capita, how many people, how did you calculate that to come to \$147,000.00? Mike E. said it was based on the numbers of your population. Mike K. said since that number is going to go up, will that change our figure and do we know what to? Robin said sure. Jack said we have that with the financial reports. Robin said it won't change the \$15.00 and it will be that for two years. Jack said this Power Point was prepared at the request of the Township Library Committee. They had contracted the HAL and had a discussion of "what ifs". Our Council asked us to go out and explore other options for library services and we checked with another library outside the Township and also contacted the HAL. We had some discussions and the committee asked Robin to come back to us with something that would show what the impact would be to the HAL if, for example, Lower Saucon Township went there for library services. She prepared this back in June 2010 and it's just a scenario for discussion purposes only. It was not for the purpose of leaving the BAPL. It was a scenario of what could happen if a decision was made by the elected officials to change where people get library services. Someone asked

what Lower Saucon Township was paying now per capita? Jack said \$17.55. Lynn asked how they picked the number they used? Mike E. said they picked a number that would have the library continue the services they currently have and handle more people and services as they go along. The first two years they take in to account construction. They know what construction is by square foot and they need to get to half of that, so they can match a grant for the other half. Two years of construction seemed enough. When the elevator was done, they paid for it and moved on. Lynn said the number can go down in two years? Robin said it does. It goes down to what the Borough is paying then.

4. Financial Information from Township Finance Director – Jack said at the last meeting, Joe asked for some financial information, so Tina and Cathy put together some information. There are three handouts. The first chart shows what the Township has contributed to the BAPL from 2002 to 2011. Someone asked why it increases every year? Is it an increase from their end? Jack said yes. Most of it was increases in their budget. Lynn said it's also for operating costs. Jack said the next handout is a survey that Cathy Gorman did of what other communities in Lehigh and Northampton Counties are paying for library services and it shows their per capita cost. You can see Fountain Hill is paying \$17.55 per capita. You'll see that Freemansburg, Hanover Township, and Lower Saucon Township pay the same amount. That's some background information. Someone said there are two costs for Upper Saucon? Jack said the second number is their debt service for the library building. It's kind of what we are talking about. Jack said the third handout shows the contributions that are made by Lower Saucon Township and the Borough of Hellertown for library services. It gives the current contribution. The Township is \$173,464.00 and that works out with our population for the \$17.55 per capita. Hellertown contributes \$58,000.00 and with their population, it's \$10.33 per capita. They took the projections in the census that the LVPC gave us and they projected our census would go from the 9,884 to about 12,000. After some discussion, Jack said he will check this number again with Cathy Gorman. The 2010 census numbers are due out April 1. Someone said if that number is the actual number increase, the two year figure where the per capita is \$15.00, it would be almost \$30,000.00 more per year. That doesn't include the drop down to what Hellertown is paying. Lynn said it increases your revenue by \$30,000.00 a year. Robin said no, it increases the savings total of \$32,000.00 opposed to \$20,000.00. Someone said since Hellertown Borough does provide that contribution is there any talk about what that may change to – yes or no? Robin said it's a slippery slope with HAL and the Borough Council. She didn't ask them for more money this year. Someone will usually go and ask the Borough. They were never in a position where they went and told the Borough what to give them. We've always asked for increases and they generally were very forthright and said they can or they can't. Someone asked when was the last time they received funds from Hellertown? Robin said they got \$58,000.00 for three years. Last year they asked them if the Borough would plow their snow and mow their grass and they said yes. That worked out great. Mike E. said the Borough is saving them a lot of operating costs. Last year the Borough saved them almost \$4,000.00. Charlie said PW are already in that area anyway because of the park.
5. Visits to Libraries – Kim asked if anyone would like to share any overall comments if anyone visited the BAPL north and south side and HAL, about services, whatever, when you visited them. Kim said she's a Lower Saucon Township resident, but also was a Hellertown resident. Her girls used both the BAPL and HAL. They also were able to use the book mobile, so that was their third option. Overall, the girls loved being in a local library, especially because of it being adjacent to the school. It was very helpful to them as they could walk home and go past the library and stop in. The one opportunity that the BAPL gave to them as a family was an expanded section. Her youngest has a learning disability, so for a good portion of her younger years, she accessed the audio and signing library. That's the one thing she can say they could give us than a small library could not. There's federal library assistance that they could get and they are able to get books on audio. She doesn't sign now, but it's an opportunity for patients with a learning disability. Lynn asked if anyone got to see the South Side branch? Kim said that's the one she didn't get to yet. Lynn said there have been a lot of changes and there are more coming. There is a very strong Spanish section in that library, which is very useful to have.

Mike K. said he's not sure how it's operating and how it's going to be operating in the future, but it may or may not affect services. He's sure there could be some issues down the road. The only thing that sold him on Bethlehem is he has the walk in, walk out access to what he wants. At Hellertown, he's not sure at this point, will they have all of the things he wants when he walks in and walks out and he won't have to call to

get what he wants. It's hard to say at this point. Gail said wouldn't you have the same opportunity to walk in and out of Bethlehem with the PA ACCESS card? Mike K. said he doesn't have that. Gail said you'd still be able to walk in and walk out and get the services. Lynn said they talked about this last meeting, as the program stands now, that's correct, but she doesn't know what will happen in the future. Robin said that's one of the things every library has to look at is services they can provide based on staffing and hours. Lynn said PA ACCESS is a state program. Mike E. said what are residents from Lower Saucon looking for now? We will have a block of money to spend on things that may be needed. It depends on what Lower Saucon is looking for. Robin said one of the benefits of a small community library is she sees almost every person who walks in the library every day. That might change with more population and more staffing, but you get to know what your customer wants. You hear their wants and needs every day and that's an advantage of a small community library.

Tom said he likes the feel of a small library also. At times he goes to the BAPL, the feel inside the library is changing and getting further and further away from the comfort you feel at a small local library when you sit down and relax. He doesn't enjoy himself much there anymore. Lynn said part of it is technology and the space to grow and a lot of things had to be shifted around. There will be a lot of changes at the BAPL and the comfort will increase. Tom said it feels like a young, noisy crowd in there some times.

Robin said one Lower Saucon resident brought up the parking issue. He was concerned about the parking. They do have parking on the street as well as a parking lot for seven cars. Gail said parking on the grass is also allowed for library patrons. It's used by football, baseball and bus trips.

Alison said on the subject of parking at BAPL, it's not good there for her as she has a three year old daughter who is potty training and it's not the best for her. Because she has a little girl, she likes to park at the HAL and use the parks that Hellertown has, which are right across the street. For her, it's convenient where she is in her life.

Jack said this is a "what if" question for Gail. If the Township were to join the library, what would be the reaction from the residents around that area to the additional traffic? Gail said she does not think it would be problematic. They get a lot of traffic there for the football games. Jack said wasn't there a reaction to the post office going there? Gail said the concern with that was with the out-of-town traffic and trucks. Mike E. said they do get a good chunk of Lower Saucon people coming into the library now, about 50%. It's going to increase some, but they are getting a good amount now already. He never has a problem finding a parking spot there. In the summer, he might have to park down a little bit further. Gail said it seems a good bit of the parking they are seeing is from Lower Saucon Township already. She doesn't really see the traffic increasing that much. Mike K. said 50% of what? Robin said 40% to 50% of their patrons are from Lower Saucon Township. Mike K. said what is the participation of the people from Lower Saucon Township who go to BAPL? Jack said that's an assignment for the demographics committee to find that out. Mike K. said when you go by percentage, the 50% could be two people. Robin said she doesn't know how many people have BAPL cards from the Township that use that library. Mike E. said they do keep track of how many people come into their library and how many are residents. Robin said they can always do a sampling of people. They can tell by their cards and see where they are from.

6. Assignments for Next Meeting – Kim said if you weren't here at the last meeting, they took the liberty of assigning you to a committee. They tried to even out the four committees. The committees are as follows:

**Demographic/Statistics:**

Alison Finkbeiner  
Lynn Koehler  
Jessica Goedtel

**Technology:**

Gail Nolf  
Mike Karabin  
Jack Cahalan

**Building:**

Kim LaBrake  
Joe Pampanin  
Mike Evangelista

**Finance:**

Reverend Lamar Handwerk  
Tom Maxfield  
Cathy Gorman  
Tina Krasnansky

Kim said the duties for the Demographics and Statistics Committee is answering Mike K's question on how to figure out past demographics, current demographics and getting an apples-to-apples comparison so we can use those numbers to process through per capita numbers and so forth. Jack said it might be helpful before you start amassing the numbers to put down a series of questions like "what do we want to know about the numbers of people at BAPL", "what about the number of people at HAL". Simple questions like that and we can start seeing if we can pull those numbers in. In some cases, we may not be able to get them. For example, how many people walk through the door at BAPL? They don't count them as they come in. Kim said if the committees can get together and set out three to five tasks that they want to accomplish that will fit in with all the rest of the committees, which could be the assignments for the next meeting. We can present them and check and balance each other, yes, that makes sense, or no, it doesn't make sense. For Finance they are looking at what numbers are relevant to this undertaking on the building. It's understanding how much space the existing building has. Lynn said she hopes there will be time for breakouts at the meeting before they adjourn. Jack said that depends on how much time you want to spend at the meeting. Kim said we said we would confirm the committees and confirm what we were doing at the next meeting and then it comes down to meeting before the next meeting and have an idea of what we are doing. Based on the time allotments we are working with, there may not always be time to schedule the breakout. We'll have to go by that. Jack said the Technology Committee will probably be talking to Robin and the Director of the BAPL to see what is available and looking at what the requirements are, the standards, how many computers, upgrades over the next five years. Kim said Finance, which we all know how we are going to take care of that. Jack said Cathy and Tina will take care of that. What we talked about Finance was to look at putting together a budget, sort of what we talked about here, and breaking it down into all the different areas. As Lynn pointed out, what the other committees are doing feeds into the others.

Mike K. said now that we know who the committees are, we know what direction it is going to go. His suggestion would be if they are on a different committee, now might be a good time to throw questions to the committee before they meet. We won't be with those small groups of committees, so if anyone has any ideas, they should let the committee know. Kim said does anyone have anything specific that you are bringing to the committee you are not on? She is on the Building Committee, and they can handle how much space they may need, but the financial end of it or technology that goes in the building that affects the building cost. That's one of those pieces that will have to get help from the Technology Committee.

Tom said when they started discussion at Lower Saucon and someone said something about the HAL, his interest was if you are going to be investing and developing a smaller library, what is it that we can do different? What processes can we mutate or change or modify so we can provide the services cheaper or in a smaller way or a different way of delivering information. The world is changing so fast and he would hate to stick money into the same old kind of system that might not function at the utmost level like we'd like it to. His question to the Technology group would be, what can we do? Mike E. said from the library standpoint, when we first met, it was a "what if", "what are you looking for", and we are all involved here and they have a paid staff, and will still have volunteers that like to help out. They have a considerable amount of space right now. It doesn't mean it's the perfect space. It doesn't mean they are utilizing it the way the residents of Hellertown or Lower Saucon want it to look. It is what it is at this time. They are willing to change anything or nothing, depending on what people want. That was the first thing they asked, "what are you looking for", "50 computer along one wall?" That can very easily be done, it's not cheap, but it's not that expensive. They can make one wall all computers. They could make a huge children's section. They could make a small children's section. The question is, and there's a decent amount of money, to make changes, but what are you looking for? If you want 5,000 computers, there's not enough money. If you want 5 computers, there's a lot of money. That was their biggest question. Do you want to sit and read books? They can create that kind of space. If that's what the majority of the residents want, HAL has that now. Kim said that comes down to problematic needs and at this point when we look at the building, and how we do it in-house in her office, is they could present the program needs. A typical library – what's in a library? They can handle that with analyzing what space you have now and then put all of the "wish list" in. They do this all the time with the libraries they work with and she has a pretty good list of what those are which then affect Finance and space and needs. Not that they are going to be able to pull every Lower Saucon resident into asking what they want to see in the library, but at least these are the general things in

library design. Jack said in the process they will probably do a survey and have some public meetings. We can't answer it sitting here. We are going to try to pull in as much information as we can from the public. Mike K said what he said before, for example, he's going to be on the Technology Committee, then they have Demographics and Statistics. He's sure they are going to overlap on some of these things. Does the Technology Committee want to sit down and say okay, we got 10,000 people, now on an average day of so much usage, does Technology say this is our job to figure out how many computers we truly need or do the Statistic people say they are looking up the numbers, and they say for 10,000 people, this is what we have. That's the kind of questions he's thinking of. Robin said the Building Committee would have to take a look at the infrastructure to make sure that infrastructure is available. Mike K said we have to know how many we need for state funds. Robin said when they built the library in 1992, they didn't have a librarian who said put the circulation desk by the front door. They put it in the middle of the library. Maybe with the benefit of having the librarian and three more librarians in town that can be consulted, we can get a functional space that has cozy and technology and a really cool projector, and all those other things that make the library function for the town. Jack said you also mentioned a community meeting room. Kim said the way for the Building Committee to start out is get the "wish list" of what is out there in library design that you may or may not have and at least get a feel from the rest of the committees. We don't want an amphitheatre or a lecture hall. It would be nice to have those things, but that's not what we're looking at here. Joe said when Jack brought up the community meeting room, do we look at a bigger approach and tie this in with the Community Center? Are there ways to combine services with them? Bringing big ideas like that is a little big for Constitution Avenue. Kim said if we put that list together, what's in a typical library, then everyone can make a decision on which way we want to go. Lynn said you have to know what is required by the state of Pennsylvania and what they want libraries to have. You have a question you want an answer to, ask them and if they can survey it at some point, they will try. Her questions for the Finance Committee is besides State grants, there are ways of getting funding and she'd love to look at all possible options. For example, the Bill Gates Foundation funds things like the computers. We want to do something unique and special and plan for a library in the future, why don't we look at all the options out there. Robin said they wrote three grants in the last eight months. Gail said ultimately each one of these sub-committee findings will become a topic for the other groups and it will be taken back and discussed again and it will be a process.

Mike E. said for the Building Committee, energy efficiency. On the existing building there are ways it could be improved. If they were to expand, that would help with the fixed cost. She's sure they could do better on the energy savings. Robin said she was thinking of doing more green building. Kim said she tells her clients this all the time, the way the building codes have been going and the updates, that green efficiency is being built into every code, so what was built in 1992, the codes were very lax. Anything they would build now is already going to be 50% more efficient, but we need to look at the renovation on how to get that whole building up to a standard that your operating costs are not killing the budget. Mike E. said they put in an elevator a year ago and they are handicapped accessible for all three floors, so that's done and it works great.

Someone said she has something on technology and everyone was thinking of computers, also in libraries you need to think about databases that the library is offering and also are they offering E-books. Are they PCs or Macs? Do we want to have some Macs? There are all these new technologies now, so keep that in mind. Think beyond computers and think of library databases. Robin said they just look at some virtual server and it's very, very cool and it's becoming more and more affordable. They also looked at virtual work stations where if your CPU dies, you put your stick in and it's virtualized. It's very cool technology. The virtual server is going to happen at the HAL within the next six months. It's affordable, she needs another server and they have the grant money. Kim said we will all try to meet up somehow, whether it's online or in person. Jack said they'll get the minutes done and send them out to you.

Tom said we were talking about the plan, the two years of building and then the third year, that transition period, would that be something the community would have to deal with or would we still be using another library system? Jack said it's a "what if" but he thinks if the Township decides to join we'd be all in. Tom said that would be a marketing strategy saying it may hurt now, but it will really be great in the future. Robin said absolutely. Mike E. said if we knew things were coming, we could move things around. There is a lot of space in the library now and move things. It's going to be inconvenient, but they put an elevator

on in the back of the building and it didn't cost a day. Tom said the people at the high school put up with trailers. Kim said as this is what our plans are, it's easier to take than coming in one day and having plastic all over the place and not expecting it. Lynn said to repeat herself from last month; there is a verbal understanding that the BAPL would like a one year notice if they are not going to use their services. Mike K. said that's not up to them. That's up to the Council. Council calls that shot.

Kim said we all know our assignments for next meeting.

## 7. Open Public Discussion

- Allan Johnson said he's listening to the conversation and there are two things he'd like to say. He'd like to see how many Lower Saucon Township residents are using the HAL as that reflects the kind of services the HAL thinks they have to divide. He likes the BAPL because of their collection of books. When he goes in there, he likes to browse and he knows the subject he wants. He can go in there and look what's on the shelf and they usually have something on the shelf that satisfies what he's looking for. He's usually looking for technical information about computers, electric motors and those kinds of things. How long would it take Hellertown to acquire a collection like that? Possibly there's a computer database that would satisfy his needs, but a computer database would have to show the Table of Contents of the book and possibly some sample pages. That would possibly substitute for a large onsite collection of books. If he sees a book he wants, he could always go and get an inter-library loan. Robin said she should make a comment as she doesn't ever think the HAL is going to be like the BAPL's collection. You just can't produce that collection in the size building that can be put on Constitution Avenue. Allan said it's something Lower Saucon residents might want. Robin said then they go to the BAPL or other libraries. Allan said we're talking about shifting the library for the Lower Saucon Township's use. This is something he will probably use. Someone said we're very lucky that we live in the state that has library ACCESS cards now and people from Emmaus can be using BAPL. Just by saying we're moving the financing to a small library that in no way limits your use of any library. Allan said there is talk about the PA ACCESS service. Jessica said she totally agrees. That's a state-wide program and she doesn't know a single library in the state that doesn't honor the PA ACCESS card. She likes E-books, so she got a card and uses it and gets E-books out of State College. If BAPL were to stop taking the PA ACCESS card, that would be Bethlehem's decision. If they were to chose not giving service to Lower Saucon, that would be something that would be different than every library in Pennsylvania. We would have no control over that. She would hope they wouldn't do that as it goes against what they all think of a library to be. She actually doubts they would, but you still would be able to use BAPL. Allan said they wouldn't have to worry about that if they stayed with the BAPL. Someone said she would agree, even if by staying with the BAPL and PA ACCESS goes away, then everybody sort of loses it at the same time. They don't see how they could do that. Mike K. said the people he talks to feel just like Allan. Someone said her hope would be if this did change, they feel they would lose BAPL and she would hope that BAPL wouldn't stop service to Lower Saucon residents. If they were to consider it, she would hope residents would say to BAPL, please don't do this. Mike K. said it's something we can't control. Other people that live in Lower Saucon that he knows, if we do decide to do it, and we say go to Hellertown, it's got to be convincing. Someone said yes, we need the public support. Tom said he personally thinks what his going to happen to libraries in the future is that their book collections are going to get smaller and smaller and our ability to retrieve data is going to have many, many ways to happen. That's really what we should be thinking about. You can't buck the future or the dollar when it comes to efficient ways to transfer information, which is what libraries are about.
- Linda Robertson, member of the BAPL, said they would like to invite the entire committee to the BAPL as she heard a lot of questions. They could consider having the meeting at the BAPL and they can arrange a tour and show them the technology they have, the new children's room area and other parts of the BAPL. You can meet at both north and south side and in the evening you can park underneath the building. Currently, the capitation is based on the numbers from 2000 census as all of the municipalities are in the BAPL are currently in the BAPL system. What no one at this meeting has said is since 2000, your population has increased every year, but your capitation is

based on the number of the 2000 population census. It's true that you will be able to continue to take out materials from the BAPL if you go to HAL or any other library. It's true you will be able to use the reference department, which is extensive and you can also ask questions of the reference librarians. What has not been mentioned at this meeting, without being a member of the BAPL consortium, children and adults in the Lower Saucon Township area will not be able to register and go on the website for BAPL, as there is an extensive program for children and increasing number of programs for adults. She thinks that's important. If Lower Saucon chooses to affiliate with another library, there will be no bookmobile service in Lower Saucon. She understands there's a pretty good usage. She doesn't think it's appropriate to expect that the PA ACCESS system will always be here. They've had extensive conversations with state legislators, state librarians about that. BAPL may be in a unique position than the rest of the state with the municipalities within the service area. They are not going to cry about this, but she doesn't think you should base your whole discussion on a guarantee that PA ACCESS is always going to be there. The current policies for the BAPL are if any municipality drops out of the system, it is not able to re-apply for five years. That was done a number of years ago because they did have a municipality who dropped in and out. It's very upsetting for the financial operation and it is playing politics. She noticed from the presentation, if this happened tomorrow, the difference between what you are paying now at \$17.55 and the proposal from HAL would be \$2.55 more a person and she would ask this committee to consider exactly what the saving of \$2.55 is. If you invite the public to these meetings, it would be very eye-opening to come and visit the BAPL. Gail said she wasn't at the last meeting, but there was a notation in there that said the HAL at some point may become part of the BAPL. Is that possible? Jack said he thinks it was mentioned under the exploration of all options the possibility of the HAL becoming a branch of the BAPL. He doesn't think it's serious. It was just mentioned and nobody has really said anything about that. Mike E. said speaking from the board, it will be the HAL as a lot of their residents were not happy with the BAPL. Whether PA ACCESS is there or not, they are still going to be the HAL and they will serve as many Lower Saucon people as they can. They have not had the PA ACCESS money for the last two or three years, and they still take Lower Saucon residents. It has not changed the way they run things. They used to get funding from the PA ACCESS program, but no longer do. With the PA ACCESS, if he was a Hellertown resident and went to another library and used his card, that library use to get a certain amount of money for that. Lynn said she is a member of the BAPL board and she takes both sides. She has to be her own devil's advocate. Even on the chart, we are talking about census figures from 2000. You say you don't want to be a branch, but we still want to put that in the options and want the public to address that. There is a county library and a district library system. Maybe you need to look at ways to increase your involvement with the regional library. She's hoping what each of our committees will look at are the "what if's".

Alison said it's important to know that you can't compare apples to oranges. You can't compare the BAPL to the HAL. It's going to come down what are you looking for in a library. Are you looking for a community library where HAL is Lower Saucon district and we're together? Are you looking for a place where your kids can walk to after school? Are you looking for that one little book you can find? Do you want to walk into a library that have some books sitting on the reference shelf collecting dust or do you want a database? It's all going to come down to what you want. It's great that they offer great reference service, but Robin and her staff also offer great reference service too. Mike E. said he thinks libraries 30 years from now may be computers and nothing else. As far as books go, Robin can get him anything he would want. Tom said what he heard through the media is there are book stores, and you walk in and you want a book and get it on the spot.

Mike K. said you have to look at who you are serving. When you take a 20 to 30 year old person, they are going to have that technology down, but you have to serve 50 and 60 year olds who want the books. Alison said most Hellertown residents are in that age bracket of 50 to 60 or older. Someone said if you read the papers today, who needs libraries anymore. Everything is on line. If you go to the library, tons of people still use these and it's important to every community.

Lamar said one of the disturbing things for him is a Study Committee is going to take two years and things he's already heard it seems like the decisions are already made and people are just choosing sides and getting upset. He thinks our main task is to tell people this is a study and it's going to take time.

Jack said you are going to hear comments from people who think you made up your mind, and that's not the case. We are going to have to listen to both sides. Tom said we have to address it as if it was going to happen very soon. You have to look at everything and that means looking at it deeply. Jack said we didn't want this to be a process of competing with the BAPL. That's not the issue. It's to determine what is available and what can be available at the HAL and at the end of this, the Council has to decide if that doesn't meet what they are looking for, then they don't make a decision. That's what it is. It's not a competition, but we do want to find out what's available and bring it back to the Council.

8. Next Meeting Date – Kim said the next meeting date is Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at Lower Saucon Township Town Hall.