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**The Township Building remains closed to the public.  
This meeting will be held through a Zoom teleconferencing link.  
Information to join the meeting will be provided on our website.**

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**I. OPENING**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Announcement of Executive Session (if applicable)
- E. Public Comment Procedure

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENT ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

- A. BT Stonewood Longridge LP Major Subdivision – Bergstresser Drive/Longridge Drive/Imperial Crest Lane/Royal Valley Lane – Preliminary/Final Subdivision Plan Approval

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Discussion on PennDOT’s Structural Analysis Report of the Meadows Road Bridge
- B. Jonathan Morgan & Stephanie Fetzer – 1442 Peacock Lane – Request for Temporary Septic Holding Tank
- C. Revision to the Fire Equipment Contribution Policy
- D. Request for In-Car DVR Camera Systems for Patrol Units
- E. Request to Purchase Computers, Modems, and Docking Stations for Patrol Units
- F. Authorize Advertisement of Lawn Mowing and Lawn Treatment Bids
- G. Authorize Collection of 2021 Real Estate Taxes

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Approval of January 20, 2021 Council Minutes

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Township Manager
- B. Council/Jr. Council Member
- C. Solicitor
- D. Engineer

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Environmental Advisory Council: February 9, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Saucon Valley Partnership: February 10, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board: February 22, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission: February 25, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation: March 1, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Township Council: March 3, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: March 22, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:34 p.m., via Zoom, with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding. Mrs. Yerger said the Township building remains closed to the public. This meeting is being held through Zoom. Information to join the meeting is provided on our website.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Sandra Yerger, President; Jason Banonis, Vice President; Priscilla deLeon, Kristen Stauffer and Thomas Carocci, Council Members; Leslie Huhn, Township Manager; Cathy Gorman, Director of Finance; Brenda Detweiler, Administrative Assistant; Jim Young, Zoning Officer; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Thomas Barndt, Chief of Police; Brien Kocher, Township Engineer; Jr. Council Member – absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – Mrs. Yerger said Council did meet in Executive Session this evening to discuss collective bargaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-**

**AGENDA ITEMS** – Mrs. Yerger said we do welcome input from everybody but we ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per item. If you want to speak, please raise your hand. No one wished to speak.

➤ Ms. Andrea Wittchen, 1885 Dartford Road, said she's curious as how does one approach making a claim for having their mailbox and mail post totally demolished by the plow crew. Mrs. Huhn said you need to call the Township and Carol, our receptionist, will take your information. It will be passed on to the Director of Public Works. They go out and investigate and take some photos. Our policy is on the website, which she was going to bring up later on her report as it was a large snow event. If they determine it has been actually hit by the plow, they replace it. If it has been slushed or the force of the snow has knocked it off, it's the Township and Council's policy that those are not replaced.

➤ Ms. Laura Civitella, 2145 Schwab Avenue, said she is keeping an eye on the time, so you know she's aware. She wanted to bring up the stray and cat colonies they are having in Steel City. She's aware this has been brought up in the past. She said just in their neighboring bushes alone, she has cats that she can recognize based on their pattern alone. They did have an Officer come out on January 30<sup>th</sup> as he responded to a rabid or neurological cat problem, which was on their back porch. Officer Kunigus was wonderful, very professional, and she wants to thank him very much for his service. He did have to discharge his weapon to eliminate the threat of this cat. She could go into detail, but it was absolutely horrific. She does have four children and they had to be taken downstairs so this could happen. She also has been speaking with neighbors. One neighbor had a veterinary bill that was up to \$8,000 because of cat feces that were brought in by their dog that was on their paws and the dog picked it up outside. The cats are just defecating in all of their gardens and the urine smell during the summer is horrendous. Another issue is toxoplasmosis. She is an RN, this is also an issue for pregnant women and infant deaths and major neurological issues that can happen to both mom and baby if someone is gardening and somehow brings it in. She didn't even empty her own cat boxes when she was pregnant. She's just approaching Council to see if we can come up with some kind of solution. She knows Hellertown Borough has something in place. She'd like to work with the Township so they can get some sort of resolution to this. Mrs. deLeon said how are we going to respond to Laura. Mrs. Huhn said we do have a trap-neuter-return (T-N-R) policy. We have made available cages in order to help residents capture any feral cats. In the past they have been able to take them to different vets or the Animal Center for Health and Welfare, but there has never been a cost associated with it that the Township has paid for these services. Ms. Civitella said she understands the cost, but the sheer amount of feral stray cats, she can't do this herself. It's just not physically and financially possible. Speaking with other neighbors, there are other cat colonies that have at least 20 cats. She could go outside and see 5 stray feral cats at any given moment. Mrs. Yerger said is somebody feeding them? Ms. Civitella said there are numerous neighbors that place bowls and bowls of cat food outside. Mrs. Yerger

said that's what she thought to have that many cats in one given location. There's someone that is feeding them, which isn't helping the situation. Ms. Civitella said she agrees, but they will not stop. She's unclear if there's a fine associated with such an act. Another concern is Spring is coming and we know what that means. This problem is just going to continue to increase and she's one person. She does have a lot of backing by some of her neighbors who are willing to also help, but we are just asking for some additional help from the Township. Mr. Banonis said we send out the newsletter, maybe it's appropriate to put a reminder in there to not feed feral cats. He's not suggesting that's the solution to this problem, but a good reminder to people not to do that so the situation doesn't compound itself. Mrs. Huhn said we can do that. Mrs. deLeon said who regulates cats. We have dogs, if someone finds a dog, the police will respond. We have nothing for cats so where do you go then, the County, the State, where do you go for help. Mrs. Stauffer said according to our Township policy, it looks like we have something for residents to trap and neuter, but there isn't anything about a specific officer dedicated other than the Dog Control Officer. Mr. Banonis said we don't have an Animal Control Officer, we only have a Dog Control Officer. Mrs. Stauffer said she appreciates Ms. Civitella bringing this to Council, and asked if she had any conversations with any of our animal shelters in the area. Ms. Civitella said she's glad you asked that, I'm sorry if I interrupted you, Mrs. Stauffer said no, go ahead, she has been in touch with Hellertown Borough and they have a trap and release that is at no cost. There is also a woman she's been in touch with who does this, trap and release, and she helps to find adoptable cats homes, which is fantastic and she'd love to do this in a humane way. She has also been in touch with two shelters who are willing to assist, but it will cost \$45 per cat and as one person, she cannot afford that for the sheer amount of the number of cats. Mrs. Stauffer said it's awesome that you found some resources that can help. In terms of the cost, she's not sure what other Council members would think at this time to come up with a potential solution if we are able to offer a potential solution as a Township. She doesn't know if we have in the past and if we did so now, would it set any precedents. That might be something we need to navigate in a conversation now or at a future Council meeting although she does understand her concern for springtime, kitties appearing. Ms. Civitella said the other problem is there's a lot of bus stops around here including her children, and the kittens go up to the children and they unfortunately, manhandle these kittens. This is not just a humane issue, it's a cat feline issue. They are spreading diseases and they are not treated well by some individuals who truly don't know any better. She thinks it's more than just the numbers here than us. It's also these cats are suffering as well. Mrs. Yerger said is there somehow a way to identify where these cats are holding up as they got to be taking shelter somewhere, especially when they are having kittens. Ms. Civitella said they have a line of bushes that her neighbor has neglected to take care of, which is a separate issue and she will not discuss it. There are about 20-30 cats and the neighbors are also citing a similar issue. They also have these mangled unkempt bushes and trees surrounding their property and it's also a maintenance problem. We need to maintain the property properly so that they don't have a home to colonize. Mrs. deLeon said she's sure we aren't the only municipality that has an issue like this. Is there any way you can look into this and see what other places do. Mrs. Huhn said we did all this under the previous administration when the policy was developed, but she can certainly look into it now and see if anything has changed with these other municipalities and see if anybody is having an issue and how they are dealing with it. Chief Barndt said he'll reach out to some area Police Departments to see if they have any plans in place in their municipality. He asked Ms. Civitella to call the department tomorrow and ask for him, his direct line is 610-625-8721 as he'd like to speak to her further and get some information as to the property that she is speaking about and they will look into it further. Ms. Civitella said thank you. Mrs. deLeon said it looks like we are going to have to wait until Leslie reports back at the next Council meeting. Mrs. Huhn said we'll look into it. Ms. Civitella said she'll be putting the next Council meeting on her calendar and she just wanted to say she appreciates everyone's time and kind of get the ball rolling and get some kind of program. She'd be more than willing to be a participant. Thank you for your time. Mrs. deLeon said the next Council meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Stephanie Struening said she's actually a neighbor of Laura and she wanted to add regarding the animals. She wants to find a way to deter people either from their dropping cats off as it kind of has become a problem like Steel City residents have an obligation to care for the cats to house them

as people drop them off and there's no accountability. She has a neighbor that is not very good with animals and has picked out various cats on their property and has added to this problem just for the sheer fact that their cats live outdoors now. There's no accountability for people who are actually doing this in the first place, it's just become such an issue. Laura mentioned toxoplasmosis and she was pregnant all summer and had a three-year old trying to pick up cat poop in their yard because the neighbors cats come over and do their business in her yard. She knows there is the T-N-R program but those cats still come back to their neighborhood and it reoccurs every so often. The neighbors have taken care of it in the past and they've all chipped in and gotten these animals neutered or fixed and what happens over time is another cat shows up or another three cats show up and we suddenly have kitty colonies all over again once they have thinned it down. Mrs. Yerger said they actually implemented a T-N-R program before with the neighbors. Ms. Struening said multiple times and it's just by the neighbors working together to try to thin out the herd. They've only lived here for 7 years but they have two neighbors behind them and they are great people and they both chipped in money at some point to do it. The thing is it's costly. The program they found at the time a few years ago was \$20 an animal and they took 20 some cats to get fixed. No one is being held accountable adding to it, it's got to stop at some point, it just kind of reoccurs. Mrs. Yerger said the more information we have the more we can hopefully figure out a solution to this problem.

- Allison Millevoi, 2558 Kings Mill Road, said she has a question on whether or not there is a Township policy or a recommendation for addressing what she'll call a public display of profanity. She don't know what else to call it. There's a home on a main thoroughfare flying a flag with the big one, if you will, that's becoming increasingly difficult to explain to their kids and she's not exactly sure if there's anything they can do about it. She's hoping to get some guidance. Mrs. Stauffer said that's a good question, can you be a little more descriptive. Are you saying there's a flag nearby? Ms. Millevoi said yes, there's a flag flying on Easton Road with the "F" word on it. Profanity is one thing in a private conversation, it's another thing when it's flying on a flag on a street we have to drive past every day and the school busses drive down several times a day. She's not entirely sure if we can address it or not. Attorney Treadwell said that's probably more complicated than not, it's a First Amendment type issue as to what is profanity and what isn't profanity. That will take a little bit of looking into. He doesn't think there's any Township policy and he's not sure there are any regulations maybe other than something in the Nuisance Ordinance, but he's not positive about that. Mrs. Stauffer said would it be okay to look into that then and give it to Leslie so she could or you could reach out directly to Allison or share it with Council so we're educated. Attorney Treadwell said we can look into it. There's all kinds of First Amendment litigation about what you are allowed to say, what you can wear on a T-shirt, what you can put on a flag, it's rather complicated. Mrs. deLeon said thank you Allison for bringing that to our attention. Mrs. Yerger said we'll see what we can do.

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS – None**

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. BT STONEWOOD LONGRIDGE LP MAJOR SUBDIVISION – BERGSTRESSER DRIVE/LONGRIDGE DRIVE/IMPERIAL CREST LANE/ROYAL VALLEY LANE – PRELIMINARY/FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN APPROVAL**

Mrs. Yerger said BT Stonewood Longridge LP located at Bergstresser Drive/Longridge Drive/Imperial Crest Lane/Royal Valley Lane is seeking preliminary/final plan approval. This was originally approved as condominium type lots. The developer is requesting approval to subdivide the property into 24 single family residential lots.

Jason Ulrich and Mark Thaler were present. Mr. Ulrich said they are here hopefully for the last time. He also has their engineer Justin Mocerri with from Wilkinson and Associates and if you have any technical questions, he will address them. They have worked with your Township Engineer and Solicitor and Leslie and he wants to say thank to everyone for getting this across the finish line, it's been a long road. Thankfully they are ready to go and the HOA is getting created as

we speak. If the Townships deems it appropriate, they will receive final approval and will be able to get the lots sold and get some of these issues taken care of.

Attorney Treadwell asked Jason if he could give the plans of the condominium. Mrs. Huhn said she will bring up the map. Mr. Ulrich said he's sure the Board saw this 4 or 5 times already. Mrs. deLeon said the residents need to see it, they are part of this meeting also. Mr. Ulrich said this plan was actually developed back in 2008 by a developer who went defunct. His client acquired this and there has been some problems as it was originally designed as a condominium which means there is what they call a Condo Association that is supposed to take care of the amenities. That Condo Association was never truly created so five of the lots were developed, six maybe if you count one that wasn't really done properly. A lot of the amenities of these lots have never really been created. Their client has taken over by purchasing all the individual lots and has obtained control of the Condo Association; therefore, able to destroy the Condo Association and create fee simple lots, which means individual ownership like a traditional development and they are in the process of creating a Homeowners Association (HOA), which will be responsible for maintaining those amenities in the development. This is ideal and he hopes many of the board recall most of the residents who do own the houses already in existence are in agreement with this plan because they want something that will be permanent and out there operating like a traditional HOA. There's a couple of issues of engineering, but those are being addressed by the review letter they just received by Hanover Engineering. They are ready to sign development agreements and they will be preparing deeds and the subdivision is ready to go.

Ty Johnson, Fire Chief, said he has a question about the tanks that are in the ground at this development. There's two 10,000 gallon tanks for fire suppression. Who is responsible for them after an incident if they have to pull water, and how is the operation of the tanks set up because there is a 5" connection there and with that type of connection, they are not able to draft or pull the water out of a tank? He didn't know if the developer could elaborate on what is going to be done with that.

Mr. Ulrich said the best way to describe it is the tanks have been in existence since the original plan and they are already installed. Mr. Thaler said correct. Mr. Ulrich said based on their operations, they would be included in the HOA but beyond that he doesn't have a response other than to say the HOA would be responsible for maintaining them. Mr. Johnson said if we need to pull water out of those tanks for a fire, who is going to be responsible to refill those tanks. Mr. Ulrich said if the fire department is not filling it then the HOA would do it, and that can be a condition moving forward. He believes that would be an issue. Mr. Thaler said that was going to be his response. It would be the responsibility of the HOA to maintain it and make sure it's clear and accessible. He doesn't have a lot of experience with fire suppression tanks. Mr. Ulrich said you can make it a condition of the HOA and include it in any development agreements. There's no issue with that.

Mrs. deLeon said she thinks there needs to be a time after a fire when they need to be refilled, because God forbid in an hour, another house could be on fire. She asked Ty if he said the connections are different and you wouldn't be able to connect to the tanks. Mr. Johnson said they haven't trained on them. He's just going by what he's noticed when he passed by them. He's not sure the operation of the tanks themselves, if there has to be a tube that goes to the bottom of the tank, which would be well underneath the water level so they could draw the water out of the tank. They need a schematic so they know where they can hook to and how the operation of those tanks were designed, he's not that familiar with it. Mr. Ulrich said they can get him what they have, but unfortunately, they were installed by the private developer and they don't have access to that. Maybe your Township Engineer has something on file from almost 10-11 years ago. Mr. Thaler said they may be able to find some sort of label on the pipe to give them an idea of what they are working with. Mr. Ulrich said they aren't trying to blow you off, but a lot of this stuff was prior approvals. Attorney Treadwell and Mr. Kocher could back him up as they've been trying to find what has been approved previously and it has not been easy.

Mrs. deLeon said why isn't it at the Township if we approved it? There should be an existing plan at the courthouse, the Township or at Hanover. Mr. Ulrich said there's a development plan but the individual schematics aren't always recorded for smaller things, sometimes those things just don't get recorded as it's not required under the MPC.

Attorney Treadwell said from a practical standpoint, wouldn't it make sense once the 35" of snow melts for somebody from the fire company to meet with somebody out there. If a fire occurs and they don't know how to get to the water, that's a problem. Mr. Ulrich said they are happy to do that and that what needs to happen. Mrs. deLeon said the HOA is going to have to have them accessible so the fire company isn't driving down the road saying where are these tanks under all this snow. Mr. Ulrich said that is usually included in the HOA stuff. That's not something you would have to worry about as the HOA documents are already going to require that they maintain that. It's pretty standard in the HOA documents that he's drafted over the years.

Attorney Treadwell said it's in the best interest of the HOA and all the homeowners to have them function. Mr. Thaler said the only people that are going to be using the tanks would be the homeowners that will be living in the development. Mr. Ulrich said they'll include that in the HOA so it's clear. Mrs. deLeon said there's people moving into the Township that come from a city that have city run fire companies and we say we're volunteer and they say what does that mean. Just like septic systems compared to public sewers, there's a difference on how to use them and that's all new to some people.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to approve conditional approval for Preliminary/Final Subdivision Plan subject to the conditions set forth in Hanover Engineering's draft motion dated February 3, 2021 and subject to the addition that the HOA will be responsible for maintenance providing access and refilling the fire suppression tanks.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon  
Mrs. Stauffer said it seems we are approving this motion and someone from the development team will be willing to work with LSFRR and do a survey of the area so Ty can feel confident on that after the snow melts. Attorney Treadwell said there are conditions of approval in the draft motion which has been made and seconded. They will make sure the applicant and someone from the LSFRR get together at some point when it's physically feasible so everyone knows how it works. Mrs. deLeon said is this one we got an amendment on the email today, the revision. Mrs. Huhn said it's not a revision, what we sent out was the signed draft motion.

Mrs. Huhn said she has someone from the public asking what would the fire department do if those tanks were not there, what's your course of action for a fire? Mr. Johnson said they have two tankers in the Township, 3,000 gallons a piece that they would use. If it's a large fire, they have a tanker task force which relies on mutual aid response. Springtown and Williams Township, would be the next two large tankers so for houses in that development, generally you would use 6 to 8 tankers if you had a large working house fire. These tanks are 10,000 gallons a piece and they necessarily wouldn't be sufficient to fight a large fire but the initial response until they get tankers there they could pull water out of those tanks and start going to work is the idea behind the tanks. Attorney Treadwell said the idea is too there are no hydrants out there, Mr. Johnson said correct. That zone is the southeastern zone for their fire district and the closest hydrant is the high school in Hellertown.

Mrs. deLeon said in the past you would have to go to ponds and try to pump water out too. Mr. Johnson said in years past, that's what would have been done. Any more with the large tankers that they have access to, and theirs being 3,000 gallons a piece, they found the time is just as efficient to run to Hellertown to the hydrant at the high school to get water and have five, six, seven tankers running as it is to secure a water source at a pond and then you're dealing with sucking in algae, dirt, and rocks into your pump which can cause damage. They like going to a clean water source and they know things are going to work properly.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Ulrich thanked the Township for all the help on this especially the Solicitor and Engineer, they've been helpful and Leslie as well and Jim and Molly. Mr. Thaler said on behalf of the homeowners that have been there, he's been in regular contact and they are grateful the Township has acted on this as well.

V. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **DISCUSSION ON PENNDOT'S STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS REPORT OF THE MEADOWS ROAD BRIDGE**

Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Michael McGuire, PennDOT Consultant Project Engineer, will be discussing the Alternatives Analysis Report of the Meadows Road Bridge. Northampton County, owner of the bridge, has indicated their preferred option is to replace the bridge maintaining two-way traffic and provide for a sidewalk for safe pedestrian travel.

Mr. Mike McGuire from PennDOT was present. He said the Township received from PennDOT a couple of months ago an Alternative Analysis Report and it was more of a high level. The project involves the replacement of the Meadows Road Bridge (MRB) over Saucon Creek west of Hellertown and 412. The bridge is county-owned but Meadows Road is your street and you happen to have a bridge on it. The reason PennDOT is involved is because the project is funded 80% with Federal funds and in PA they are the agency responsible for making sure those funds are used responsibly and dealing with all the engineering and environmental concerns. The bridge is currently closed to traffic as it has been the better part of 2.5 years. In going along with the use of Federal funds, they need to come up with a list of project needs and they had scoping's and various meetings and reviewed the project and did some engineering analysis. In short, the needs are the condition of the structure. The existing bridge is a four span unreinforced (no steel) masonry arch. It was constructed in the 1850's prior to the Civil War and due to constant flooding, deteriorated conditions, and vehicle hits because of the narrow width on top, it had to be closed in April 2018. Any project that uses Federal funds has to deal with the structural conditions. Northampton County has had extensive maintenance done to it and a variety of smaller fixes. They have records going back years that doesn't count for the removal of debris from the arches to the way that stream is situated under that bridge, it causes catching debris. The second need is multi-modal use in order to use Federal funds they just can't consider vehicles, but other modes of transportation like pedestrians and bicycles. The current bridge is inadequate and isn't necessarily safe. The third issue is safety. The structure is 102' long but due to a large hump in it, it's only 61' of sight distance. In the prior condition, when it was open, two vehicles could come from opposite directions on the bridge, not see each other, then if one is traveling too fast in order to avoid one another, one goes into the parapet and damages the structure. There's case after case that has happened. Pedestrians there are some needs nearby, there is the Rail Trail and some residences on the west side of the bridge and a Lanta bus stop on the east side of the bridge. That said, he's not aware of any specific Township concerns where the Township has demanded sidewalks on Meadows Road. The 4<sup>th</sup> concern, the need that was documented based on the preliminary studies is flooding. The roadway in the entire area has flooded a few times per year and the last couple of years with Isaias and the terrible storm that came through in 2019. Any alternative isn't going to necessarily deal with that magnitude of storm, but Meadows Road is slowly deteriorating and seems to flood in everything from a five-year storm and higher which doesn't really meet criteria for a local road. When the bridge is close to flooding, it does require vehicles to use a detour, via Skibo Road, Walnut Street and 412 and it did require constant mobilization of forces from the County to clear debris. The four needs in short were structural condition, multi-modal use, safety and flooding. With that, at the direction of the Feds they looked at three different alternatives.

Mr. McGuire said first was high level: 1. To rehabilitate the existing bridge; 2. To replace the bridge with a more modern structure of what type or spans, they weren't getting into that level of detail; or 3. This was requested by the Feds we look at it, they are not demanding it, remove it and don't put anything back.

Mr. McGuire said those were the three alternatives reviewed on a higher level and are in the analysis that the Township received back in November. The County has spoken up and their Board/Executives have come together and basically demanded that the replacement option go forward. The Feds have said whatever option is chosen, locally, provided it meets the needs, they will support. The point of him coming to you and he had a conversation not too long ago, was to find out officially in writing, what preference does the Township have in terms of these three alternatives, if any. You don't have to reply, but Meadows Road is your road and if there's a certain preference the Township has, this is a good time to get that out there.

Mr. Banonis said he thanks Mr. McGuire for their efforts and thanks County Executive McClure and US Representative Wild for their involvement and willingness to take the time to move this along. The bridge has been closed for a number of years now and before that, it was significantly limited to one lane of traffic. It's disappointing that the bridge has come to this point, but as with everything, certain things have a life span and this bridge has served its life span. He supports the replacement of the bridge. The bridge is a significant point of access and he thinks we recognized that two summers ago when the Water Street Bridge was closed and a lot of traffic was routed down onto Skibo. He also thinks it's important from a safety aspect to have that bridge open so our emergency services have access to the different parts of the Township, which otherwise may delay a response. As you pointed out earlier, there's a safety and flooding component to all of this. He noticed the bridge in that area seems to flood more readily and heavily and we received communication from residents having concerns that the flooding seems to be increasing and that is to be expected as the stream bed fills in and is not as deep of a channel and widens itself naturally over a period of time. He supports the replacement of the bridge. The one thing he would request if Council is in agreement, is this bridge means a lot to a lot of people. It's been here before any of us have been here. He's wondering if the Township could acquire the remains of the bridge to use in a historically appropriate manner at some time to be determined in the future.

Mr. Carocci said at least have the option to take the remnants of the bridge when it is replaced. Mrs. deLeon said that was already discussed at the meeting prior to this meeting. Mr. Carocci said he wants to instruct Leslie to write a letter similar to the letter that County Executive McClure wrote but he wants that in the letter and that's why he's bringing it up again. We should get it in writing to the Feds who are paying 80% of it and the County who is paying for 20% of it for replacement if Council so votes and the majority favors replacement at this time. He didn't always favor replacement. When he was first appointed to Council, he really wanted to rehab that bridge, but what he learned in the past year is that's just not the viable option and he also thinks removing the bridge and not replacing it with anything is not a viable option as well which leaves us with the only option of replacement and he would ask that Council instruct Leslie to author a letter to that effect as Representative Wild did and County Executive McClure did.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved to instruct Leslie, on behalf of Council, to write a letter in support of replacement of the Meadows Road Bridge similar to the letter written by Representative Wild and County Executive McClure as they have also wrote letters in support of replacement, but also put in there a short paragraph on how the Township would like the option of taking the remnants, the stone from the bridge if they so decide when it's taken down, if the Council at that time, decides they want them and try to do something with them; and request specifically a multi modal bridge so that it can be used for vehicular as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic with an elevated walkway, a curbed walkway.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis  
Mrs. deLeon said she thinks we are still discussing this. She has as in the past, respected that bridge for its historic significance. She's been at numerous calls and meetings with County officials over many years trying to get them to follow the PennDOT rehabilitation on how to fix stone and historic bridges. She discovered after it was published, you got to do it this way and they never did and so unfortunately previous administrations and Councils and Executives, the historic significance didn't matter. They didn't really care about our history in LST. She still thinks that when she drives around and looks at old bridges and things that were rehabbed, it's like why can't we do this here. You go on back country roads in Bucks County, they are narrow, it is what it is.



It's the country and it's not 78 or 22, she can't get past having to rehab this bridge. She does feel that she's not going to win this one, so if it does get torn down and a new span gets put there, then she does agree that like at the meeting her and Tom were at, somehow we get to keep the stones and number them and put them someplace else so we have the bridge saved at another place in the Township like the Woodlands Preserve. We can't put it over a body of water, but that's her thoughts and very upsetting to her because watching the destruction of the bridge over the years if very upsetting.

Mr. McGuire said to make one thing clear and we've talked a lot about this, they are going to keep talking a lot about this whatever option is chosen. The bridge is listed on the National Register, there are some considerations that have to go into whether it's rehabbed, replaced, or removed. Chris Thompson is the District Historic Preservation officer, the Township would likely be a consulting party and if the County is open to providing stone or other elements to you, there's no issue from PennDOT or the Feds on that they can have their contractor deliver things to stockpile or whatever location you'd like. They could also potentially use the stone in a replacement bridge somehow. There are a lot of things that still can be worked out. Mrs. deLeon said she doesn't want to see a stamped concrete bridge that looks like fake stone. That is just not respect to that bridge to replace it like that. What are we leaving our future generations? She's not an engineer but she thinks we can do so much better.

Mr. Carocci said he agrees, and another thing he'd like Leslie's letter to say is we favor replacement that it be multi-modal that it have a side walk for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel that's elevated from the bridge level. Mrs. deLeon said what do you mean by elevated? Mr. Carocci said like a curb, so it's not at the same level. Mrs. Stauffer said like on Water Street? Mr. Carocci said exactly. We might want to express that concern in the letter. Mrs. deLeon said just remember she lives near the Freemansburg Bridge and if you come from Shimersville Road and you try to make a left going into Freemansburg, there has been in the last six months, two cars that kind of rode the high curb and almost went down the embankment. She thinks she sent that picture of Mike.

Mr. Banonis said Tom, along those lines, we had a meeting this morning with our Consultant for the WalkWorks program, which is to identify areas of the Township where greater pedestrian and bicycle access are needed and recognizing this was on the agenda tonight and the likely outcome would be replacement of the bridge, he suggested to them that they make it a priority to review that area to provide greater pedestrian and bicycle access particularly from the Rail Trail to the Giant as well as over to Polk Valley Park so although the loss of the bridge is significant, there is an opportunity to move forward in a way that will provide greater access and use its ability to the residents.

Erika Crotsley, Baker Ave., said she knows you came out to her property near Meadows Road a couple of weeks ago. She did have Nate Prichard come out from Northampton County Conservation Watershed to take a look at the area. He noticed right away is the bridge is not aligned with the water flow of the creek; hence why it's backing up. Water is just hitting the arches of the bridge and not going through the bridge. The size of the bridge is not meeting today's standards. There is constricting sand and gravel bars around the area. They actually walked through the woods where the water comes and floods and it's full of sand, sediment and rocks that the Township had put along the road to keep the road from collapsing. The rocks have actually traveled down into the woods. He also said the bank erosion is a big issue upstream and downstream from the bridge and that's why it's coming over. He said the area right now is blocked up with so much debris. With all the storms we had, no one has come out to clean up the debris. She lives there, she can see it right from her home. She has not seen anyone come out. You were talking about a walking bridge. She doesn't think that's a safe thing as it floods and the water is going over the bridge now. People have not been that smart and tried to drive over it. She doesn't see walking over it being good. Her main concern is the flooding and her property does flood and the erosion of the embankment. Mr. Pritchard said the area needs some trees as right now with the

sand and sediment right next to the creek, the water is not being absorbed by the ground. It's just running over top of the sand and sediment in the woods right now. There's nowhere for the water to even absorb. Mrs. deLeon said whose responsibility is it to remove that type of stuff from the Saucon Creek? Mr. McGuire said the bridge is County owned, the road is Township owned. Mrs. Huhn said Public Works cleans up the road. Mrs. deLeon said she didn't get to come out the other week, but she did see the pictures. Over the years, someone changed the direction and filled in the area to divert the creek and that's why it isn't aligned anymore. If you look at area maps you can see it.

Mr. McGuire said whatever alternative they choose, at least PennDOT and the Feds have recognized that they have to play around with that creek a little bit. Mrs. deLeon said she thinks a lot. Mr. McGuire said upstream flowing towards Meadows Road it wants to go through the road and then over to the shopping center. Mrs. deLeon said it's one of those cases be careful of what you ask for because she thinks it's going to come back and not be a good thing for whoever did that. Ms. Crotsley said the gentleman did say there's quite a few 90 degree angles for the water, so when it goes around, it's not like a straight thing. It has a lot of curves and that's why they get a lot of flooding and over the past year, there's been a lot of flooding over into her property like there hasn't been before. Mrs. deLeon said it's fighting itself as it's traveling down. She remembers when she was in her elementary days studying earth science and to her that is what its doing, right?

Victoria Opthof said she was hearing everything and sad to hear about us not being able to save the bridge and repurposing it, but she did want to say she is hopeful we can do as much as we can to make whatever the replacement is to look as aesthetically similar to what was there in some way and to save and incorporate the pieces of the original bridge or have them at the Historical Society. As a resident, she really supported trying to make the new bridge something that looks beautiful and in alignment with what's there now as much as it could for safety and building standards to the extent it's biker and walker friendly, which would be nice although she doesn't know about the flooding consideration as she doesn't live right there.

Bryan Evans said he wanted to commend everyone for recognizing the importance of access but the right thing to do from the emergency response, is make sure that everybody has access that way and he commends everyone for recognizing that. Mr. Carocci said even if that bridge was open, the fire trucks are too heavy for them to go over that, isn't that correct. Mr. McGuire said there was a posted limit on it and it would not let any fire truck he knows go over it. Mr. Evans said that's correct. There is an exemption process for emergency vehicles that you can file with PennDOT to get exemptions because there's a process for that based on axle weight and some other things that he's by no means an expert on, there are alternatives. They have some quick response vehicles that have limited equipment and get there and get things started. It's beyond just fire protection, but he won't speak for the Chief. From the law enforcement perspective and medical perspective, ambulances can certainly utilize the old bridge and new structure.

Mr. Carocci said any replacement for the bridge would it be able to allow for fire trucks to go over, it wouldn't have a weight restriction to eliminate fire trucks. Mr. McGuire said there will be no weight restriction on the new bridge.

Mrs. deLeon said can you talk about timelines for this. Mr. McGuire said it has been thought about and at this point given the County's position and Representative Wild's position, if we were all to say replacement, which looks like that's the direction it's going, we are already in preliminary engineering and some of the studies done so far are applicable. We now need to look at bridge configurations and lay it out, decide which side we're putting sidewalks on, that sort of thing. We would look to probably have something out for bid the end of 2023 and the reason it takes that long is because we need right-of-way. Once they have environmental clearance and complete preliminary engineering, they then have to go through the right-of-way acquisition process and laws being what they are, they have no way to accelerate that.

Mrs. deLeon said could there be a condemnation process involved in this right-of-way process. Mr. McGuire said given how narrow that bridge is now, to come in with a replacement bridge, which would be two lanes plus a sidewalk plus a little room for inspectors and maintenance to get in and around it, he would imagine there would be some condemnation. He doesn't think there's any structure they would take. They would just be strip takings, yards or woodlands. They are not looking at taking anyone's home or anything like that. Mrs. deLeon said she understands, there's not really a lot of homes in that area, but it would be on both sides of the creek. Mr. McGuire said yes, from the plans he has seen.

Mrs. Stauffer said some of her questions have been addressed. The timeline, she knows we have been following along with the updates that Council has received. This has been a long standing concern for many in the Township, both from the historical standpoint and from an access standpoint. It is encouraging to see that this is at least on a potential timetable. That timetable, if that's more like the basics, would that include if LST Council were to recommend to have the historical elements of the bridge preserved, whether that's moving the stones to another location or having components of the bridge incorporated into the new bridge, would that extend the timeline? Mr. McGuire said not in any significant way, that won't hurt the timeline.

Erika Crotsley said there's only two houses on the side of the bridge that are actually closest to 412. With the replacement of the bridge, which she is honestly for, and some people are for the historical part, but it's just going to wash away again and again with the water. To go into the woods, the road going into her driveway is Baker Avenue which is right there. Will you cut in through Baker Avenue or is that part of your design you still have to look at?

Mr. McGuire said can you clarify your question a little bit. What are you in particular looking for to have done with Baker Avenue? It's the access to those two homes. Ms. Crotsley said yes, it's the access to her home. You said you may redesign the bridge and may have to go into the woods right there, which Baker Avenue lines up right there with the woods which is her driveway. It cuts back more, will it be more into the property and when you redo the bridge, the gentleman had talked about earlier about some kind of backing for the embankments to help with the water flow, so that way helps the erosion. Mr. McGuire said yes, when they say go into the woods, they are not looking to relocate Meadows Road substantially, maybe a few feet this way or that way. Because the bridge is narrow they may have to widen the road to get two lanes plus a sidewalk so they may come 10' or 12' into the woods where the bridge is. Depending on how they balance elevations, they may have to raise the road and open it up as they want to optimize how much water they can get under the bridge and not have the road flood. As far as coming into the woods, they wouldn't be looking to realign Meadows Road or anything like that. In terms of the embankment, if you come out of Baker and you are looking across the street, you almost looking due upstream and the water is coming at you, that embankment right underneath where you are looking, is slowly and sometimes not so slowly, being washed out as the stream tries to head almost toward Baker. He thinks it would be prudent and the engineers are looking at it, they have to shift that so the stream isn't making a 90 degree bend there because streams don't like doing that. They are going to probably be looking to reinforce or armor or somehow to protect the embankment of Meadows Road and get the stream steered back the other way. How they are going to do that, they haven't worked that detail out yet.

Ms. Crotsley said will that help with the flow after the bridge as right now the flow of the bridge is not going very well. The water after the bridge, it's just totally over the embankment and there's a lot of erosion that has happened since the problem with the water that's been happening. She also took a lot of pictures. There's no embankments, there's so much sediment sitting in there and there's stuff all over the place back there. She asked if that stuff would be taken care of as well? Mr. McGuire said they can look into that. Specifics, he'd have to go out there and poke around. Ms. Crotsley said you're more than welcome, she will show him, it's a big problem and concern for her. It gets flooded and the driveway has been taken away numerous times, actually Baker Avenue. Mr. McGuire said if an Isaias comes through after this project is done, no matter what

alternative they choose and what it looks like, it is still going to flood, but in the smaller storms, flooding should be far less frequent. Ms. Crotsley said now with the small storms, it just floods all over the place, not like before when it took a major storm to flood it. Now it's flooding a lot with not so much rain. Mr. McGuire said he's not clear on this yet, but he's heard rumor that the DEP or some other group, maybe the Conservation District, is going around looking at different streams where they've had consistent problems and he's under the impression this area is one of them. He doesn't know what they are proposing or what it is, he just got wind of it about a week ago.

Ms. Crotsley said the gentleman from Conservation came out on Friday and he was looking around and he said it wasn't a good looking area right now. It's pretty bad. Mr. McGuire said there's a lot of sediment that sits there. They may have to look at downstream but he's not sure if it falls under PennDOT's jurisdiction. Ms. Crotsley said she's just looking for something better in the future as now it's getting worse and worse. If you walk through there there's a lot of sediment and big rocks, gravel, everything and the ground is not absorbing any of the water as there's so much sediment from the creek. Mr. McGuire said understood, it's all got to be taken into consideration.

Ms. Crotsley said is there any way they can get updates on what's going on with the bridge. Mr. McGuire said for a while you are not going to hear too much because engineers are going to be off scrambling behind the scenes, but when we get into late Spring, the next discussion we have to have is with the consulting parties due to the historic nature of the bridge to determine all the different needs and wants in terms of the history and how we can commemorate the bridge. Obviously, the Township discussed use of the stone and some other features, so there will be those discussions, that will probably come next. In the meantime, you'll probably see him as he'll be out there at some point poking around. He wants to look at the dam downstream and get a better look at that. Like he said, he doesn't know if that's PennDOT's jurisdiction, but maybe they can get the DEP or someone else involved. Ms. Crotsley said she's more than willing to walk around with him and show him the problem areas that they have. Mrs. deLeon said thank you Erika. Mr. McGuire said they did a full survey a little while back. Ms. Crotsley said yes, most of your sticks are gone now. The Township has her information and she can walk around and show him the problem area and maybe that will help how you style the bridge or how you make it work. Maybe some input might help. Mr. McGuire said it can't hurt.

Mrs. Stauffer said to review and clarify, in our packets we have the assessments from Benesch. Mr. McGuire said they are the design engineers for the project, the department hired them. Mrs. Stauffer said in looking at our Council packets, Exhibit F, which is the alternate cost, she wanted to clarify for the first option was rehabilitation that was coming in at around \$2.3million, while replacement alternative 2 was coming in at \$2.5 million. Her question is those numbers seem pretty similar to her, so with that being said, the rehabilitation option, would that not include some of the bank work, and why are those numbers so close in terms of cost.

Mr. McGuire said that's an excellent question. First of all the stream work would be included either way, replaced or rehabilitated. It has to at this point. The reason they are so close is in order to get that bridge that's out there now to carry a legal load, and if we rehabilitate we aren't going to be able to take the posting off, we'll be able to raise it likely up to 15 tons. We would probably make it a one-way street, not have the two-way vehicles coming at each other to help with safety. The reason the costs are so high to rehab this is because essentially we have to take it all the way down, almost to the foundation and then build it back up, fill it with low cost lightweight concrete to get a slab in there, and then rebuild the arches up to the way they are now. Essentially, it's a rehabilitation but they can't just go out there with some mortar mix and make that work structurally.

Mrs. Stauffer said that's been happening for the last how many decades, twenty decades and that's why the bridge might be in the state it's in. Mr. McGuire said two of the piers are scoured out to the point where if you are out there on a clear day, you can almost go in under one of the piers. It's gotten scary.

Mrs. Stauffer said she did not go with the group that was at Erika's property, but she has visited Erika's property looking at the area there to understand what we're looking at and talking about. Mr. McGuire said PennDOT's rehabilitated a number of stone arch bridges in the last four or five years in District 5, which includes Monroe County, Schuylkill, Carbon, Berks and the Lehigh Valley, unfortunately, none with all the issues that this one has. They all had structural deterioration or narrowness, but when the bridge is 70' long and it's flat, and it doesn't flood and it's really old, you can rehabilitate it and make it work. You can have a car stop on one side and see the other side. There's certain things you can do to make it work and make it last a long time to have a successful rehabilitation. This one, even to rehabilitate it they are going to have to take it down, and then build it back up with what's there.

Mr. Banonis said you had mentioned the bidding process probably at the end of 2023, not holding you to a hard and fast date, but once the bidding process takes place, what's the time line after that for demolition and reconstruction. Mr. McGuire said generally there's about 12 weeks before notice to proceed is issued to the contractor. At that point, the contractor can begin to get out there, demolish, clear a site, to move any utilities, but generally about three months after the bid opening notice to proceed can be issued and they can start in whatever option is chosen.

Mr. Carocci said the motion above was to instruct Leslie on behalf of Council to write a letter in support of replacement of the Meadows Road Bridge similar to the letter written by Representative Wild and County Executive McClure as they have also wrote letters in support of replacement, but also put in there a short paragraph on how the Township would like the option of taking the remnants, the stone from the bridge if they so decide when it's taken down, that we would like the option to take those stones, if the Council at that time, decides they want them and try to do something with them. Mr. Banonis said does your motion request specifically a multi-modal bridge so that it can be used for vehicular as well as pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Mr. Carocci said yes, with an elevated walkway, curbed walkway. He'd like that to be in the letter as well. This will be the preferences of the Township Council.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-1 (Mrs. deLeon – No)

**B. JONATHAN MORGAN & STEPHANIE FETZER – 1442 PEACOCK LANE – REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SEPTIC HOLDING TANK**

Mrs. Yerger said Jonathan Morgan & Stephanie Fetzer are requesting the use of a temporary septic holding tank at 1442 Peacock Lane in order to occupy their home. Installation of the permanent system has been delayed due to wet conditions of the ground.

Mr. Morgan said his wife Stephanie is present and they are looking forward to being a resident here. Chris Wade is here from Well Built, he is the representative and will answer any questions. They are requesting for a temporary septic holding tank. The reason is the ground is too saturated to install a drain field for their system. From his understanding, he thinks it's been checked out two times now with the Sewage Officer and both times it was too saturated and obviously with the snow and winter, it's probably not going to be installed until a later date. Right now they have their house built, it's finalized with inspections, they have two tanks installed, and they are sealed. They are actually looking for permission to move into their house. The tanks have two alarms. At 75% full, he has an agreement with Winding Creek Septic Services that they will come out within three days to empty the tanks out on an as-needed basis. He has the agreement in front of him. That's what they are looking for to move into their forever house. The septic is holding everything up. They brought his property in 2017 and fell in love with it and have been saving every dollar, quarter, penny to build their forever home. The reason he's telling you this is to let you know he's not a short term resident, he's here for the long haul.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the installation of a Temporary Holding Tank that will become part of the permanent septic system with the condition that the installation of the permanent system has to be done within 18 months so that it's consistent with Section 130-38(b) which requires a guarantee that it be hooked up to a public sanitary sewer service within 18 months of the date of the permit application.

Mr. Wade said unfortunately he can't go in as public as it's private. Mr. Banonis said he understands that, it's going to ultimately be a holding tank which is going to be a septic system on his property, just so that it's consistent with our ordinance where it calls to tie into a public sewer. That's not available here and it calls for it to be done within 18 months, and he thinks it's reasonable to place that same time restriction on this application so that they can use the septic holding tank. He understands it's temporary, but he wants to make sure the temporariness of it has a time limitation that's consistent with our ordinance. Mr. Wade said that's super fair, he was just making sure they weren't going to tie into public which he understands Mr. Banonis is trying to parallel the current ordinance, that's perfect.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

Mrs. Yerger said we have a draft motion in our packet and it says this temporary holding tank will become part of the permanent septic system, is that correct? Mrs. Huhn said yes.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Wade thanked everyone for their time.

**C. REVISION TO THE FIRE EQUIPMENT CONTRIBUTION POLICY**

Mrs. Huhn said at the December 16, 2020 Council meeting, you approved an amendment to the Fire Tax and indicated you would like it to be used in accordance with the provisions of Section 3205(4) of the Second Class Code. In doing so, staff indicated that the policy previously adopted by Council outlining the use of these funds would need to be amended and brought back to Council for review and approval. Revisions to the policy are being presented tonight. They left it with track changes in the document so you could see what was being removed and what was being inserted. They tried to fashion this off of what Council chose and reflect from Section 3205 what the money could be used for. Mr. Carocci said this gives us more flexibility than just fire equipment and specifically fire houses.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for approval of the amended policy as presented (or with revisions).

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

Mrs. Stauffer said she appreciates the update here as it does take the language closer to the Township Code in what it allows us to do. She wishes the millage was a little higher since we do have the capability of going up to 3 according to the Code, but she knows that's not the topic of conversation right now. Mr. Carocci said if you look at the bottom, it doesn't look like the policy has been revised since 2007 when it was adopted by Council. Being 14 years old, it's probably good to revise. Mrs. Yerger said she thanks staff as they caught the intent of Council and did a great job with it.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**D. REQUEST FOR IN-CAR DVR CAMERA SYSTEMS FOR PATROL UNITS**

Mrs. Yerger said the police department is requesting to purchase new WatchGuard In-Car DVR systems for the patrol units. This is a component that requires upgrading to sync with the newly purchased body-worn cameras.

Mrs. Huhn said you do have a memo in your packet from the Chief explaining how these will be used and how they are necessary for the new body cameras. This was in our Capital Plan for 2021 so it was budgeted and the cost breakdown is shown in the memo for a total project cost of \$53,020. If you have any questions about the system, Chief is here and can answer them.

Mr. Banonis said he wants to thank and acknowledge the Chief as he came in \$10,000 below the budget, so well done in that regard.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the purchase of In-Car DVR Camera Systems for the Patrol Units at a total cost of \$53,020.00.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**E. REQUEST TO PURCHASE COMPUTERS, MODEMS, AND DOCKING STATIONS FOR PATROL UNITS**

Mrs. Yerger said this request from the Police Department is budgeted in the 2021 Capital Plan to replace patrol unit computers that are outdated. Officers have been experiencing connectivity issues in completing reports in the field.

Mrs. Huhn said this was budgeted for in the 2021 Capital Plan. This is replacing their patrol unit computers, which are outdated. They are having connectivity problems and it is creating issues in the field when they have to use their laptops for completing reports or running any kind of search. The total cost is \$39,667.13 and he came in under budget with this one too.

Mr. Banonis said he'll acknowledge that again, \$20,000 this time. Chief Barndt said for probably the last 15 years of his career when he was on the street they had nothing like this because of the demographics of the Township and when he became Chief, Corporal Werkheiser had some IT background, and Chief set him on a mission and he recently completed a 90-day of testing and experimenting on these tablets and they have had 100% success with criminal activity.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the purchase of Computers, Modems, and Docking Stations for the Patrol Units at a total cost of \$39,667.13.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mrs. Yerger said thank you for being so responsible with Township money and she's glad the units are up to speed.

**F. AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF LAWN MOWING & LAWN TREATMENT BIDS**

Mrs. Huhn said we had pulled this from the last Council meeting as we wanted to look into some other options. We have since done that and we've come up with a program we can work through Public Works. Our concern was the Lawn Treatment Bids to make sure we are getting what our fields and parks need. We've redesigned that and will work with the contractors and put it into our bid specifications. We're requesting to advertise both of these bids and we will bring back to Council when we get them in.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval to authorize the advertisement of the Lawn Mowing & Lawn Treatment for 2021-2022.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**G. AUTHORIZE COLLECTION OF 2021 REAL ESTATE TAXES**

Mrs. Yerger said Council should authorize the Township Manager to collect the 2021 Real Estate Tax in the base amount of \$2,340,905.57 of which \$341,457.83 is for the Fire Tax based on an assessment of 455,429,100 as presented by Northampton County.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval to authorize collection of the 2021 Real Estate Taxes.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2021 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the January 20, 2021 Council minutes.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY – None**

**VIII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

**A. MANAGER**

➤ Mrs. Huhn said she has the ratification of our Declaration of Snow Emergency that was instituted with this last storm, Orlena.

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**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved to approve the Declaration of Snow Emergency.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

Mrs. deLeon said please thank Public Works for their hard work and the Police Department as they were out there working really hard. Mr. Carocci said he was going to name them by name for all their hard work. Roger Rasich, Director of Public Works; Gary Kichline, Roadmaster; Kevin Yeakel, Ty Johnson, Nick Keller, Robert Buki, Kurt Bettler, Casey Zelena, Ken Keller, Ryan Maisenhalter, and Dylan Archer from our Public Works Department; and then the Lower Saucon Authority also had helped plow, Bill Reccek, Jonathan Barron, Karl Martinson, Jack Daniels and Brandon Kutos. He thanked them for their hard work over the past three or four days. He heard some worked 49 hours over a 72 hour period. Mr. Banonis said he echoes that. He was out and about today and was driving on Saucon Valley Road, you can notice the distinct difference between LST roads and the neighboring community roads. Kudos to everyone who did such an amazing job and for a lot of people who are on this call who have not been out and about, the roads are really very passable and these guys worked tirelessly so thank you. Mrs. Yerger said they really did a great job, thank you.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mrs. Huhn said to elaborate a little bit on your thanks which truly are appreciated, these guys did a fantastic job. They went out at 2:00 p.m. on January 31, 2021 and they did not end. They were actually out today cleaning up, they worked non-stop. They were working 39-49 hours. It got to the point where they were trying to get some rest and trying to get some sleep in the Public Works Department. We got them pizza and tried to get them through, and she knows they had some crockpots. When it came to the point where they were just tirelessly working in white-out conditions, Roger sat down with the guys and said we need to brainstorm as we all can't stay out at once because equipment has malfunctions and they had to do things differently. They came up with a game plan with having a crew on the roads at all times and a crew back here getting some rest, getting some food, fixing and servicing their equipment which worked out very well. They did a fantastic job. Roger put together the total man hours and labor which was 765 hours between all the men and all the equipment. Total estimate of materials used between fuel and salt and cutting edges and tire chains was about \$23,700. It gives you an idea of what an event like this costs and we're still not done cleaning up. They did a great job, fantastic. Mrs. Yerger said it was an extraordinary event for them, so you are right, they did a wonderful job. Mr. Banonis said do you have any idea how we are on our stockpile of salt. Last year we were drowning in salt as we didn't use it, are we still in a good position this year. Mrs. Huhn said absolutely, we are required to buy so much under our contract and we had the leftover from last year so we're good. Mrs. Stauffer said hopefully there isn't another such an event this year. Mrs. Yerger said this is the worst storm we've had in 25 years since 1996.

**B. COUNCIL/JR. COUNCIL**

**Jr. Council** – Absent

**Mrs. Yerger**

- She thanked the road crew again for the amazing job they did and she wants to thank our volunteer fire company for introducing her to their new truck.

**Mrs. deLeon**

- She went to see the beautiful ladder truck last Monday at LSFRR and was very impressed with the truck. She was 85' up in the air and was videoing, but it didn't work. The truck is really nice and she was really impressed as one of the volunteers, Eric, did some design changes to the truck and made two improvements. Thank you for the opportunity to do that.
- On January 25<sup>th</sup>, late in the evening around 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. there was a landfill gas odor on her property and she did call DEP, Council received an email regarding that. DEP did send someone out to her house, but by the time he got there an hour later, there was no odor present. We're continuing to get landfill odors from the landfill.
- She said the Chamber is continuing their Music in the Park series and that will return this summer, there's four concerts. Yianni's was scheduled to have their ribbon cutting on



**General Business & Developer Meeting  
February 3, 2021**

January 26<sup>th</sup> and they had to reschedule it to February 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with the ribbon cutting at 5:45 p.m. If you are able to attend, please let the Chamber know.

- The LMIP meeting for the landfill is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., via WebEx.

**Mr. Carocci**

- He said thanking the road crew was his report and he already did that.

**Mr. Banonis**

- He said we had a Parks & Recreation meeting on Monday night, which with the beauty of Zoom we can do these things with a blizzard raging outside. He wants to acknowledge one person, Krista Baum. She has brought to the P&R attention a program called Blessing Boxes. He was not familiar with this. Blessing Boxes is a means for individuals to provide donations, particularly food, it could be clothing or other things, for those in need. The thought is that these Blessing Boxes would be placed in the Township public parks so individuals who are in need can go to the Blessing Boxes and anonymously get whatever it is they may need. He expects we will hear more about this program as it's developed and ideas are put in place and he assured the P&R committee they would have the full support of Council and the Township in this important initiative.

**Mrs. Stauffer** – No report

**C. SOLICITOR** – No report

**D. ENGINEER** – No report

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for adjournment. The time was 8:23 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Submitted by:

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Leslie Huhn  
Township Manager

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Sandra B. Yerger  
Council President