

SAUCON VALLEY LIBRARY TASK FORCE MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Saucon Valley High School Cafeteria

Present: Lower Saucon Township: Kim LaBrake, Lynn Koehler, Mike Karabin, Allan Johnson, Tom Maxfield, Jack Cahalan, Cathy Gorman
Hellertown Borough: Joe Pampanin, Gail Nolf, Cathy Kichline, Tina Krasnansky
Hellertown Area Library: Jessica Goedel, Allison Finkbeiner, Robin Rotherham, Mike Evangelista, Rev. Lamar Handwerk,

Committees:

Demographic/Statistics:

Alison Finkbeiner
Lynn Koehler
Jessica Goedel

Building:

Kim LaBrake
Joe Pampanin
Mike Evangelista

Technology:

Gail Nolf
Mike Karabin
Jack Cahalan

Finance:

Reverend Lamar Handwerk
Tom Maxfield
Cathy Gorman
Tina Krasnansky

1. Welcome – Kim LaBrake, Task Force Chair – Kim said she’s the Chairperson for the Task Force. The purpose of this meeting is to give Lower Saucon and Hellertown residents a look at the information the Task Force has accumulated to-date. They’d like to receive comments from you regarding library services. They have a lot of information they’d like to share with you which they will do via Power Point presentations. Copies of the presentations are on the table in the back of the room, along with agendas. They’ve also posted a copy of the presentation on the Lower Saucon Township website. She asks that you hold all your questions and comments until they are finished with the presentation. Following the presentation, they will open up the meeting for public comment. There’s a sign-up sheet and if you have a comment, please sign in on the sheet. They will call everyone in order. Please try to hold your comments under five minutes.
2. Task Force Overview – Jack Cahalan – He said you can follow along with the handout. He’s the Township Manager of Lower Saucon Township. He wants to review a little background and history of the Library Task Force. The Township has had an annual agreement with the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) for library services since 1978. That agreement has a per capita fee which is currently \$17.05, which is assessed against the Township’s population and that was changed since the 2010 census to 10,772. The Township in 2012 is currently paying \$183,467.00 for library services. Just a quick background, in 2009, a multi-municipal plan was adopted by Hellertown Borough and the Township and it had a list of actions and items that it asked both municipalities to look into. One of those action items was to explore regional opportunities for services, and on that list were library services. Also at the time, the Township Council asked the Library Committee, not this group, to explore other alternatives to our arrangement with the BAPL. That group reached out to the Southern Lehigh Library and also the Hellertown Area Public Library (HAL) and they did get information back from the HAL. Southern Lehigh, because of the way libraries are set up in Pennsylvania, could not help us. Based on the information that this committee received they recommended that a Task Force be set up. In 2010, the Township Council did establish a Library Task Force. We asked Hellertown Borough and also the HAL to appoint members to the Task Force. The Hellertown Borough representatives are Joseph Pampanin, Gail Nolf, Cathy Kichline, the Borough Manager who is an ex-officio member along with Tina Krasnansky the Finance Manager. From the HAL, Rev. Lamar Handwerk, Mike Evangelista, Alison Finkbeiner, Jessica Goedel, and Robin Rotherham, the Library Director is also ex-officio. From the Township, Lynn Koehler, who is also the Township representative to the BAPL Board, Mike Karabin, Kim LaBrake, Tom Maxfield, Cathy Gorman

and himself as ex-officio members. This year they appointed Alan Johnson as an alternate member. Most of them are here tonight, and some of them will give the presentations.

Jack said the Task Force has been meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month since January 2011. The meetings start at 5:00 pm and we have always welcomed public input at those meetings. We set up an email address for info at info@lowersaucontownship.org and we welcome any comments you'd like to make even after tonight's meeting if you go home and review the material and have a question or comment, we would welcome you sending that to us, via that email address. We also have been posting all of the minutes of the Task Force meetings on the Lower Saucon Township website. You can find that by going on the tab for Library Services, and it has the minutes there. The Task Force will continue to meet through July 2012 when they are required to provide a report to the Township and to Borough Councils and also to the HAL trustees.

Jack said when the Task Force was formed, they were given specific responsibilities. If you want to look at those responsibilities, that's listed as the charge up there, that's what they've been working on, nothing more, nothing less, and the last bullet up there says they have to provide a formal, written report documenting their findings no later than July 1, 2012 and make presentations of the report at the Borough, Township Councils and at the Library Board of Trustees meetings. There's been information that's been put out in the press and on blogs for the last couple of weeks which kind of misrepresents what the responsibilities are for this Task Force, some of it is misunderstanding, misconception, and some of it is misinformation. He wanted to clear some of that up before you hear the presentations. The Task Force is only charged with gathering information about the feasibility of the library consolidation between Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough. The Task Force is not making any decisions tonight about changing library services for Township residents. That's up to the elected officials from Lower Saucon Township and also from Hellertown Borough. We have not reached any conclusions about the material that you are about to be presented with. We were not asked to make a comparison study between the library services at the BAPL and at the HAL. He just wanted to make that clear and he hopes that clears up some points.

Jack said he wanted to point out that what they are doing is not unusual. Right here is a copy of a regional police study that was commissioned by the Borough Council and the Township Council back in 2008. They asked the State to conduct a study and it was done for free. It was done by a consultant and the consultant came in and looked at a variety of items. They looked at demographics in the Borough and Township. They looked at equipment and staffing in both Police Departments. Most importantly, they put together a consolidated budget for that Police Department. The task of this study was to explore the feasibility of consolidating the police departments in Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough. Following the study it went to the Township and the Borough Councils. Was a regional police force established? No, it wasn't because the elected officials who received this report decided not to act on the study that was given to them. He wanted to draw a parallel to what went on with this study and what's going on with this group. This Task Force is basically doing the same thing. They are conducting a feasibility study. These volunteers put in over a year of their time and he thinks they did a terrific job pulling this information together. This is an interim report and when we are finished with it in July, it will be given to the elected officials and it will be up to them to decide what they want to do with it. That's a little background.

3. Committee Presentations

Demographics/Statistics – Kim said the next item on the agenda is the committee presentations. The first presentation is the Demographics and Statistics with Jessica Goedel, Lynn Koehler and Alison Finkbeiner. Jessica said she's with the Hellertown Library. Lynn Koehler and Alison Finkbeiner are with her on the Demographics Committee. She wants to give some background information. The statistics are from 2010. Any other figures come from 2011. On the first slide, you can see census information from Hellertown for 2010. Borough population increased 4.95% or from 5,606 residents to 5,898 residents. You can see a breakdown of each group. Lower Saucon Township (LST) 2010 census figures increased with an 8.24% increase. As you can see, the age breakdown is very similar between the two districts. For the HAL statistics, 35% of all Hellertown Library's cardholders are from LST, a total of 2,101 cardholders total or

20% of LST residents. There's a breakdown of Hellertown Area Library patrons. 52% come from Hellertown, 35% from LST, and 7% from other areas. For Hellertown statistics, there were 30,637 materials checked out in 2011 or 35% of HAL's checkouts, 52% were from Hellertown and 13% from other municipalities. They have a breakdown of what LST residents do at the library including volunteers, summer reading programs, meetings held at the HAL, and some tours including Boy Scouts and some tours from the SV school district. On to the BAPL statistics, there are 4,181 LST residents who have cards, or 6% of BAPL's cardholders. That breaks down to about 39% of the population of LST. LST residents do have to have a BAPL card to check out books at the HAL or any other library in Pennsylvania. You can see a breakdown of that. More statistics, LST checkouts at the BAPL were a total of 30,682 at the Main Library, which is 4% of the BAPL's total circulation. It breaks down each group. 86% of the cardholders were from the age of 18 to 64, and an additional 1,328 materials checked out at the South Side branch. There were 2,454 items checked out via the bookmobile. The pie chart will show you 2% were from ages 65 and over; 75% were ages 18-64; 23% were from 0 – 14; and 0.8% were from ages 15 – 17.

Technology – Kim said the next presentation is the Technology Committee represented by Gail Nolf. Gail said to reference back to what Jack initially stated with regards to Task Force responsibilities as stated in the State Library Code, she, Mr. Karabin and Mr. Cahalan sat down in terms of becoming a Technology Committee, taking a look at the types of library technology needs and wants. They researched these as an imminent offshoot of the whole process and their point was moving toward creating an optimal library. She isn't going to read each of these items for you, but obviously, any website or catalogue should contain basic information about library hours. They were excited about the types of opportunities that were out there for libraries. Once again, without comparing the HAL, you have to realize she lives in Hellertown, she has not made a decision on this either, so if she says ourselves, that's because Hellertown is her library. Smart phone applications, I-pads, all types of new technology, put in your pocket type of access, played a large role in the types of things they took a look at including access to SMS, media technology, notice to publications, publication of events using website facilities. The next one, digitization, and decision making and creating the use of personal digital archives and the materials stored online that you've accessed online through the library and you will be able to go back and see what you accessed, and having that stored; creating offsite hard copy access using digital bookmobiles. Digital connectivity to the SVSD High School library was huge for them because as one community, it would be important if you decide to create one library. Library cloud resources to increase accessibility, wireless internet for all patrons, both on-site and off-site; fiber optic lines for a good reason, connectivity speed and reliability; downloadable e-books and e-audio books are an opportunity at HAL, free standing data bases for search purposes. Updating the equipment is obviously a necessity. New library server, improved security system; public access telephone, online laser scanners, photocopiers, fax machine, public use of those types of networking systems and public access and use of licensed software which would create education and training opportunities for patrons in basic computer skills, basic problematic skills, and they'd also like to see job search resources available for citizens, the users. One of the other things they found useful was the satellite collection locations where you can order materials on-line and pick them up from digitized lockboxes. The library technology, obviously we need to optimize the use of our space. Some of the innovations include study carrels with charging docks, reading nooks, music listening stations, digital interactive displays, digital fish tanks, these types of opportunities for young people and people of all ages to come in and learn on a hands-on the type of opportunity, music studio, video theatre, creating a gathering place for young people with perhaps the possibility of a game room. Lastly, in terms of upgrading databases, and these are in order of uses of popularity, the hard copy encyclopedias have quickly shaded away with the onset of new technology and on-line is where the research opportunities exist for people and users of library resources to come in and get the most up-to-date information that they need.

Building – Kim Labrake said this committee consists of herself, Joe Pampanin, and Mike Evangelista who were tasked with finding out what exists at the HAL and providing a way to explain that to the public what exists there now, and opportunities that could be there if the Township decided what to consolidate library services there. This shows the plans of the existing library on Constitution Drive. This piece of property was granted to the library. It's a piece of property that is used for additional parking when the car show is there; Dimmick Park has the fireworks and things like that. This is from what they can determine, the deeded location and how much space is around the library currently. Based on zoning use, if any additions were to be put on by the library at any time, they have a very slim but useable piece of property to the north

of the existing building. For reference, this is the existing layout of the library. You enter off of Constitution. There's a children's area, an office area to the back, the main desk, stacks, recently there was an elevator added to the building to make the upstairs and downstairs handicap accessible. To the basement, it's a wide open space so a lot of the groups that are meeting always meet in that space. There's a work room and a small area that's being used for book storage for book sales and an area for when books are donated, they can be brought in and looked through to see if they can be added to the collection or go to book sale. The upper area is a mezzanine area because there's a large cutout above the existing library desk. This area is mainly used for teens. There's a little teen club and a lot of the books are located in that area to give them a space by themselves. Part of what they did was looked at, and you may not be able to read these, and this is where you may have to get to the website, they tabulated the amount of space that's in the current library and then took sort of the wish list that all the committees put together to see what the optimum library would be and the whole Task Force Committee reviewed many different current articles and periodicals and information that's out there on what a library is in our time. It has changed based on the need for technology, a meeting space, and things like that. There was a created wish list which basically meant additional computers and space, additional meeting space, and segregated areas so you could have a louder part of the library and a quieter part of the library. That was to meet the needs of all of the ages. One of the major issues was security besides the security for everyone in the building and in the contents, was the location of the children's area which now is right when you come in the door and it's in a very small area and a very insecure area because they can't access the front door immediately if they aren't being watched heavily. The current square footage of the HAL is 6,340 square feet. The wish list, if you add base numbers to that, would be a library that is about 9,200 square feet. We do have some options that they looked at. Option A would be how to reutilize the space in the library to gain more useable space, dedicated spaces for readings, and relocating the children's area to a proper location; and by doing that, the useable space increases by about 300 square feet because we'd be cutting down some of the work space in that basement area. We're also looking at the main addition in this of space being we would infill the mezzanine area giving more floor space to the upper area for stacks. Option B, we looked at doing the same thing as Option A but realigning and getting an actual computer space as a dormer addition off the existing mezzanine. This is a less expensive way of gaining space as you are building within the footprint of the building and that allows for a dedicated computer area in that area. What this also does is it provides you by getting the computers off the main floor some additional stack area on the first floor level. Option B, the total increase by adding the dormer addition with the mezzanine is 7,264 square feet. Option C we looked at doing both A and B and then putting a block of space of about 1,800 square feet that would expand the library's lower footprint to allow for a quiet reading area, a larger computer space that would be adjacent to the existing office space for supervision and also an open area with a children's area. Option C would be given a total of 8,956 square feet. It's still not what the wish list had said, but these are the opportunities you have. This is really designed for other than a block of space being put there and showing it as open space and where the computers and supervision areas would be best located.

She has a summary, the census numbers have already been gone over by Jessica. The next line item is a budget comparison. HAL budget, for 2011, was \$235,000.00. The yearly budget for BAPL is \$2,937,176.00. The circulation we already went over. Really what we're looking at is the final tab on this lower end based on the options. Right now, based on the 6,200 square feet that they have with the residents of Hellertown only, that's about one square foot per person for the use of the library. If Hellertown and Lower Saucon were to combine using the same 6,200 square feet, the ratio would go down to .37 square feet per person, and that would be no change to library facilities. Option A which provides interior renovations, basically stays the same. Option B we jump up to .4 square feet per person even with the addition of 1,800 square feet. Option C is about a half of square foot per person in that footprint, and based on the spaces they had shown. Option A if we're going into the opinion of probable costs, this was the mezzanine infill and putting the children's area in the lower level along with the computer area, some additional main level stacks and reading area, all interior renovations only, and gaining 370 square feet is \$113,900.00. Option B goes to the mezzanine infill, upper level, computer area, the lower level children's area and private meeting space, and additional main level stacks. So there's really some building going on here, not just infilling and moving things around. That cost is \$237,000.00. All these costs are just based on a square foot cost. There's no take offs and nobody has looked at it in every detail because of course, it's not designed. It's based on the means building construction cost data and if that data is published yearly in the construction industry on the square foot cost based on our area, there are factors of the

Allentown area, so that's where they arrived at the square foot costs. Option C is the mezzanine infill, the lower level meeting, main level addition which incorporates reading area, computers, and the children's area, so basically we're increasing our square footage by more than 2,000 square feet, recapturing about 1,400 square feet within the building that's being used as work and basement space, and that number is \$770,000.00.

Finance – Kim said the next presentation is the Finance Subcommittee and that would be Cathy Gorman. Cathy said their budget review is based on an outline which follows the building plans we just went over. Option A covers a payout of construction in one year. It covers the construction plan modifying the existing foot plan space. The annual operating budget consists of revenue and expenditures and increasing the expenditures by 7% based on the increased foot plan design and increases the municipal contribution to balance that budget. The capital expenditures includes the construction costs in Option A plus \$50,000.00 in IP and furniture expenses. We also looked at the same Option A with construction costs within a two year period. This also is a budget consisting of the modification of the foot plan space. It also includes the foot plan space and a 7% increase in the utilities of that plan. It shows the municipal contribution to balance the budget. Once again, that includes the \$113,000.00 for the construction and \$50,000.00 for IT and furniture. You can see the budget is balanced at \$290,193.86. Option B covers a payout of construction in ten years with technology improvements. It covers Option B construction plan and is modifying the existing foot plan space and raising the roof to increase that building foot print. The annual operating budget contains existing revenue and expenditures and increase expenditures by 14% based on the increase foot plan design and increases the municipal contributions to balance the budget. The construction costs would be \$237,781.00, IT and furniture would be estimated at \$75,000.00. The budget would be balanced at \$255,457.00. Option C there's a ten year debt service. It covers the ten years with technology improvements and it modifies the existing foot plan space and increases the utility expenses based on that foot plan increase by 41%. It also increases the municipal contributions to balance that budget. With \$100,000.00 in furniture and IT expense, and capital improvement expense at \$777,582.00, we're looking at an annual operating budget of \$346,560.42 which is inclusive of a ten year debt service. We also looked at building Option C with a ten year debt service. Once again, the percentage of increase in utilities based on the increase in space is approximately 41% which they applied to the utilities involved in maintaining the building. The capital and debt service would be \$877,000.00 in total and over a 15 year period that would be paid and the annual operating budget would be \$315,199.85. We took the existing stream of revenue that the library has, and then offset the expenses with the municipal contributions that would be required. For the purposes of the study, they took normal expenses and increased them relative to the building operation, personnel and collection costs as per State regulations and building improvement information. Revenue was determined by estimating the regular annual revenue stream and calculating the amount needed by the municipality to balance the budget on an annual basis. The amount required by the municipalities was calculated on a per capita basis for the purpose of this study. If it is the recommendation of this Task Force to recommend consolidation of Libra services at the HAL, both Councils and the HAL Board of Trustees will need to negotiate and agree on the funding aspects.

4. Library Survey Results – Kim said the next portion is the library survey results. Jack said with the help of the Saucon Valley Partnership, the COG, and through the assistance of Tom Rieger, we were able to get a subscription to Survey Monkey. Tom has been a great help and assistance to the committee and Jack wants to thank him for setting this up tonight. Tom actually compiled all the survey results. He will go through what they came up with. There are no surprises in this.

Question 1 – where do you live? We got over 250 responses. This broke down to about $\frac{3}{4}$ from Lower Saucon Township and another $\frac{1}{4}$ from Hellertown Borough.

Question 2 – what is your gender? The gender was female about $\frac{3}{4}$ and male about $\frac{1}{4}$.

Question 3 – what is your age? Half the age was in the 41-60 age group.

Question 4, for library services, which library do you use? This came out basically the way other informal polls have come out – half for Hellertown and half for the BAPL. We also have a group stated they use the internet and the book mobile. The book mobile would be from the BAPL.

Question 5 – how often do you use the library? This was spread out between at least once a week, once every two weeks, and once a month was the predominant group.

Question 6 – what are your main reasons for using the library? It looks like to borrow fiction books, to borrow best sellers, to borrow non-fiction books, to borrow videos, DVD's and music were the leading answers in that category.

Question 7 - if you don't use the library regularly, why not? The top answer was don't need to use it. The next one was buy my own books and magazines, and the third one was location, parking was not convenient. Then there was doesn't have what I was looking for. Don't have any transportation was 11% and then library card, and other answers were the remaining group on that.

Question 8 – how do you spend your time in the library? It looks like browse books, use the check out return books, use the computers and catalog, and check out return catalogs and CD's and tapes.

Question 9 - what times do you prefer to use the library? It looks like the afternoon period, noon to 5 pm was the most popular choice. Morning and evening hours came in evenly spaced.

Question 10 - what days do you prefer to use the library? This peaked at Wednesday and it looks like it's just about the same Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Some people even like to come on Sunday if the library was open.

Question 11 - please rate the following in terms of importance for an ideal library whether it is available or not at your current library? The library website looks like it won out by a nose, then internet access, computers, parking was number 4. Children's area, remote access to the library, online data bases, and some other items that are listed.

Question 12 - do you see a need for library services in any of the following areas? It looks like general information, current topics and titles were right up there with government information, skills to find, evaluate and use information, and some other topics that were on there.

Question 13 - on average, how often do you visit the library website? A couple of times a month were 23%. Then a couple times a week, and a few times a year, once a month, and once a year, maybe for income tax.

Question 14 - where would you most like the consolidated library to focus its funding? The overwhelming choice was books, DVDs, CDs to check out. Then the rest was technology, programming for adults, teens, and children, staff available to assist library users, additional hours of operation, and clean and welcoming library building.

Those are the results of the survey they held.

5. Open Public Discussion – Kim said we have a sign-in list, so we'll call people as they signed in. If you decide your question has been answered, just raise your hand and say you pass. If you haven't signed in before on one of the lists, once we get through all the lists, we'll ask you to come up to the podium and sign in and if we can keep our comments and discussion on each topic to about five minutes so we can allow everyone to participate, that would be great.

William Billick – He said he just wanted to make a comment on the Survey Monkey survey. Most web surveys tend to be not representative of 99% of the population being surveyed, so the survey that you just gave us, is probably not representative of 99% of the residents of Lower Saucon. He says that with some degree of confidence. He ran the market research operations at Rodale Press for 22 years and is currently President of Media Research Corporation of America and he happens to be a resident of LST. We do surveys for most of the major media throughout the U.S., so the survey you have is basically not representative of 99% of the residents. If any of the information is indeed accurate, then it's probably

mostly by coincidence. Someone said the survey was available on line and there were printed copies at the HAL and the BAPL, Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough building. It just wasn't strictly on line. They knew there were people without access to the internet, so they had printed copies.

Dawn Billick – She said you didn't compare the services between the HAL and the BAPL. Are you planning on doing that because as a library patron, the services are very foggy. Jack said that wasn't the charge to this committee to do that. Dawn said you seem more interested in building on to the HAL and if you do that.....Jack said the focus was consolidation of library services for LST residents at the HAL. That's what the charge was. Dawn said in the future, are you going to compare before a final decision is made? Are you going to give the Council the comparisons between the services? Jack said they will provide them with some statistics from both the HAL and the BAPL. They weren't charged with doing a comparison. Dawn said personally she likes the BAPL.

Jane Stavola – She said square footage per person, you have that statistic in here. Do you have any numbers for any other libraries that exist? Kim said that's not something that is typically available, even in the construction industry. She does know the comparison regionally or locally for Upper Macungie, who is looking at building a new library and has gone through all the processes, all they could do is compare their numbers with the size of the building, and they are looking at one square foot per person. Jane said you are going from one square foot to .37 or .4. Kim said all they did was look at if you add additions and give us space, what that would be. We didn't design it to meet anything; it's just what is available at this point. Jane said so you are going backwards. Kim said she would agree that's the number. Jane said what was said about the costs, they are not real costs. Maybe it's the best you got to go on, but they are not real, they are just numbers to her. In your survey, she's still trying to figure out how gender was included. Do you have any statistics for the BAPL on total square footage, their resources, their square footage per person, nothing, you are just ignoring them. People complain about the parking at the BAPL, because they can't park in front of it or it's not their driveway. Parking is going to be a problem at the HAL. She doesn't understand how you are going to avoid that. Crowding is going to be a problem. She's confused about your charge of the Task Force. Was it to explore options or was it to simply explore we're going to combine? Did you look at anything else, anything? Jack said when you say the charge, first of all, this committee was formed by the elected officials of the Township and the Borough appointed representatives to the committee. The charge came from those elected officials. They asked us to look at the feasibility of consolidating library services at the HAL. Jane said that's the only thing you looked at? Jack said that was the charge they were asked to look at. Jane said you mentioned that you approached Southern Lehigh for information and they said they couldn't talk to you? Jack said correct. Jane said but HAL could talk to you. Jack said correct. Jessica said that's because Southern Lehigh's district is not contiguous to LST as opposed to Hellertown, which is contiguous to LST. When you have a library service area, all those places have to be touched. Jack said they actually received a letter from Southern Lehigh with a full page of regulations that they would have to go through in order to speak to us. Jane said when you show the view of the library building and where parking is and where you could add on and then a space of land that was a possibility for you to use? Kim said the red square on that plan is based on the Hellertown zoning code where they could legally build an addition on that property. They don't own that full piece. That's why it has that little slice that would be available. Jane said that's it? Kim said based on the current deed for the library between the library and the town. Jane said there's no room for any future building, so you are kind of maxed out on that little piece of land. Kim said unless something changes in the future about these facilities next to it. They can only deal with what they know about at this point. Jane said she's under the impression that it's Kim who is an architect? Kim said yes, I am. Jane said are you the one that drew up the plans for the library? Kim said physically drew them up, no. We have an intern in their office that donated her time for her credits as she is going for her license. She drew up the base plans for the committee. Jane said did you have anything to do with it? Kim said of course she did, she's on the committee. We all had something to do with it. Jane said she views that as a conflict of interest. The BAPL is in the process of creating an incredible children and teen space that's going to expand their capabilities. The last thing she is going to say is Lower Saucon already belongs to a wonderful library. She doesn't understand why we would change that and she certainly hasn't seen anything presented here tonight that would make her think anything other than that. She doesn't understand why LST would consider changing to the HAL at all. She said if it's about saving money, which at previous meetings she's seen numbers presented and x per capita cost for BAPL, y per capita for HAL, as some possibility of what

LST would pay, but that wasn't included at all in your presentation tonight. There was a \$17.00 something. Jack said you are talking about the per capita. It's \$17.05 that we are currently charged by the BAPL. Jane said right. If you switched to the HAL, what's it going to be? Jack said you have to go back to the budgets that the Finance Committee gave and it shows the municipal contribution would be from LST and Hellertown Borough. You can divide that into the population and you'll come up with a per capita figure. We didn't do that. Cathy said we didn't do that for this presentation because specifically if this is to proceed and move forward, the Councils would need to decide what those numbers are going to be. Jane said if you are doing this purely to save money, and this is her husband's comment, and you're not going to join the BAPL as it's too expensive, then don't join anything. He doesn't want his tax money to go to HAL. The BAPL is a good place to be and that's that. Lynn Koehler said the Task Force has talked about other options too. The scenario being presented tonight is that we are charged with the concept of the merger and possibly joining the HAL; however, we have kept an open mind as much as possible up until recently about our options. Unfortunately, because of the state reorganization, the library code, districting, and our regulations for library ACCESS program, there are so many what if's, it's difficult for us to make any plans other than based on the information we have now which is one of the reasons why we were so focused on this one option. She apologizes on her part for not making it clear to everybody, but we still need to keep that open mind, and this is not the only, only option. This comes from the Committee that is talking about merged services between HAL and LST. The concept of joining the HAL probably came out of one of the meetings as a possibility. We're trying to do more outreach towards the immediate area and then growing towards the county and the whole district. There's so much to be done. Jack said for the sake of enlightening everybody, what are the options would be available to us? Lynn said HAL is part of the BAPL. It's a district library for the libraries in the district. The district includes Hellertown, Nazareth, and Northampton. The BAPL as a district library provides district services. The district librarian is with us this evening. He knows more about that. The district library can be as little or much as the district wants it to be. She can't go into that, because of legal issues and personal issues. She does want to talk about things like County library assistance. There are such things as regional libraries. Lehigh Valley has been very involved in having a more regionalized approach. She has tried to look at that also. One of the reasons beyond cost factors, is that LST residents use the HAL and they use it a lot, so another option, which is difficult to consider, but involves splitting the cost - paying half the money to Hellertown and half the money to BAPL. That would be ideal. One other side comment, if you think this is weird, every library system in PA is different, so it's hard to have regulations and rules that apply to everybody as every library has a history of where they came from and how they became a library, and every library is different, so every library is unique. This situation hitting us now is just part of Pennsylvania.

Charlie Luthar – He said he wants to thank the Committee as there's a lot of emotion in this room. There are a lot of questions yet to follow. This is not an easy project and these people spent a lot of time trying to put a project together, and it's a work in progress. That's one thing that really wasn't stated. There's no decision that has been made here, and you've all worked very hard trying to provide the information that others are going to take. It may come back to you again and ask you for more information, so this is not the end of the story, and no one has any criticisms of any library or any preconceived motion to where we are going. He wants to thank you all. It's hard to sit up there and listen and be patient and answer questions.

Mary Adams – She said she also would like to applaud you for looking at regionalizing local services and trying to maximize limited resources, it's a very good idea. She comes here as an individual citizen. To her, there is such a volatile difference between the two libraries and as a user of BAPL, it would make a huge difference to her. It's hard for her to understand why you are going in this particular direction unless it is budget driven, and that information she just doesn't know. She applauds your exploring the possibilities. She said there's no comparison.

Liza Holzinger – She said referring to the slide presentation, on page 5, you note at the top slide that 20% of the population of LST has a library card at the HAL. She does want to note that 39% of the population of LST has a card with the BAPL, and the concern about parking at the BAPL, there is always parking available on evenings and Saturdays in the garage. Page 11, she had a question for the Technology Committee, on the top slide it talks about library technology needs. Most of these listed are on-line resources that the BAPL provides, in fact, they all are. Does the HAL provide any of these, other than the Power Library resources? Robin said they don't. They have the Power Library. They have A to Z the

USA. Liza said the rest of these resources would be lost to LST residents if we joined the HAL. Robin said not if they gave us their money as the HAL could then provide them. Liza said there's a pretty big price tag for those subscriptions. Robin said it's by area of population for the price tag. Liza said they will have to get back to you on that, but it's pretty hefty. The cost options, and you did say it would be up to the Borough and the Township to decide what the rate increases would be for Hellertown and Lower Saucon for each of these options, and she's wondering if they are consider an even rate that everybody would be paying the same rate. In earlier meetings, it was discussed that LST would have a higher rate, and the Hellertown rate would remain the same. Is that still being considered? Jack said are you talking about a per capita cost? Liza said yes, she can't read the figures as they are quite small. Jack said there are handouts he can give you on those charts, but we did not get into a discussion of per capita charges. In the Finance reports, you'll see there's a municipal contribution and that's as far as the Task Force has gone with it. Liza said we have to do the math? Jack said if you take the municipal contribution for Hellertown and divide that by Hellertown's 2010 census, you can come up with the per capita charge. We can do that in the final report, we just didn't do that here for tonight. Lynn said if you look back at the original presentation that Hellertown made on the very, very beginning, it did talk about a two year period where LST would pay more money, but that was before we did any of the research and the space. The initial answer is yes, but the real answer is we don't know. Jessica said LST would pay more money than Hellertown would pay, but the original plan that was presented, would show a drop in per capita rate. Lynn said why LST is going to be paying more is because of costs involved in expansion of the library. Those are all fantasy figures. The numbers you are getting today have more research behind them. Liza said when you make the final recommendation to the Township and Borough, you would include that per capita figure because it's important to know whether LST will be paying for the expansion of the HAL. Lynn said it would be nice to have a five-year plan. Kim said that's a good suggestion. Lynn said the databases that HAL doesn't have and it's very expensive. One of the things that district libraries offer is something called "group buy" where they help the libraries in their district purchase these databases at a group or lower rate or provide them as a service as part of the district service. She's implying that the BAPL could do more in that area for the libraries in your district.

Dan Solove – He said he works at BAPL. Most questions have been answered. He was asked to reiterate on the databases. That already is in place. The money for the district libraries is money pulled into their budget, so to buy extra databases, there is no funding for more databases. You'd have to pay on your own for that. ProQuest is \$1,000.00 a year. Like you said, it may be lower for HAL as it's a small population, but the databases are very expensive.

Paul LeMenager – He said his questions have been answered. He is concerned about the square feet per person; it looks like we're going backwards. Tom Maxfield said he wants to remind everybody one of the things the Task Force was very aware of is that we were moving into a new era of library services. When we talk about square footage per person, a lot of the services the library offers are not offered at the library. Square footage sometimes doesn't really matter per person. If you have online services and things like that, or you are doing most of your digital media where you talked about drop-off boxes, you may not ever need to go into the library, so square footage may not be a pertinent issue.

Nancy Piller – She said she's a LST resident. Thank you, as she knows it a lot of work. She has clarifying questions. She's a numbers person. There's a current assessment of around \$183,000.00. If that's paid to BAPL and we were to consolidate, is that \$183,000.00 available for consolidation. Someone said it could be, but as Lynn said earlier, there are other options too. Someone presented information to us about splits of the money. So there's one of the options. Some of the other figures projected were less per capita with a consolidated library. Nancy said this comes from the Finance Committee numbers that range from \$163,000.00 to \$877,000.00, correct? If she looks at population total of roughly Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township of 15,000 people, she comes up with it will cost us \$10.00 and \$60.00 per person to do all this, does that make sense. Jack said Cathy can you explain the options, you spread them out over several years. Cathy said the options that were presented and the cost of construction obviously were significantly higher, so that's why they looked at a debt service to be in place if those options were considered. That wouldn't necessarily mean that a tax increase would be required. Like we said before, funding for this is dependent on what the Councils decide if this moves forward. Nancy said she heard about consolidation, and she may have missed this point, but if there's no consolidation, are there plans to

upgrade the HAL at all? Jessica said that would be up to the HAL Board if they ever decide to expand the library in any way. At this time, there are not any plans to expand the library. Robin said may she also add they just finished the \$250,000.00 elevator addition two years ago, so that was in place. The footprint of the building was too small without the elevator to allow for expansion, so they did put in the elevator addition. She said she did not hear what are the plans for the bookmobile in all of this? Does it go away? Someone said as an individual here, bookmobile services are very important to her and she will make sure that issue gets addressed within the Task Force, and whatever decision happens, that people who cannot access the library, still have the access to books. As a supporter to libraries, everyone should have access. She will make sure that issue stays on the table. Nancy said as long as someone addresses it so it's clear as one of the things she heard of is the bookmobile is going away, and she didn't see it addressed it here. Lynn said the bookmobile is part of the BAPL, so if LST is no longer part of the BAPL, that bookmobile service would not be available unless other arrangements were to be made. For example, you could have a rental or purchase of a bookmobile. There are other ways of servicing the community. Her Mom and Dad recently moved to State College and they have a beautiful new library. They are senior citizens and can't get around so they order their books online and they are mailed to them. There are all sorts of options if the bookmobile is prohibited in either rental or purchasing, there's other ways of getting books to people. There's drop off services; there's central points; there's using the Township building. They are going to look at every possible option. Nancy said with these options that are presented here, if we were to consolidate tomorrow, we would not have a book mobile service. Someone said that's an issue she will not drop.

Paul Pagoda – He said he's a resident of LST. He thanks those who are holding this meeting and thanks to all the folks who are here to be heard or to listen. He said Mr. Billick made a statement that the survey may not be representative, and he's not sure what that meant. What does that mean? Mr. Billick said it doesn't project to be representative of the population. It's a self-selecting survey. Lynn said it's not mailed out to everyone. It's to just people who had access to the survey. Paul said he took part of the survey himself. Lynn said it wasn't mailed out. She's not happy with that, but they were in a tight timeframe. She doesn't think the information made any difference in any of the categories, even if more people answered. Some of the categories received a little more variation. Paul said with 16,000 residents, roughly 230 responded. He said earlier this week he sent a message out to members of his mail group, and he cited a figure about per capita costs for LST of \$2.55. That was in a flyer distributed by the bookmobile. He learned tonight it's something other than that, it's \$17.05. He just needs clarification on that figure. Someone said they believed that was early on when the Task Force was talking about the same figure. If they went to Hellertown, they would charge LST residents \$15.00. Jessica said she can answer that. The \$2.55 figure was the difference between the current rate BAPL was charging LST to the original projected amount that HAL presented to LST which was \$15.00 per capita for the first two or three years. After two or three years, LST would pay the same rate as Hellertown which is about \$10.65. Paul said it was correct for 2011, and in 2012, we actually dropped the per capita rate to \$17.05. The original numbers that was a presentation before the Task Force was put together. Someone said he did some quick math with the numbers from the Township Manager, per capita rates and contribution from LST with Options A, B and C, those figures would range from \$127,000.00 to \$160,000.00 per year based on the 2010 survey census data, our contribution to Hellertown with those options would range from \$9.10 to \$13.92. Those are just quick figures. Can you define the word contiguous? Jessica said meaning they are touching. Paul said we do touch, Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon. Jessica said it's a county issue, it's Lehigh County and Northampton County. The counties are contiguous. Cathy said Southern Lehigh is in Lehigh County and we are in Northampton County. Lynn said having a non-County entity would make it confusing. Paul said if you have to take one overriding factor that will result in a decision, what would be the number one reason for us to recommend severing our ties with the BAPL and consolidating with HAL, would you say it's safe to say from what he heard tonight was it budget figures and square footage, is it just budget, is that it? Jack said first of all we are not going to say we are going to sever the relationship with BAPL, that's not our call. That's up to the elected officials who will make that call. All we're going to do is take this data and put it together in a final report and present it to the elected officials. Paul said if those conclusions were to be based on anything, one factor, would you say the cost would be one of those factors or the most important factor? Jack said they went through about five different presentations and cost was one of them. The other ones were technology and so on. Jessica said it's important to reiterate from the slides and statistics that 35% of LST makes up their cardholders so there's a very large group of LST residents who

do use the HAL, and that's important to recognize and be aware of that people from your community like the HAL and use it. She also thinks it's important to realize the school district is Hellertown-Lower Saucon Township. Everything is combined, you look at the sports, it's another step and common sense to look at. Paul said Jack brought up a police report that considered the consolidation of police departments. There's some connection there, that report he doesn't know what it recommended, but didn't it recommend the consolidation of services and that there may be some advantage to that? We are using the same rationale to justify this sort of collaboration and jointure with the library, and has the same rationale been applied to that study? Who decided that and are you are going to pursue this. Jack said first of all you have to ask the elected officials, that was their decision. There's a variety of studies being done. We've done police studies and this is actually the third police study that is being done. There's a library study we are finishing. There's a fire services study that's being looked at, and they are all looking at whether regionalized services are advantageous to the citizens of Hellertown and Lower Saucon and to reach any conclusion you have to weigh all the factors. We are putting those factors together and saying here's what a consolidated library would look like. Just as the police report says, here's what a consolidated police department would look like. X amount of officers, this many cruisers, radios, then they said this is what it will cost. That's all we're doing. The elected officials can look at that and then they can decide if that's something they want to move ahead on or not take any action. Paul said as a taxpayer and a reader, and someone who depends on security, whether it's police or fire departments, that there's a lot of efforts being given on how we can avoid duplication of services to save money, to better serve taxpayers in an efficient way and in an economic way itself.

Richard Fluck – He said his questions have been answered.

Benjamin Fistner – He said their questions have been answered.

Claudia Allen - She said she's from LST and she lived in LST for about eight years and her husband grew up here. She believes it may have been Lynn that said that there are many ways of getting books to people, but the thing is you have to have the books, you have to have the resources to get them to the people and Hellertown doesn't have them. She doesn't see duplication of BAPL's efforts to be money-wise at all. She's there every week and she manages to walk a block or two that it takes to get to the library. It's really important that everyone email the LST Council members to let them know how they feel about this and it wouldn't be such a bad idea to put this to a vote since we put this to a vote whether we are going to support the HAL.

Eileen Mitchell – She said she's glad to see how many people turned out since the location was changed at the last minute. Pretty much the people preceding her answered her questions. She did have a question about the elected officials. Who was the one who initiated this Task Force? Jack said the LST Council, their elected officials. Eileen said how is it that they aren't here? Jack said some of them are here. Eileen said will there be a future meeting where they will be present? Jack said this is going to be presented to them at a future meeting, and all of our Council meetings are open to the public. Eileen said pretty much what they said was what she feels. She's a resident of LST for six years and prior to that, she was from Allentown. Every library she goes to there's things in the paper saying budget cuts and services being cut, write your Senators and your congressmen. Given the economy and the way it is, she understands Hellertown wants to modernize, but the people who like going there, maybe they like that small town feeling. Maybe modernizing would turn them off. It's like you have a favorite diner, and they remodel and they don't have booths anymore and they have marble tables and you don't feel it's as homey and then they cut the quality of what they give you and they cut the prices. It goes out of business. They wanted to grow and they turned off the people who liked it. So maybe the people who like to go to Hellertown would not be happy with what you do, but you can't stop progress. She doesn't see how taking the LST and taking away from them with the resources and the material selection that the BAPL has. If there's a way Hellertown residents can do this with fundraising, another way for this to go through and work out. Jack said you made a statement that gives the impression that the HAL was running out of money and that's the reason they came to us to join in the Task Force which is not accurate. Eileen said the BAPL is more metropolitan and more sophisticated. Hellertown is a smaller community with a smaller library. It does need to be brought up to date. She's wondering how in these fiscal times it's a gamble and you are putting it on the shoulders of the taxpayers of LST. Lynn said you should take a visit to the HAL. It's a beautiful

little library. It's a newer library. It's not in the dark ages. It's a modern library. It's bright, it's airy, and they have computers.

Bridgette & Bob Beckett – Someone said they left.

David Willard – He said he will pass.

Bill Scheirer - He said he's a member of the Board of Trustees of the BAPL. He'd like to speak a little more of the survey. He's going to compliment you on the questions that were raised. They are very well thought out. The presentation and the results were very good. As he discussed at one of your Task Force meetings, was Tom Rieger able to do a non-response test for Survey Monkey? Tom said could you explain that? Bill said it has to do with the checking that the survey is representative of the entire population. That there's no bombshells in the results, but just in case someone would focus on a particular answer or question, and it's something worth printing up and as he calculates the responses were about 2% of the population. It had to go to the internet or the library and you had to pick it up and be willing to fill it out. If you don't do these things, these are called non-responses. The question is, are those people any different than the 2% who filled it out and that's the difficult question. One way of checking is that is you break your responses in half and you have the second half. If they are not significantly different, that gives you more confidence that it is more representative and it doesn't prove it. The only way to prove it is to take a random sample and then it starts getting example. Good surveys are very expensive. For example of doing this is if you have a mail survey and you get 25% response rate, then you pick a random sample of those that did not respond and you keep after them on the telephone until you get responses and then you compare them. Then you have a pretty good idea of what you have. It's a very interesting survey but only representative of the 2% who filled them out. Tom Rieger said it's important to point out that the Survey Monkey is by no means a scientific survey. Like you said, it requires people to take the initiative and take the survey. A perfect world, you would have done posters, you would have had that first response, no response, but this was a way of gauging and trying to get the public input. He thinks they were successful in doing that. They did have a significant number of paper surveys turned in by the BAPL. Jack can attest to that. It's important to remember it's not a scientific survey. It was never meant to be a scientific survey. It was only meant, self response. Bill said what it does is process the results and it does that very well. Tom said yes and no.

Joel Katz – He said he noticed that the Task Force responsibilities include familiarizing the library needs for Hellertown-Lower Saucon. In that respect, there were no comparisons in your report. There are a lot of comparisons. He thinks this report you delivered, and you worked hard on it, but it's disgraceful. You haven't given the community what it needed. What you yourself discussed at the meetings, you discussed fairly endlessly, the meetings he attended. The notion that there would be vast savings for LST, he doesn't see any of that in here. You comment of the square footage, it was said there would be more square footage for children, and there will be more square footage for computers and the whole plan has to do with providing more square footage. In short the BAPL is by any reasonable standards, a huge asset to the community as a whole and to LST, in particular. The only thing he had negative about the HAL was he heard a lot about how one card can be used and somehow it didn't happen. You can shake your head all you like, Reverend, but it happened to him. Rev. Lamar Handwerk said he happens to know about that as the person who waited on Joel that day was the Reverend's wife. What you did was you brought books to the front of the library and she asked you if you had a Hellertown card. You said no, you have a Bethlehem card. You dropped your books and you walked out. You didn't give her a chance to tell you about how to get a Hellertown card. You dropped your books and you walked out and you have the guts to stand here. Joel said you have the guts Reverend. He doesn't need to be disrespectful of your position, but that's nonsense. That's not what happened. All she had to do.....Kim interrupted and said let's move on, do you have a comment on another subject? Joel said the whole basis of this.....thank you very much, and he said Reverend I don't apologize, I tell the truth. Rev. Handwerk said you'd better pray about that one.

Janet Fricker – She said she's the Executive Director of the BAPL. She thanks you for allowing this forum. It had been mentioned on the PATCH that she hadn't been to any of your meetings, and she hadn't. That was because they sent a representative from the BAPL to every single meeting. They sent board members, we sent different people. Most recently at Lynn's suggestion, we sent David Dunlap, the District Librarian.

She is also a resident of Lower Saucon and pays taxes to this community, so she does have a personal feeling about this too, but yes, she's is biased. She did in the beginning, perhaps not understanding what the Task Force was charged with, she did attempt to talk to Jack Cahalan several times to ask him if a member of the BAPL staff could be on the Task Force, and she was told no, that was not appropriate. She finds that if it's not appropriate to have a staff member from the BAPL who currently represents LST, and who stands to lose a great deal of money if LST switches allegiances, if we're not allowed to be represented, why is HAL allowed to be represented? Questions could be answered by both Directors, not just one, who has a bias too, most understandably. The last piece of information it's an emotional issue for everyone who is here and who cares, the BAPL does not look at LST as just a bank account. She worries about the future of libraries in the State and in this country. It's not the technology that's going to do us in, it's the funding or the lack thereof. Libraries, Hellertown, Bethlehem, wherever, we are in the cutting edge of technology and we are helping residents deal with the constant changes that nobody else can afford individually. That is her big concern about this. Taking money from BAPL to give to HAL to build Hellertown up at Bethlehem's expense and to duplicate things we already offer. She doesn't think that's the right way to do it. She doesn't think it's fair that Hellertown serves 35% of their patrons that come from LST and no longer gets paid for it through ACCESS PA, which is now unfunded mandate. She doesn't think that's fair either, but she thinks what we all should be doing is sitting around the table, the people, the municipalities who are all involved with the BAPL, the municipalities that are involved with the HAL, and LST, we should all be talking how we can share resources, how we can have one center for processing books, rather than duplicate them, at that much of a cost. How we can have one IT department to serve the whole area, rather than 3, 4, 5 IT departments. She has been talking with Senator Boscola, Steve Samuelson, our representatives, and several other people to try and get such a Task Force together that would be a Lehigh Valley Library system. That is the future of this area. That is what we need. Our individual "I want to be in charge of my library, I don't want anybody telling me what to do", all of that stuff, we are all going to disappear, big and little if we don't work together. Lynn said she's not sure what Jack said her role was here. You probably heard her talk about both libraries, well, that's her role. She's appointed by LST to represent them, and she's a trustee of the BAPL. As a trustee, she has the trust of the State of PA to make sure the BAPL is a safe, functioning and legal institution and follows the laws of the State of PA and of the community, but she has to wear her other hat because she is appointed by LST, she has to do what LST wants and represent LST. That's why you hear her, not as a devil's advocate, but look at both sides of an issue. There is representation for BAPL on this Task Force, that's her. Janet Fricker, the Director, would have liked to have been on this Committee, she's a LST resident, but it was not a good idea for various reasons, and that's why Lynn recommended David Dunlap, who is the District Librarian to be part of this committee. He really should be sitting up here with us participating. He has a lot of information about the area and the state rules and what we should be looking for. Because of what the state is going through, we have no idea of what the laws are going to be, and they are going to change them as we do it anyway, so we have to stay focused to our task.

David Lloyd – He said he's from LST. The first thing he wanted to know, it's been said a couple of times, that you are going to give a recommendation, then sometimes you are going to give a report, then other times you are going to give a conclusion. It may be in his mind, and he may be the only one, but there's a difference between a report and a recommendation. Jack said he's not sure where you came up with recommendation. David said he only heard the audience seem to suggest that. Jack said that's correct, we did not state that up here. What we stated was we are going to do a report. David said a conclusion is a summary, it doesn't necessarily mean you are going to say this is the way you have to go. That's what he was seeking from you. Only literally 30 seconds ago, he happened to look through the report from Hellertown Library and it references the Saucon Valley Library Task Force, and it does say, and report back their recommendations. He's trying to clarify that. It's meant to be a report. You asked us to explore this idea, and here's what we found, do with it what you want. That's how he kind of understands it. The second thing, he was trying to look at the online meeting notices, and he wants to make sure the March meeting minutes will get posted, there not online yet. Jack said we will approve them at tonight's meeting and they will be online tomorrow. David said he was really glad to hear that the bookmobile, if consolidation happened tomorrow, we wouldn't have a book mobile, but it's not being dropped. His family lives in Saucon Terrace, which is one of the stops in LST, and it's one of the main reasons, besides the Saucon Valley School District, that they stay where they are because it's fantastic. His kids are readers, and they get ten books a week that are brand new and are free to us. Two other things, he wants to confirm

that there will be three more meetings before you give a report, it's May, June and July. Jack said that's correct. David said on the website you had posted in a flyer and on the presentation, it was a website to email to the Task Force, to you, it might be something that once the report comes out, you might consider adding a link to the local officials. At that point, once the report is published, it's out of your hands, and then it will be up to them. Jack said the Township website has another page that has the names of the elected officials. The Council members are listed and their emails are listed. In Hellertown, you can go on their website and find the email addresses for those officials.

Tom Maxfield said just in case you didn't think your Council was interested, he is a Council member of LST. As well, there are three other Council members in the audience tonight, three of the four. They care. They are listening to your concerns. They are listening to all of your statements. Priscilla deLeon identified herself as a Council member. Tom said Ron is in the back. They are here, they are listening. He does want to say in response to some of the things Ms. Fricker said, for a long time, when budget time came around for LST, all they got was a bill from the BAPL. He has to say this precedes Ms. Fricker's tenure at the BAPL. The way things happened, there was no conversation, no options, no opportunities at all, we just got the bill. That bill kept going up and every year like we were buying a small home for the library, basically that's how much that bill was. You've heard about percentages of how many people in LST actually have BAPL cards, and the bills we get are based on per capita. So we are talking about \$17.00 per capita, but if you do the math, and figure out how many people actually have cards, the people that are actually using the service are paying much higher per capita than you think, much higher. When that information came to LST, and we saw the bills going up and up and up, your Council decided that we needed to do something about it and that was to explore some other options. That was the first time we got the ear of the BAPL. When we said to them, the money may not be coming this next time, or we may be thinking about other options, that was the first time, they really said, whoa, Lower Saucon, and we started to get some attention from the BAPL. That's why we are going where we are going now. We are looking at the options. There are no plans. Nobody has made up their mind. Everybody is listening. You've been presented with A, B and C, and as Lynn said, there are other options, more things we can do. That's where we are at, and that's what started it. He didn't want you to think it was just a whim. Ms. Goedtel also said what would be the one thing that would make you want to consolidate. The only thing that possibly would make a Council want to consolidate would be no drop in services and less money. That would be it. It wouldn't be one thing; it would be a combination of things. Your Council does not want to give you any less of an experience than you are getting now at the library. Someone said the per capita always goes up, and how many people end up paying for it, the same is true for schools. She has no children in the Saucon Valley School District, but she pays school taxes, and she expects to and it's very important for the community. The library is also very important part of the community. Lynn said plenty of people use the library from here or wherever, you don't need a library card to walk into any library.

Noelle Kramer – She said she is a LST resident and she typically uses the HAL. Apparently, she's the only one, but when she tried to park at Bethlehem, she had a dismal time trying to find a space. She has four children in the school district. Her children in high school do walk from the high school to the HAL. The third graders go to the HAL and they get introduced to the HAL. They walk to the library. They aren't bussed. Her question is, has there been or will there be any input from the school district since we are a group school district, she'd like to know does the school district have an opinion. She keeps hearing about the kids things. Her kids don't have the opportunity to go to BAPL. She has a new driver in her family, and although she would permit her to drive to Hellertown and park at Hellertown, she would not be comfortable with her dealing with the traffic, the drivers, and parallel parking is something she's not ready for. Kim asked Mike Karabin if he wanted to speak for the school district. Mike said at this time, in talking with the Superintendent, she has stated they will work in any way, shape or form, when it comes time to discuss further issues on where the board has decided to go. She has offered to sit with any of the Task Force members to discuss further possibilities. We are not seeing a direct connection at this point. We are not opposed to sitting down and talking further. Noelle said her third grader really enjoyed an introduction to the library. Is it possible, in whatever direction this goes, that program would be discontinued? Jessica said absolutely not. Any programs they offer right now are open to anyone with a Hellertown card, and that would continue, regardless of outcome. Noelle said has any commentary been made or any thought been given to if LST leaves the BAPL, they are going to lose money. She's trying to look at this as what's good for her children and what's good for her. She asked what does this do to staff at

the two libraries? Has any of that been considered? Lynn said at the last BAPL board meeting, they took a look at that option. If LST withdrew, they had to come up with some contingency plans for the next budget, and future budgets on what they would have to do. Less hours, less staff, is definitely an obvious option. The BAPL hours were cut Thursday nights before the budget cuts from the State, if there's any more State budget cuts and LST leaves; it's going to be very dangerous. She will point out that the beautiful expansion is being handled through donations, grants, fundraising, and contributions from people. It's not out of the operating budget. Noelle said is that a consideration to the Task Force or is it strictly what benefits LST and what the preference of LST is. Jack said they did not look into any of the staffing of the BAPL. Lynn said she does want to mention about the school district concept. She mentioned every library in PA is different. There are some libraries and systems that are fully funded by the school district. BAPL has had some funding from the Bethlehem School District for the South Side branch. It has had funding, and it's been cut. Someone said that was grant money. It was not operating money. Lynn said right, it was grant money from the programs on the South Side branch. It's really tough. If you are a LST resident, you are probably aware of whatever funding or lack of funding the school district has, so she wouldn't expect all that much additional contribution to any library from the school district. That's her personal opinion based on her observation and knowledge. On the other hand, the Task Force has absolutely considered technology options and if it is possible with the school district, and possible sharing spaces with the school district, but it's all back to the fantasy situation, what we can do, what if. Noelle said physically, from her children, the HAL is convenient, it's close and they can walk there. They aren't going to be waling to BAPL. Someone said in regards to staffing, just so everyone is aware, the HAL would have to add additional staff because the amount of people you have to have a certain amount of staff members based on the population you are serving. If they drop, we pick up. She knows that's not reality, but it's people we are talking about. Lynn said over the years, looking at different things and the bookmobile, and at one point, the bookmobile was on Cherry Lane and it didn't really work out that well. Another point, the bookmobile was over by the Giant, and no one really came except more Bucks County people came. On other option they were thinking was actually having it at the school district itself as this is actually Lower Saucon Township. That would be something to consider. Noelle said she can't even tell you where the bookmobile goes or when. They are actually very close and can walk to the HAL. She's not familiar with the bookmobile, but this is about how it's going to affect the kids and if there's any interplay between the school district and the library. Mike said as a sitting board member of Saucon Valley School District right now, he can tell you, if it comes to fruition with this program, we have a board that sits right now that will be extremely strong on cost effectiveness and they will be making quite sure that there is no extra cost to the school district as you have witnessed in the recent past. The school board of today is constantly checking our financial status, so when we get to the point of asking the school district, and he's sure there will be a conversation, he doesn't see a school board going out and funding the cost of a library at this point. Just so people are aware of it.

Jacquelyn Labert – She did not speak.

Priscilla deLeon – She said she just wanted to make sure people knew who she was.

Sandra Miller - She said she's from LST. She's been following through the minutes and the meetings. There are two areas she needs to question. The survey had a section of comments, and when they did a survey in the past, there was a compilation of those comments, and that was not presented. It would be nice to see a compilation of comments so we know what people said. Jack said that will be in the final report. They did not include it for this presentation. Sandra said that is usually more enlightening than a yes or no. Jack said they will include that. Sandra said is there an actual place where the charge of this Task Force is in writing. Is there minutes that actually lists the charge? She just wants to make sure she understands. Jack said he can give her the charge from the Township Council minutes. The list that he showed tonight is the actual language from the minutes. Sandra said she can't find the process and the bottom line. She uses both libraries extensively. She thinks everybody, if we're talking 33% on both sides, she doesn't think it's not fair for HAL to get funding for that amount. She's been there three times in the last two weeks, but she's also been to the BAPL probably almost weekly also. The bottom line is she doesn't believe pulling the funding is a fair option for a community service. She thinks the option that is currently on the table, all or nothing is inappropriate for this very prestigious group to be looking at. Jack said we are not talking about options as far as the funding. We are talking about options of a consolidated library. The issues

about funding are up to the elected officials. Sandra said she agrees. She's saying they missed an opportunity not to have a broader scope for this Task Force. She's not criticizing the Task Force. She's not criticizing what you did. You did a fantastic job. She's very impressed with all of the work, but there really are options. We could share the money. We could have it stay the same. We could all just go to HAL which is part of the option. We could fund none of it and just drop it and have a savings, or we could actually do the merger. She wrote these options down based on comments made prior to the statements of the other individuals. For someone who uses both, the horror of losing BAPL brought her here. At the same time, she did never want, nor did she realize there was no funding for the HAL every time she shows up there. That is wrong. It's wrong for our Council to consider dropping funding for a service that is used so heavily. She goes to the South Side also, and 33,000 using BAPL, that's a lot of people using that library. She thinks all our responsibility to continue to do that. She would really, really, appreciate it if you would look at providing more than just expanding HAL, would be on the table, as she doesn't think it should be an all or nothing decision. She appreciates all your efforts. Someone said she wants to point out, it's nice to see someone very much using the ACCESS PA which allows you to use any library in the State of PA as long as you have the library card. Sandra said she gets books from Lancaster, so that's not being funded. Lynn said part of the funding, the truck maybe funded, the postage may be funded, but the manpower aspect of it isn't being funded. That's why we are talking about inter-library loans. In terms of the ACCESS PA program, when you physically go to another library and use that library with the card, that is not getting funded at all. Tom Maxfield said this Task Force's charge is over in July. That doesn't necessarily mean that we've missed that opportunity. The Task Force could get a brand new charge and it could involve finances and further options. He thinks he doesn't know how many have been to their meetings, but this Board functions very, very well, and he would like to see it go on and address other issues.

Kim said there are people who want to ask some questions.

Andrea ?- She said she lives in LST. She has a couple of questions. What is the current per capita cost for a Hellertown resident to use the HAL library? Robin said \$10.65. Andrea said you operate on a contribution from Hellertown of roughly about \$58,000.00. Not to dispute anyone else's arithmetic, and it could be because she can't see these tiny numbers, but she actually came up with a span from \$9.19 all the way up to \$17.67 per capita cost. What she finds more disturbing is not the enormous difference in the per capita cost, but some of these numbers show under some options that Hellertown and Lower Saucon figures are almost identical per capita, and in others, they are pretty significantly different, like 10% different. For example, Option B, the per capita cost for Hellertown is \$8.39 and the per capita cost for the cost for LST is \$9.19. Under Option C, the 15 year debt service, the difference is \$13.54 for Hellertown and \$14.84 for LST. All of which makes her wonder, what the heck kind of algorithm did you use to come to that split between LST and Hellertown? Why isn't it consistent from option to option? Cathy said it is consistent from option to option. What is different is the amount that is required by the budget. If you look at the per capita cost and look at actually what's being required by the municipalities, they are general operating costs, current general revenue stream, which is approximately \$109,000.00. You back that out and whatever is needed to balance the budget on the expense end, that is split up on a per capita basis. Andrea said every single time that should be in the same proportion. Cathy said it is in the same proportion. If you look at the numbers, it's usually a third to two-thirds and that's what our population is. Andrea said if that were true, then these per capita numbers would actually come out evenly, and not be so different between Option A and Option C. Tina said Option A and Option C, when you look at the numbers, the actual costs for those options are different, so yes, there is a difference. Andrea said that's not her point. Her point is that after you figure out the total cost of the option and subtract from all of the income, you have a number that is left, that needs to be made up by the contributions of the Township and the Borough, correct. That population of the Township and the Borough is known. There is a percentage between them. If you divide those numbers into that large number, based on that percentage, the per capita rates should stay within the same band. Tina said they do understand and they will check the numbers and make sure it's accurate. Andrea said her concern is that she doesn't understand how under one scenario both groups are paid essentially the same and then under another scenario, they are not. It does not make sense. Lynn said part of that is how much things are going to really cost. Lower Saucon, in theory, could be a very large portion of that. Andrea said not according to what you just said. Tina said they will check the calculations by population. Andrea said she would appreciate that. She has been a user for the BAPL for 28 years now.

First living in Hanover Township, and now living in LST. She will say that it does not make sense to her to take her contribution or LST contribution to the BAPL and pour it into Hellertown to attempt to raise the level of services to the level of services already available in Bethlehem. That does not seem to be a reasonable use of her tax money. She agrees with the lady who spoke earlier that it seems unfair that Hellertown is used by LST, but is not paid for by LST residents. We ought to figure out a way to fairly address that. She agrees with the gentlemen earlier that there is a deficit here that would be provided to the Township Supervisors to make them be able to make an intelligent decision. She realizes you understand what your tax responsibilities are, but her definition of the word feasibility implies the evaluation of the pros and cons of the proposed option and those pros and cons need to include a cost benefit analysis for the services provided. Unless you do a cost benefit analysis for the services that would be given up by choosing this consolidation, you have not determined feasibility. You have not properly identified what the loss is. You've identified what the cost is, in dollars, but you have not quantified the loss in quality, accessibility, to the LST residents. She believes that is included in the word feasibility. She doesn't think we can put blinders on and say we only looked at LST and Hellertown because we have to look at it in a larger context. She did have a concern when she walked in here, and the very first thing she saw on page 2, was that the formation of the Task Force who have representatives from Hellertown Borough, Lower Saucon and the HAL. Her first question was where are the representatives from the BAPL? She appreciates all of Lynn's comments in both directions and her attempt to be really fair about this, but if you were appointed by LST, then clearly your responsibility is to LST and you aren't listed on here as representing BAPL. There is clearly, if you don't want to talk conflict of interest, there's a lack of important information that needed to have been fed into this report, either that, or the HAL people should have not been on here either because you should have been a resource just like the BAPL people would be a resource. She'd like to suggest one other thing. She is a serious believer and supporter in regional cooperation, and she happens to be the founder and chairman of the Lehigh Valley Sustainability Network, which they created specifically to facilitate communication and interaction among the entire sustainability community in the Lehigh Valley. There is nothing that drives her crazier in the State of PA than the fact that we can't seem to cooperate and to maximize our tax dollars, so she would disagree with Mr. Cahalan and say that there are other options and that in falls under the concept of feasibility and those options include, and she'd like you to look at this in a slightly different way, if you keep the status quo, everyone who lives in LST, who would be devastated by the loss of access to the BAPL, will remain content, and all the people who currently go to the HAL will remain content. If you choose to consolidate with Hellertown, you will alienate anger, a large portion of the members of the LST community, who currently want, need and value dramatically access to the BAPL. Why not leave well enough alone, and while you are at it, drive the discussion towards a more efficient use of tax money through a more regionally oriented library service, whether it's the County of Northampton, or whether it's the Lehigh Valley as a whole. The problem with the sustainability network is there are 62 municipalities, three cities, and two counties in the Lehigh Valley, and every single one of them has their own administration, has their own overhead, has their own space that they have to take care of. It's wasteful. It's gigantically wasteful and consolidating with Hellertown doesn't fix that problem. As a resident of LST, it would clearly reduce her quality of living if she had to give up access to the BAPL. It's not where she wants her tax dollars to be used and she thinks the definition of this Task Force should have been to look at what the comparison is because she doesn't know how the Board of Supervisors makes a decision and she hopes the answer is they don't make a decision, that they continue to work with the Task Force with a different charge or they put off the decision because what's going to come out of this is going to give solid, concrete information to make an informed decision. Tom Maxfield said he has to vehemently disagree with her. They've been hearing the regionalism county call for years and years, and if you want our County Government to plan our lives and our communities, then go follow that route. Everybody complains about the over 2,000 municipalities in the State of PA, all with their own little government, well, it's because the Counties are so lame about planning, that's what's going on. He is not going to stand for the County planning our communities. That's what this is all based on. Robin said LST will not totally lose accessibility to the BAPL. Through the unfunded ACCESS PA, you will be able to go to the BAPL and check out books. You will lose the bookmobile service, you will lose other things, but you will be able to go there and check out books. Just like people in Hellertown can go there and check out books. Just like people in Allentown can go there and check out books. Someone said it's a question of where the money goes. Rev. Handwerk said 1/3 of your residents of LST right now go to HAL and we don't get a dime from them, and we don't ask for a dime. Someone said she's a finance person, and you don't ask for it, she's not going to give it to you. Rev.

Handwerk said they will continue to have the HAL and they will continue to help their community. We're not going to stand here and hold a pail out there. They have fundraising and LST residents are great with helping us at the fundraising. They are fantastic at it. If it weren't for them, their budget would be half of what it is. They do that now. It's a free service to whoever they can. If someone from Coopersburg comes, they will take them. If someone from Allentown comes, they will service them. He agrees the funding should get divided up. He doesn't care if you have a magic wand to figure that out, more power to you, but somewhere in between there, there has to be a happy medium. Tom Maxfield said your scenario where everybody is content, as a LST resident, he is not content if the situation, this information came out from the Task Force. The Council now knows this information that they did not know before this Task Force. He doesn't care about content. It's not fair. We are paying for services in Bethlehem that we're not necessarily getting and we're not being fair for services we are using in Hellertown. That is not a fair situation. We need to address that. We can't sit and pretend we are content because we are not. Someone said you just said the ability toward Bethlehem to use Hellertown and Hellertown to use Coopersburg, whatever, is available all over the State, and you just explained that's how it works. Robin said it's the percentages. So many of your LST residents use the HAL library. Lynn said she wants to point out that because the State is making changes and there is an unfunded mandate for ACCESS PA, there is always a chance that ACCESS PA could be modified or canceled in some way. She doesn't see that happening, but what it may turn into, we don't know that. Someone said they did come to the Task Force and said they were lobbying to reinstate funding. They obviously want to bring it back.

Kelly French – She said she's a LST resident. They have lived here for 20 years. She's on the website right now for Hellertown and it says if you are a LST resident and enjoy the services you receive at the HAL, let the Saucon Valley Task Force know. She's here to let you know she's one of the 35% who have been waited on hand and foot for the last ten years since her children were babies. She's been taking them to the HAL. It's safe. It smells good, it's clean. The bathrooms are clean. She never worries about the creepy people who sit on the corner at the BAPL who reek of whisky and body odor. They have served her children's pre-schools. Our pre-schools have taken trips to the HAL and visited and just had magical experiences. Her ten-year old has an 11th grade reading level and she thanks Robin and her staff for their enthusiasm. She walked in a few days ago and they didn't have a book she needed, and Robin whipped out a piece of paper and was ordering it for her. She happily pays her late fees. She had no idea the HAL was not getting a penny from her. Their Brownie meetings took place in the basement. The summer reading programs throughout the years took place there. The elementary school visits. Running them to the library at the last second with them saying they have to read something, where are the Christmas books, she's reaching into the upper shelves herself, helping herself, and she can't say enough wonderful things about the HAL and their staff. She is one of the 35% who use the HAL all the time and she can't believe they don't get money from her tax dollars. It's not fair. They serve her and they serve her happily and they serve her friendly, and they are nice and clean. Lynn said the comment you made about the people there that smell bad has been addressed. They have a policy in place.

Lilian Wedigan – She said she's a Hellertown resident. After all these comments, she wanted to ask the question that Robin answered. These people, if they join HAL, would not be losing BAPL. Through ACCESS PA they still would have the availability all the BAPL has to offer just like Allentown, Springtown, just like every other library. She senses a lot of hostility here. She can see that. We're all library people. We all love books. We all love the technology. Does anyone remember why the HAL was started? She does. They lived here since 1964. The Borough did not pay the BAPL for residents to belong, but they gave us the option to join BAPL and pay our own fees and we did. Then all of a sudden they pulled the rug out from under us. They wouldn't even let us join even though we were willing to pay individually, so a group of people in Hellertown took the initiative and started the HAL. Of course, they don't compare with Bethlehem. When she first joined the BAPL in grade school, they had the South Side branch and they had a small building over on the North side. They didn't have what they have now. They had to grow. Hellertown is 12 years old. We don't have what they have, but with the ACCESS PA program, they would have the availability to go to these other libraries. She's not so sure that she's buying all of their arguments about how bad it might be. That's one woman's opinion. She appreciates all you are doing and the effort you are making. She appreciates all of their comments and they are very thoughtful and very intelligent comments. She understands all of that. She just doesn't understand hostility.

Jane Stavola said maybe she's utterly dense, but this whole thing got started by LST saying create a Task Force and see about consolidating, see about doing something different, but it started with LST. Is she correct about that? Jack said yes. Someone said you said you can name the meeting where that happened so she can go online. Jack said the minutes are on their website and he will give you the exact date when the Task Force was formed. It will be in the minutes. (Note: THE DATES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 AND OCTOBER 6, 2010) Sandra Miller said she can presumably go on the website and see them? Jack said you can definitely go on there and see them. Sandra Miller said go and see what got this all started. Jack said you can read the minutes. They took a vote and said go form a Task Force, and this is what we want the Task Force to do. That's what he displayed on the screen. Jane Stavola said Mr. Maxfield a moment ago related a story about for a long time you got a bill and the bill went up and then you said we're not going to pay it. What happened then? Tom said we just said, wait a minute, let's look at other options. Ms. Stavola said and then that's when they came back and said that to you? Tom said that opened up conversation. Lynn said LST has a Library Committee and the Committee was additionally charged at looking at options. They looked at the libraries that were touching their county and talked about options of joining with them or possibilities. The concept of whether BAPL would accept a split bill, meaning someone going to the BAPL, and someone going to HAL, would have to be voted on by the Board of the Library. Because there are members and other supporting communities, it's a very touchy subject. If LST can do that or have a reduced rate, everyone else would want it too. That would be a very difficult option. Fairly, it would be a great option, but she doesn't know how that can happen. Hopefully it will be on an agenda where they can have a discussion. It's what LST decides what they want to do.

Jennifer Sherford – She said she's a LST resident. She has lived here almost 20 years and she's been to BAPL maybe three times, one of them to get her card so she could join the HAL. She is at the HAL maybe two or three times a week. She has a three children, ages 6 to 17 and her 17 year old is looking for colleges and they have everything they need. They have always gone to the HAL and have always found what they were looking for. She also finds it totally unfair that her family uses the services of Robin and the HAL and that our taxes are not going there. She's one of the people that want to know where her money and her taxes are going, and she thinks she should have a say in that, and she says it should go to HAL. She doesn't understand that you are not saying we cannot go to the BAPL if this happens, we can still choose. So why can't we make our own choice.

Bill Scheirer – He said he can understand why you don't like to be presented with a bill, so that's why it is essential that LST have representation on the Bethlehem Board of Trustees. As for the fact that LST pays for BAPL for services they don't receive, he would like to be enlightened. Tom Maxfield said one example, there are programs that are offered to BAPL to all people who subscribe to BAPL. One of the complaints they have heard from LST residents, is that they are unable to get into the children's programs. We are told there are no preferences, there are no impediments, but for some reason, our residents just can't seem to get in to the summer programs. The first choice is given to Bethlehem residents. We've been again told that's not true, but that's what our multiple complaints are with the very same issue. Janet Fricker said she can only answer for the past few years since she's been working at the BAPL, we do not have a system where we open it to Bethlehem residents first, then everybody else because everyone pays the same per capita. She doesn't believe that has ever been in place where some people who have been around longer than her, can tell you. She would say the only impediment to getting in would be if you don't register in a timely manner and things do fill up. Our staff has been cut, but we offer 500 children's programs a year, but we can't offer more than we can handle. They fill up because they are good and popular. If LST joins Hellertown, you may find some of the same things there. They only have the staff they have unless you plan on increasing your payment from the community in order to pay more staff there. It is absolutely not true that we close anybody out of our programs with the exception of our adult programs, that are only open to people with Bethlehem cards, and that would be from the City of Bethlehem and the supporting communities. They may have to also change the children's program where it will only be open to cardholders. Tom Maxfield said that may be a difference between policy and practice. He can tell you that he believes this last year, BAPL had a booth at our Community Day. One of our residents was told specifically by one of the BAPL representatives, that Bethlehem residents get first choice for the children's programs. Ms. Fricker said that is absolutely not true. It's not policy. It's the difference between right and wrong and what happens and that does not happen. Tom Maxfield said like he's said before, we've had

multiple complaints. Lynn said the bookmobile was there, and maybe the clarification was you have to be a BAPL cardholder to participate in some of the programs, not that there was favoritism for people who live in Bethlehem. She can hear where that may be confusing. That was never told by any staff, volunteer. She said it's a misunderstanding. Kim said it's all about how it was perceived.

Ali said first of all, HAL programs do allow people from LST and Hellertown, and we do already have that problem. Second of all, she hears people talk about the 500 programs that has BAPL has to offer and she is on the Statistics and Demographic Committee, and she had asked Lynn quite a few times, can they provide us any statistics as to how many LST people attend these programs because you mentioned you have all these programs, but what is the percentage of LST people attending these programs, and speaking as a librarian, she feels you should know these numbers because you are not serving a certain population. Maybe for example, Hanover Township, and people are not coming to your story times, you could do a story time at Hanover Township. It would be a better library if you kept these statistics. Janet Fricker said we can consider asking people where they live when they sign in for story time. We don't do that now. Ali said it would benefit your library and also this Task Force if we had some statistics as to it's great you have 500 programs, but how many people from LST are utilizing those programs? Someone said what goes one way, goes the other way. If people's tax dollars in LST go to the HAL library, and then they use the BAPL, we also do not get paid for ACCESS PA use and we have a lot of ACCESS PA use.

Someone said does Bethlehem utilize volunteers or is all your staff paid? Someone said we use volunteers. We have a staff of 54 people that are part-time and full-time. We have about 150 volunteers who help out at things like our book sales and programs. We also have teen volunteers.

Kim said our next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2012 at 5:00 pm at Lower Saucon Township. As always, the public is invited. The minutes from the March meeting will be on the website tomorrow. We have been recording everything here so it can be in the minutes for this meeting and they will go up on the website when they are approved.