

**I. OPENING**

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

**REVISED**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE**

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Discussion of Library Services
- B. Township Comments on IESI Minor Permit Modification
- C. Resolution #34-2013 – Joint Submission of Local Share Municipal Grant Application to the NCGRERA

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Approval of February 6, 2013 Minutes
- B. Approval of January 2013 Financial Reports

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**VIII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Planning Commission Meeting: February 28, 2013  
Next Park & Rec Meeting: March 4, 2013  
Next Council Meeting: March 6, 2013  
Next EAC Meeting: March 12, 2013  
Saucon Valley Partnership: March 13, 2013 @ SVSD  
Next Zoning Hearing Board Meeting: March 18, 2013

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**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:00 P.M., at Lower Saucon Township, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA with Mr. Glenn Kern, President, presiding.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Glenn Kern, President; Tom Maxfield, Vice President; Ron Horiszny, Dave Willard and Priscilla deLeon, Council members; Jack Cahalan, Township Manager; Leslie Huhn, Assistant Manager; Cathy Gorman, Director of Finance; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Dan Miller and Jim Birdsall, Township Engineer; Karen Mallo, Township Planner; and Carolyn Brooks, Jr. Council Member.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)**

Mr. Kern said Council did meet in Executive Session just prior to coming out here tonight. Attorney Treadwell said the Executive Session had to do with a zoning appeal that was filed for the Green Gables Riding Stable. The Green Gables Riding Stable obtained a variance from the ZHB and one of the neighbors appealed the ZHB decision. If Council wants the Township to be a party to that appeal, we would need to adopt a motion to intervene in the Green Gable zoning appeal and Northampton County Court.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved to adopt a motion to intervene in the Green Gable zoning appeal and Northampton County Court.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Horiszny

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any comments. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Kern said if you are on the agenda, you have Council and Staff's undivided attention. We do have a sign-up sheet at the front door if you chose to speak. We will do an introduction and then allow the BAPL and HAL representatives to speak. We are going to go down the list of names if you chose to speak. He asked Mr. Cahalan if anything has been revised. Mr. Cahalan said there should be revised agendas. We added under Township Business items, the Resolution dealing with the local share municipal grant application to the Northampton County Gaming Authority. Mr. Kern said if you do chose to speak, we ask that you use one of the microphones. We do transcribe the minutes verbatim and want to make sure the transcriptionist gets every word. We ask that you state your name for the record so the transcriptionist knows who is speaking in the minutes.

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS – None**

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. DISCUSSION OF LIBRARY SERVICES**

Mr. Kern said Council asked that this topic be placed on this meeting agenda so that the issues of splitting the Township's annual payment for library services between the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL) and the Hellertown Area Library (HAL) and the Library Task Force Feasibility Study's Findings and Conclusions could be discussed.

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Mr. Cahalan said the first issue is the one of splitting payments. He had raised this at the December 5, 2012 Council meeting, and at the time, he asked Council to consider asking the BAPL whether they would entertain us splitting payments between the BAPL and HAL. He wanted to show everyone where this concept came from. This was part of the feasibility study that was presented to the Council back in August 2012. These were two other options that the Library Task Force wanted to include with the other findings in the report. You can see it says while the main focus of the Task Force was to determine the feasibility of consolidating library services for Township residents at the HAL during its information gathering process, it did identify the following alternative options for library services which may merit more exploration and scrutiny. The first one was to explore the option of split funding for library services. A representative from the State Office of the Commonwealth Library, his name was Jim Hollinger, who was at one of our meetings suggested the possibility, assuming that all parties agreed to it, that the Township consider funding both the BAPL and the HAL for library services for Township residents. The second one was to maintain status quo with BAPL. That's where that came from. Council asked that this be deferred to this meeting. They asked us to invite representatives, the Director from the BAPL, Janet Fricker, and the Director from HAL, who are present tonight to respond to your questions. The second issue was the discussion on the Library Task Force Feasibility Study. We have that and can put it on the screen. It has been posted since last August on the Township website, the Borough website and the HAL website. The Task Force that put that together has been disbanded after they finished their duties, but he invited the members of the Task Force and many of them are in the audience tonight and are available to answer questions. He and Cathy Gorman can run through anything you like on the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Kern asked if there was anyone who could go into the history rationale for the possibility of splitting the fees. Mr. Cahalan said if we go to the Executive Summary, one of the first findings that we identified in the Executive Summary from our year and a half of collecting data was that a significant number of LST residents already use the HAL. It lists some of the statistics that we gathered on that. 50% of the 4,181 LST residents who hold a BAPL card also have a card from the HAL. Our residents comprise 35% of the cardholders using the HAL. Our residents checked out a total of 30,637 materials from HAL in 2011 which represented 35% of that library's checkouts. Our residents also checked out 35,464 materials from the BAPL in 2011 and that was 4.4% of the BAPL checkouts. Our residents, on average, comprise one-half of the participants in many children's programs at the HAL. That was one of the significant things and it gives you some background as to where that issue was coming from, plus it has come up in the past when Council annually would decide to renew library services at the BAPL, there have been residents who have come and said they go to the HAL and the Township should also fund the HAL for that type of service they are providing.

Ms. Janet Fricker, Executive Director of BAPL, said since you've asked her to give an overview of the situation, she'd say first of all, the way the BAPL is funded is rather unique amongst other libraries in the State in that the City of Bethlehem funds roughly half of the cost of the library. The State funds about 25% and the other 25%, more or less, is funded by contracted communities that surround the library or are contiguous to the library. Those other communities are Bethlehem Township, which has quite a large population; Hanover Township, Fountain Hill, and LST. Because we're funded in this way, it makes it rather difficult to plan a budget and do to any kind of strategic planning as 25% of our funding is always in question as to whether people will renew at the end of the year or not. One thing she'd like to remind you is that as her Board President, Kathy Weil just said to her, a lot of people use more than one library. There are people who live near the border of other towns in the PA Library System that have ACCESS PA, an unfunded mandate, but a mandate nevertheless, many people cross and use other libraries, but the way the system has been set up for the past 50 years or so is that every area is designated to a home library. That home library is responsible for the services and the tax dollars go to the home library. The way the system works with give and take which is very nice, and would even be nicer if it was funded by the State, you can cross borders and use other libraries with your PA card with an ACCESS sticker. If she lived on the border of Allentown and that library was more convenient for her, she could and probably would go there rather than come to Bethlehem, and that would be perfectly fine. If you start talking about taking municipalities and splitting tax dollars to which ever libraries the public uses, she thinks you are really diluting the system. You're definitely

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going to hurt our library. They have lost revenue as most libraries have, but they depend very much on the community representation that we get from LST, and from other libraries. We provide a great deal of service for the money we get and she really feels that if we were not here, LST would really be a loser because you would not even have the possibility of a large back-up collection or the economies of scale we can offer in purchasing and things like that. She's said to other groups, the SV Library Task Force, among others, that her strong feeling is that the Lehigh Valley really does need to consolidate its library services and have us all working together and she is working on that with the Allentown and Easton public libraries. They are about ready to launch a project where they will have daily delivery between the three main libraries and people can request items just at the touch of a button. That's something that, after it works with our three main libraries, they'd like to extend out to the smaller libraries. Getting back to the question of funding, their other funders, besides the City of Bethlehem and the State, currently pay the same per capita as the City of Bethlehem pays to the library. The City of Bethlehem also pays more than the per capita because they give us the building; they do a lot of the maintenance of the building and give us many other things that are intangible. One of our representatives from, she believes it was Fountain Hill, said absolutely "no" to splitting the funding as she thought if her community is paying 100% to get 100% of the services, she didn't see that it was fair that LST pays 50% and yet still be entitled to 100% of the services of our library. That is how the other contracting communities seem to feel. She's sure they would be willing to discuss this further; it's only been brought up once four or five months ago. However, that draining by spreading the resources around really drains their ability to do things.

Mr. Willard said he'd like to understand the designation of the home library and how that affects the State funding. If we were to split, do we have to designate one or the other as the home library and would that library get State funding? Ms. Fricker said she's not really sure how it works as the library code has just been revised, but it takes an attorney to figure out the library code as it's very convoluted. There's a lot to it and she thinks that the question of home library and State, that is definitely up in the air. She doesn't know whether your decision here would necessarily influence where the State money goes. She thinks they would consider the designated home library is where the State money goes, but she may be wrong. Mr. Willard said that's one thing we should all be clear on before any decisions are made and in the other options page from the study that Mr. Cahalan put up in the beginning, it seemed that the suggestion of that as a possible option came from somebody involved in the State library system, so he might suggest we might be able to use that individual's resource to get clarification on that particular point. Ms. Fricker said that would be Jim Hollinger and she has not heard anybody else splitting the funding, but there aren't very many groupings throughout the State that do the contracting thing. She's not sure. He threw that out as an idea, but she doesn't know if he knew whether that was a legal idea or not. We have a new State Librarian, Stacey Aldrich and she probably should be brought into this question. Mr. Willard said just as a practical matter, where this idea is coming from is the remarkable similarity in the usage of the two libraries by our residents on some of the measurable statistics. The number of materials checked out; the number of library cards held. It's in the 60/40 range on those statistics. Ms. Fricker said location is definitely a big part of that. There's no doubt about it and the fact that HAL has a parking lot helps. Mrs. deLeon said let's not forget the on-line usage where you don't have to leave your house. Ms. Fricker said she doesn't know whether the on-line usage was counted in that study. Mrs. deLeon said she uses the on-line. Ms. Fricker said she doesn't know if this question would be considered as strongly if ACCESS PA was not at play here. If joining HAL meant that you could not use BAPL, would you still be considering it?

Mr. Maxfield said it's not just Bethlehem, it's all libraries that are participating, so we're not just talking about utilizing Bethlehem. Ms. Fricker said true, but those were the two we were talking about. Mr. Maxfield said he thinks when Mr. Hollinger was before us for the Task Force, he thinks the statement was municipalities can send its library money to wherever it wants to. That was his statement. You had said something about a Solicitor or a lawyer going through it, he asked Attorney Treadwell if he had anything about the home library system. Attorney Treadwell said he did look through the new library code that became effective November 1, 2012 this morning. He did not read it cover to cover. It has some very intricate provisions as to how funding works on this State-wide basis.

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He didn't see anything in it that would preclude you from funding both libraries, but he doesn't think that would make a difference to the State. He thinks the State is going to decide who the home library is and they will give their tax dollars to whomever they've decided the home library is, so their tax dollars may not necessarily follow your contribution.

Mr. Maxfield said at the Task Force they were told that since Rendell was in office that there have been no State library funds reassigned anywhere. We were led to believe even if LST did go with HAL as a library, the State funding would probably, the way things go with government, stay with the BAPL. BAPL would probably not lose State funding regardless of what we did. That's what we were led to believe.

Mr. Kern said you had mentioned that many libraries do not use the contracting method, and the contracting method is when the Townships contribute? Ms. Fricker said yes. Mr. Kern said what method do most libraries employ? Ms. Fricker said most libraries in the State of PA are either funded entirely by the municipality like one or two municipalities together or they are funded through County dollars through the County system. She is most familiar with the County system. She worked with the Bucks County Library system for 18 years. They got local dollars as well, but their main funding came from the County which she wishes they got.

Ms. Robin Rotherham, Library Director of HAL said we really have a nice crowd and both libraries are very well represented. She only wants to say three things about the library in relationship to the Township and to the Borough. The first is community. It's in your community. It's four blocks from the high school. It's across from Dimmick Park. It's a perfect location in the community. It also has a sense of community. Our Board members, our staff were active in the community and she doesn't even live in the community. The second is fairness. It's really not fair to the Hellertown taxpayers that LST does not support the HAL. That's all she's saying about that. The third one is vision. There needs to be a vision as library services are going to change in the next ten to twenty years. There are countless articles out there about it. Google it, you'll find it. Ask a Librarian, she'll tell you. It's not going to look the same later as it does now. It's not going to be large buildings. It's not going to be volumes of books. It's going to be ready access to information quickly. That's what Librarian's do. She'd really like you to consider those three things in your decision, but she'll take your questions.

Mr. Kern said can you expand of what you think the library will be in 10 years? Ms. Rotherham said she thinks we'll become more of a community space; more of a meeting space. We will become information centers. We'll have to have more computers. We'll have to have more electronic books if that's what people are demanding at that point. She thinks we'll have to have access for teens and youth as far as meeting space to play video games. She thinks that's where we're going, more of a community area. Mr. Kern said you don't see stacks and stacks of books? Ms. Rotherham said no. Mr. Kern said how would you do it? How would someone check? Ms. Rotherham said there are all kinds of automated retrieval systems that big library systems are using now like the University of Chicago Library uses an automatic retrieval system where a little robot just goes and gets your book and brings it up. She doesn't see that happening in LST or the Borough of Hellertown, but she sees a more increase of electronic books and things like that so you won't have to have stacks and stacks of books.

Mr. Maxfield said he's a teacher and he has a huge closet full of books that kids never use. He keeps thinking we have to think ten years down the line. We have to think about who we are serving ten years down the line. If the kids of today, and these are high school kids he teaches, want to know something, they don't go to the closet, they go straight to the media and that's where we have to say we are going. It would be crazy to not go there. Ms. Rotherham said you need to have trained staff to do that. That's what librarians do. Mr. Maxfield said that's an important point when we think here and decide what we are doing. We need to realize that libraries will change no matter what we do or say, no matter how much we love books as he has an extensive book collection himself, but they are going to change. It's going to go someplace where a lot of us older adults are not going to be comfortable with. It's going whether we are comfortable or not.

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Mr. Kern said we will go on to the list of people who want to speak.

- Joseph Pampanin said he went on the list earlier, in case you had any specific questions you needed answered.
- Charlie Luthar said he's a resident of LST, and a couple of you already said everything he was going to say. He wanted to say that he asks Council to seriously consider financial support of the HAL. He says that without malice towards the BAPL. He grew up in the Southside of Bethlehem. He was five blocks away from the Webster Street branch. From the early years of his life until he reached 20 years old, he'd walk the five blocks to the library and participate. The summer reading programs were fantastic. He remembers a Ms. Preston at the Southside branch. Beyond that, he can't remember, but there were a lot of nice people there, so it's not with malice that he says this. BAPL has been around a hundred years, and it's got a hundred years of history behind it, brick and mortar and all the new electronic media. HAL, on the other hand, is twenty years old. It's a young and growing library and that's an advantage in a way, as Ms. Rotherham had mentioned, this is what he sees and is what Mr. Maxfield mentioned. The libraries of the future are not going to be the ones he went to. They are going to be different, the electronic media, the internet, the Kindle books and all the other things that go with it. He's not comfortable with it, but that's the way we're going. As a twenty year old library, he thinks we are flexible enough to accommodate that thing as they haven't got a lot of infrastructure. The other thing that he based his request on is the study the Library Task Force did. The group that got together did a fantastic job. Kim LaBrake's leadership pulled together the statistics that are enormous. When he reads through the report, he has to read it a couple of times as each time he sees something new. There's always something to add. The thing that sticks out is what Mr. Cahalan mentioned and what Mr. Willard mentioned and that is when you look at statistics by books read by our LST citizens, it's equal, statistically it's equal. The HAL does not receive any funding from the Township. He thinks that needs to be addressed in some form or another, and Council has the difficult decision to make where they want to take this, that's important. That was one of the key findings. When he looks at the statistical numbers, the BAPL patrons from LST are about 4,100. About 2,000 of those joined because they really have to join in order to be members of the HAL, so you in effect have equal population of about 2,100 pure plays for BAPL and about 2,000 HAL library patrons, so again, you have that split. You look at the number of books per patron. If you take all the patrons in BAPL, it works out to about 8 books per patron as an average. If you look at it from HAL's standpoint, it's about 14 books per patron. If you deduct the 2,000 that are pure plays from that number, and just look at those numbers, you come up with an even balance again, it's around 14, 15, 16. The numbers keep coming back together to the same place. Again, his comments are not negative to the BAPL, it's a great facility and he patronized it. His family is now a member of the HAL and it's a great place and the leadership there with Robin and the staff is fantastic. He would like to see at least some support of that library in some form, which unfortunately is in your hands to make a tough decision. Mr. Kern said that's it in a nutshell. That's the issue that we're facing. The report was an eye opener as he had no idea of those numbers until that report came out. It's a task before them to determine how best to spend the library monies that the residents are paying by tax dollars. It's a challenge. Mr. Maxfield said before we go any further, and we have Cathy Gorman here, can we again state publicly what we are again paying on a yearly basis? Ms. Gorman said the 2013 budget was \$183,467.00 which works out to \$17.03 per capita.
- Mike Karabin, Wassergass Road, said he served on the Task Force, everyone did a great job. You have all the data and information he believes you are going to acquire. What he's hearing is to split fees for HAL and BAPL. He's asking the Board, where are you going to go and how are you going to accomplish that without having some type of formal meeting amongst all parties or are you not going to do that. He's hearing a split ought to be done, but from what he knows from the data he served on, he's not sure it's possible unless all parties agree. His suggestion is to sit with the parties and come to another meeting. Mrs. deLeon said when you say all parties, who are all the parties? Mr. Karabin said it would be Bethlehem, Hellertown, and whoever you choose among yourselves if that's an avenue you want to take.

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- Linda Robertson said she is a resident of Bethlehem and until December 31<sup>st</sup>, she was on the board of the BAPL. In that capacity, she attended about half of the Township Library Task Force meetings. At those meetings, there was more discussion about expanding the physical footprint of HAL than any other topic. She thought that was interesting as they were just supposed to find out if it was feasible to have Lower Saucon affiliate with HAL. There were drawings made, there were blueprints discussed and it took a great deal of the conversation. Hearing that, any kind of building or expansion is going to cost a lot of money. There was a formula that was presented that said for two years, the LST community would be paying a certain amount of dollars and after that, the Librarian anticipated that per capita would go down. At the time of the meetings, the per capita that was advanced that you pay to the BAPL versus HAL was less than \$3.00 difference. In her opinion, if there's going to be a building campaign, there's going to have to be an increase per capita going forward. Secondly, the Library Code demands that when a libraries population that it serves increases, the professional library staff has to increase according to a formula that the Commonwealth of PA determines. There will be increased cost there. Pretty soon you are getting very close to what your per capita is to the BAPL. The idea that libraries are going to go completely electronic or eliminate books in the very near future is not really an accurate description. What you do have at the BAPL is a trained extensive reference department that covers all hours that the library is open. She doesn't know if you have equivalent trained staff to accommodate and increase service population at HAL. In today's world, if you affiliate with the HAL, you are really going against all trends in libraries across the country that are working to consolidate and create an Economy of Scale instead of fragmenting services. You can see it in NYC, you can see it in Seattle and it just seems to make economic and political sense, so consolidation, not fragmentation is a trend. In the past and even during the Library Task Force meetings, the notion was put forward that we would love to have HAL become a part of this consolidated by county system and work for even more economy scales and better service participation. She doesn't think that LST could realistically expect to have full participation in the BAPL system if it insisted on dividing its support in any way because why would Bethlehem Township or Hanover Township or Fountain Hill, why would their elected officials agree to pay 100% of the per capita if you are getting 50% payment or whatever the split would be. The last point that seems to be never mentioned is that we are in Phase III of a 4 part expansion of children's service at the BAPL. The third phase is happening right now. A complete renovation and sprucing up of the Webster Street branch on the Southside which will reopen in March and then we'll immediately go into finishing Phase IV creating a state-of-the-art and the newest children's center in any commonwealth library in PA. It's going to be great. It's over \$2.5 million and they are twiddling away at the last million and they only have about \$750,000.00. It's been a terrific fundraising campaign. The services you are going to get from that library are going to be top notch. If you're thinking about your future, you voting citizens here, your children, you'd better consider what opportunities they have at the BAPL. They are going to be as good as anything in the Commonwealth. Mr. Maxfield said you must have attended the meeting where we talked about infrastructure because we talked about many different things, not just the building and there were actually three proposals. One of them was that the infrastructure wasn't really expanded at all. He's a little upset that that's what you took away from the Task Force meetings, but so be it.
- Mrs. deLeon said this was supposed to be a feasibility study created and she expected more pros and cons and she didn't see that in the report and that was just her opinion. She doesn't think that all the services were compared side by side as they should have been. Mr. Maxfield said they very much were. Mr. Cahalan said there seems to be confusion and he'll go back to what the Council direction was. It was the feasibility of consolidating the Townships library services at the HAL. We weren't asked to compare the services of both libraries. That was never the charge given to the Task Force. The Task Force carried that out. It's interesting what the last comment said about fragmentation vs. consolidation. The title of the report is consolidation of library services at the HAL, so he thinks they were following that direction. He also wanted to clear up some of the financial issues. What they pointed out on the Executive Summary, as Mr. Maxfield mentioned, was three different funding options. Ms. Gorman said in the summary, Option A, was to modify the existing building, just move it around, do different layout designs that would accommodate the

needs that were laid out by the Task Forces to what the residents would want. That was obviously the least expensive method and breaking it down as to funding it over a two-year period, they determined that if based on a per capita mentality as to funding it, it would be \$127,528.00 for LST for the first two years and \$69,826.00 for Hellertown. Then after the third year once those improvements were made and the computers were purchased and other equipment and moving around the building and anything that would be needed inside, then the rates would drop to \$74,542.00 for LST and \$40,814.00 for Hellertown. They tried to keep it on a per capita basis so if HAL and LST came up with some other method of funding that would be up to Council and to the HAL Board. For clarity sake, we kept it on a per capita basis. Mr. Cahalan said would you point out under Section ii what the funding would be for technology under that proposal. Ms. Gorman said under that proposal, the renovations would be \$113,947.02 and the IT would be \$50,000.00. Mr. Cahalan said can you go over the next entry, Section iii. Ms. Gorman said that would have been for staffing that would be needed and it was based on State law that says if the facility was expanded, you would need the equivalent numbers of employees per State law for the amount of people or for the amount of the population. That's where that number came from.

- Mr. Evangelista said he was on the Task Force. The \$15.00 she was referring to per person, which went way back to one of their first meetings. The HAL Board were initially trying to figure out where to go with this when you first started your Task Force, so to come up with number, they came up with a \$15.00 per capita figure and then after two years, they were going to reduce it up to what the Borough resident's pay, which was \$10.84. That's where the original \$15.00 came from. It was \$15.00 per head on LST and would have just built up enough money if we needed to expand, it would pay for the full time employees and an expansion project. He's thinks that's where the \$15.00 and \$10.84 came from. Mr. Cahalan said he thinks he is correct. What Mike is referring to is back in 2006, the Township Library Committee was tasked by the Township to come up with other alternatives to the system we had. They reached out to the HAL Trustees and asked them to submit a proposal. That's in Appendix A of the report. There is the financial plan and timeline and that is the report Mike is referring to which we believe is the basis for the comment about the per capita cost. Mr. Horiszny said with the current population and the \$127,500.00, our per capita would drop to \$11.84 and Hellertown would be about \$11.64. Mr. Maxfield said while Cathy is here, the amount we pay per capita now in relation to the three types of options we have, was there any of those options where the residents would actually end up paying greater per capita than we do now? Even temporarily to put an addition on to a structure? Ms. Gorman said we broke out option C which was the most expensive which came to over \$800,000.00 into a debt service scenario that the HAL would have to do, so if they were to secure debt to pay for the infrastructure improvements then we'd still fall under the per capita amount. You would also incur fifteen years of debt. Mr. Maxfield said we could handle that payment for what we are paying now and it would be less. Ms. Gorman said yes. Mr. Maxfield said which impressed him as he's hoping that our residents want us to be fiscally responsible.
- Sandra Miller said she spoke about this before. She's confused about the topic tonight. She was under the impression that we were no longer debating whether or not to go to 100% to supporting HAL. She thought tonight was to discuss the feasibility of splitting funding and coming up with a different alternative. To be debating this was not something she expected to hear tonight. She thought we were going to look at the option of splitting funding or maintaining the balance as that was the gist of what was discussed the Council meeting a month ago. Her son just texted her and his car just broke down in Bethlehem and she has to go and rescue him, but that was the intent she thought. If we are switching our intent and going back to looking at the whole project and going to pulling 100% of our funding to HAL and looking at this plan, she thinks there would be different comments that would have been made. She thought we were doing the balance, so to debate this issue whether or not we save per capita wasn't what she expected. Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't know where she got that idea as they never even got to that point. The agenda item says we are talking about splitting the Townships' annual payment and we are also discussing the conclusions and findings of the feasibility study, which is very much not about splitting the payments, so don't assume. Mr. Willard said he thinks both topics are mentioned in the agenda item. Ms. Miller said correct, it was on the agenda.

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- Michelle Lanning said she lives in LST. She moved there in 2010 as they came from Williams Township. They were so excited to be in the community and have their children go to this school district and be part of it. She was really surprised when she went into the HAL to get their card and was told that they had to go to the BAPL, and she said no, her address says Hellertown. She for sure should be here at the HAL. She was really surprised to learn the whole negotiations here between where the tax money went. She is a regular user of the HAL as are her children. When we talk about the future, and we talk about children, we should talk about the children in the community that go to Saucon Valley School District and that are close by the library. We often see young adults walking to the library and using their services after school in the summer, utilizing the programs that are there. If we're going to be talking about children's programs as well, we need to talk about the fact that there is an access to a parking lot. She has three small children, 6, 3 and 1, and they are in fact our future and they regularly use the library and it's because of the convenience. It's in the community. We're seeing people they are going to go to school with and they are going to be in school with. She just wanted to share that with everyone that she is a community member and she does support any money going to the HAL, whether it's 100% or 50%, whatever you decide, but she did want to share that. We really need to think about what our Township does and what is best for us. Not when we talk about the BAPL, what other Townships are doing or what they'll think of this Township. We need to do what's best for us. Hellertown is unique and how the library system works. She thinks that's something we all thought about and you have all thought about as well. She hopes we support the HAL financially as well.
- Bill Scheirer said he's a resident of Bethlehem and like Linda, until December 31<sup>st</sup>, he was on the Board of Trustees of the BAPL. He should mention at Jack Cahalan's request several years ago he did represent LST out at the airport in front of nine people from the National and Regional FAA and that was when the City and the Township worked together to prevent that radar tower from going up on South Mountain with the flashing red light. He'd like to mention something first that gets overlooked and it's to our detriment that we don't emphasize it enough. The garage underneath the BAPL and City Hall is open to the public at 5:00 PM and the library stays open till 8:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They of course wouldn't be here if HAL was willing to be an important branch of the BAPL system. He understands that's a non-starter. HAL wishes to be independent by reasons unknown to him. We come then to usage. He won't contest the numbers and he did see the draft report, not the final. Even though he's a statistical economist, he wasn't able to follow the gentleman's assessment of the numbers based on pure users or something like that. He'll ask him about that afterwards. It was only in terms of books and cardholders. The BAPL, as you heard some indication, offers much more than that. He uses it all even though he has 10,000 books at home. The demise of books has been predicted for a long time and maybe it's his age, but there's nothing like holding a book in your hand. It's a lot better than steering a computer screen even if it's an I-pad. The BAPL offers a lot more than books. He won't go into the details as you've heard that. As Mr. Cahalan has pointed out, the mission of the Task Force was very specific and it was so specific that the decision you are going to make is much broader than what the Task Force is looking at. He'd like to detail a little bit the implications. You've heard some of it tonight. For the sake of argument, you vote to split your money. That would go to the Board of Trustees and they could do one of three things. They could say we accept it, but he doesn't think that's going to happen by itself as Linda pointed out. Bethlehem and Hanover Township and Fountain Hill are going to say why should we pay 100% and LST only pay 50%. They would say they reject it and he has no idea what they would do, or they could say we'll accept it, but you are going to have to give up some services. You could lose in that respect as you would be strengthening Hellertown, but you would lose things at Bethlehem that Hellertown does not provide. You'd be trading options for convenience. That's one important thing you have to keep in mind. You'd also be weakening the BAPL. By weakening the BAPL, you are weakening the strongest library in the Bethlehem Area system. You are weakening library services in the area. Regionalization is the future of municipal government. As was pointed out, this is the opposite; this is fragmentation, if you will, balkanization. That's a harsh word, but that's the essence of it. The Board of Trustees could also say we're not going to consider this option and LST would be out completely, and BAPL would be even weaker and HAL would be

stronger. If that's what you want, go for it. Then there are other implications. What happens in Bethlehem Township, what happens in Hanover Township? Some years ago there were a group of women who created a stir about pulling Fountain Hill out of the system. There's been occasional grumblings of Bethlehem Township as for some of them the Palmer Township Library is not far away. This could end up like the EIT. Money going in all different directions. Is that what we want? Bethlehem could start asking for contributions from Allentown and Allentown from Bethlehem. This could go different ways. There are many, many implications of this and whatever you decide, he asks you to think through it. Make up a decision tree if you will to see what the possibilities are and how they resound not only to the benefit, where someone said "oh we just think in terms of the Township". The Township is going to lose something if you decide you don't want to drive over the mountain anymore. He doesn't mind driving over the mountain; he goes to the Promenade movies. The mountain's not that bad. Please think about all the ramifications. They are substantial. They are important and they are irreversible. Mr. Maxfield said hopefully one of the things LST would lose would be is all that extra time you spend driving around looking for a parking space in Bethlehem. He has personally been kicked out of spots by the Police underneath that garage several times.

- Stanley Turel, Jr. said he lives in LST and grew up in Bethlehem. He used to go over to the old library when it was on Market Street, then he got married and moved out of the Township and was working at the Steel. They built a library and they were asking for donations. At that time, they had to pay a fee to join the library if you lived in the City. He would suggest you start new cards at the beginning of the year. Right now you are paying \$17.00 a person, make it an even \$20.00 and the people who are using the library can pay that. If you go to HAL, give the money to them, and if you go to Bethlehem, give the money to BAPL. Even though it would be \$20.00, it would be less as there are a lot of people, himself included, have a card for both libraries, but haven't used either one for years. That would be his suggestion as far as helping both of them out, but he doesn't know anything about the State funding. Mr. Kern said that's a brilliant common sense idea which he came up with two years ago and was shot down because of certain regulations that got so complex, he can't even begin to describe them. Sometimes common sense does not prevail. Mr. Turel said he knows his wife used to stop at the HAL and they stopped down there when they had the book sales, and she would buy books for the kids. As far as taking any books out, he hasn't done that in years.
- Jay Lazar, resident of LST, said he appreciated all the comments that were made until the comment was made about what the study was and then apparently what the decision is going to be. It seems to him, that without a study of the relative merits of what the Township would get for its money, the Township is making a decision in the blind. It's as if there was a study of someone who owned a Chevrolet and had been buying Chevrolet's for year and did a feasibility study of could we buy a Ford and determined a Ford could be bought, but until, for the money, you decided is a Ford better than a Chevrolet, it would be a worthless and uninformed decision. Mrs. deLeon said thank you for saying that better than she did. Mr. Lazar said second of all, he appreciates the comments about the unfairness of half the people in LST who use the HAL and we don't pay anything. These words are going to choke in his throat as a fiscal ultra-conservative, but it would seem to him that a fourth option ought to be up there, which is staying with the BAPL as we have and figuring out a funding mechanism above and beyond that to support and pay for what we are getting. There should be no such thing as a free lunch or free loading off the HAL and maybe there could be something in the budget about paying HAL for what some of the citizens in LST seem to be getting for free. That would be a fourth option and if a study is being done, which it would seem to him, would only make sense to make a decision based on a study on what we're getting for our money could also be included in that. Should we and how much should we pay for the services we get from HAL. Those are his two thoughts.
- Mr. Willard said he wanted to comment on that gentleman's comment, particularly the first part of it. He's served on the Council for 14 months now. He's promised our colleagues he's not going to use the "I don't understand this" much longer. This study was commissioned before he joined the Council and then reported out when he joined the Council and relative to the gentleman's comment about a study to see if we can buy a Ford and then buy a Ford, he would like to ask the rest of the Council how and why this study was defined the way it was when we commissioned it?

Mrs. deLeon said she was under the impression that a feasibility study would show the pros and cons. If you were going to go with the HAL, you couldn't do that without comparing what you were gaining or losing. Obviously, you heard Jack, that's not what the committee did. Mr. Cahalan said the reason he mentioned that is because the Council adopted a resolution that set out a whole list of tasks the Task Force was supposed to do. It's in the minutes. Mrs. deLeon said she voted with it in her head...Mr. Cahalan interrupted and said that's what the Council asked us to do and he said this group of volunteers did a great job fulfilling that task. Mrs. deLeon said she's not saying they didn't. Mr. Cahalan said you used the term comparison. We did collect statistics. That was one of the functions of the Task Force. Those statistics included statistics from the BAPL. We collected data about some services, particularly the IT services, the electronic types of services that are available, which is in the report. He can show that to Mrs. deLeon. It's a side-by-side comparison of HAL, BAPL, and Easton Public Library. As far as what we gathered, we gathered what was available. There was a committee on statistics and demographics. They asked the BAPL for all of the statistics that they could give us on the usage of the library by LST residents. Those statistics are in that report. It's not really any more conclusive than what he put up in the Executive Summary. We gathered what we could gather. We did a feasibility study that asked the question, "Could the Township residents receive library services at the HAL facility". That's what the question was that we were supposed to answer. They came up with findings that supported that. They also took into account and listed it in the report that the consolidation would mean certain impacts on the library services for LST residents. One would be that there would be less materials available at the HAL and we said that in the report. Two, the book mobile services would be cut; we said that in the report. We also said that Township residents could still utilize the BAPL and borrow materials under the ACCESS program. He thinks this Task Force did a terrific job. They did it for nothing. When he went out and asked Cathy to look into consultants who could do a study like this, they came back with a cost of around \$40,000.00. This was done at zero cost to the taxpayers, and this group did a heck of a job. Mrs. deLeon said she's not saying they didn't. She's just is voicing her opinion that it could have been done differently and the pros and cons weren't there. She's sorry, but she wrote down comments from that meeting in April. This is from residents who spoke that night. How can you make a decision if you don't compare services provided by both? Feasibility implies pros and cons. Cost benefit analysis for services provided. Why put money into the HAL to reach BAPL levels. That's her take from that meeting in April. Mr. Maxfield said he has to disagree with that. To go back to the Chevy and Ford analogy, if the BAPL was the Chevy, we knew what the Chevy was all about, we owned the Chevy. If we wanted to then and go find out what services we get from a Ford, we do a feasibility study and find out what's offered. The only way that we could have gone much further was to have gone ahead and try it. That's how you really find out what you're going to get. We were criticized a few times by members that were attending from the public about not having a representative from the BAPL at the meeting at the table. We knew already what we had been getting for years, so why would we want to reiterate that. It wasn't about an argument between libraries; it was about the feasibility of moving to the HAL. It's exactly what Jack said it was. Mr. Willard said he'll go back and read the resolution and that will answer his earlier question and he thinks that given the scope of the study, he agrees. Yes, an excellent job was done. The statistics that were gathered comparing the usage by our residents of the two libraries were what raised the question about split funding. He had honestly forgotten it was mentioned as an option in the report. It's one paragraph out of a 100 page study, but to him, that's where that's coming from as a matter of fairness. Whether that was intended to be part of the study or not, he thinks it's obviously a question that comes out of it. Mr. Kern said his take on it, if you look at the agenda item for tonight, it says discussion of library services. It's not decision on library services, so this first initial report was one step in the process of the discussion to determine whether or not it's feasible, doable, and whether we want to do it. It's not the end all. It's one step in the process to determine whether or not we're going to do it. He's not saying we are going to decide tonight. He's sure we're not going to decide tonight because he thinks in his opinion it's very early in the process. He thinks the purpose of his intention of tonight and the continuing process of this is to look at ways to utilize both libraries in a more equitable fashion. He was shocked to find out that we don't contribute to the HAL and he thinks that's wrong. He's not going to say we're going to

cut what we do at BAPL now, but it's part of the discussion. We need to continue the discussion to find out what the best plan to utilize both libraries, if we can, would be. Mr. Maxfield said one of the things he wants to state, and it may sound like he's talking a lot, but he was a member of the Task Force and he feels that he needs to defend what the Task Force did. He thought they did an excellent job. When we keep talking about 100% of the services for 50% of the money, we're not really talking about accuracy either. What basically came out of the findings of the report and let him say, he hopes everyone reads the report, not get it from the newspapers, read the report. It's all here. A lot of the questions you've asked already are answered in here. Back to the service and percentage, we are paying \$17.00 per capita and the numbers we get back from the libraries say that close to 50% of our actual taking out of books is coming from another library, which means we are not paying for 100% of services here. We're paying basically 200% for those services. If you want to take 50% of our population per capita and the people that are actually using the BAPL, based on usage, you are talking about \$35.00 a head per person who is actually walking into the BAPL and taking out books, that's what the report reveals. That's why we're not talking about 100% services or 50% services, or whatever. We're talking about how much it costs per capita for people who actually use the library. From the library we got numbers of books that were taken out. We did not get numbers of people who took out books. We didn't get that. We tried to get numbers of LST residents who were using the library and we couldn't get those figures. We tried. We tried to be as accurate as humanly possible. As he sits up here year after year, he keeps thinking to himself that the truth is the most important thing that he can say to you, which these Council members can say to you, and these facts and figures we have here, he feels are the truth. He's trying to relay that to you and he doesn't appreciate any distortions or people who really haven't read the report saying that the information isn't in here, as it's in here. The Task Force did a good job, read the report. Mr. Willard said this will just segue into it. As Glenn said, this was listed on the agenda as a discussion tonight. He realizes whatever decision we make here, is going to have an impact on both libraries. If we stay with BAPL, we continue to utilize the services of HAL with no compensation. If we split the money up, it obviously has an effect on both. If we withdraw from BAPL, and go to HAL completely, this may be feasible, that also has a tremendous financial impact on the BAPL. We have to make a decision. He thinks it's on November 1 for each year to sign up for the BAPL and the purpose of the discussion here on February 20<sup>th</sup> is to have enough time to study the report, make an informed decision, hear from all the residents, and then go forward.

- Mr. Horiszny said Ms. Fricker, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Scheirer mentioned consolidation. He wonders if the BAPL has ever asked the HAL to join these and whether they offer compensation to be part of the BAPL. Ms. Rotherham said the HAL was started 20 years ago. This is their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. It's a baby library. It was founded by a grass roots effort in Hellertown because the Borough of Hellertown would not join the BAPL. In two referendums, Hellertown residents said no, we don't want to join. A grass roots effort who saw there were children in the SV School District, who could go to the BAPL, i.e., LST kids, but Hellertown kids didn't have a library, so the HAL was started. The BAPL never has said anything about consolidation to the HAL prior to the Task Force. She's heard about it since then, never before. She can almost bet you that no one in Hellertown is going to go for that – the Board of Trustees or the Borough. Maybe she's wrong, there are Borough representatives here, but she's pretty sure that would be a hard sell to the Board of Trustees or to the Borough of Hellertown. Ms. Fricker said she's been at the BAPL for approximately five years now. She doesn't know what happened before she was there. People have always told her that anytime Bethlehem even mentioned the word branch library to anyone in Hellertown, they like got viciously angry and said over our dead bodies. She doesn't think that's too far from the truth. However, there are other possibilities. As she said, down in Bucks County, you have a system of thirteen or fourteen public libraries, seven of them are Bucks County Free Library of Doylestown and six branches. The others are independent Township libraries. Everybody uses the same delivery system. The Bucks County Free Library provides IT. They provide the purchasing of books, so again, it's economies of scale. They do all of the cataloguing and the delivery. She's not saying that has to happen here, but she's saying that it doesn't have to be a branch library, i.e., that Bethlehem sucks Hellertown in and owns them, but there can be cooperation. She has been very willing ever since she got here to talk about Lehigh

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Valley cooperation and frankly, the last time she said anything at a Task Force meeting, one of the people present said over our dead bodies. Ms. Rotherham said if the Township Council is willing to wait until the libraries in the Lehigh Valley all get together and consolidate and continue to support the BAPL, that's okay. That's not going to happen for ten years. It's the way libraries work. She doesn't see it happening. Ms. Fricker said there is a meeting going on with Allentown and Easton and we are starting delivery between the three libraries probably in April or May. All three of us have gotten together and agreed on compromising the loan rules, meaning how long items can go out, what fines are for what items, what age group can take out what. They got together and they had the Reading Library head to be our arbitrator and we worked it out in one meeting. They've also gone for a Lehigh Valley Community Foundation Grant to help them with the delivery of that, so it's not ever going to happen and it's not going to take ten years. It's probably going to start this year Robin.

- Noelle Kramer said she lives in LST. Her first question is specific to the last comment – the cooperation you are seeing in those libraries, are they sharing tax dollars? Ms. Fricker said not yet. Ms. Kramer said she's heard several times now that Bethlehem Township and Hanover Township, it's not fair if LST gives 50%, it's not fair to Bethlehem and Hanover. Well, it's not fair for Hellertown to get 0%, so she's more concerned that HAL is getting the unfair side because LST is giving 0%, so she thinks 50% would be better than 0%. She also wants to mention she has a child in high school who is involved in the reading team coached by one of the librarians from Hellertown. She drives after school to those meetings. She can drive from school to Hellertown, but would not be comfortable for her driving from school to Bethlehem. She has a 15-year old who walks to the library after school. He can walk from LS schools to HAL. He cannot walk to BAPL. She had a third grader last year who went on a field trip to the HAL. Third grade, every year, every third grader in the SV School District walk to the HAL and is introduced to the library. That's every third grader whether they live in Hellertown or Lower Saucon. She also has a small child who gets involved in the younger kids programs. Again, it's a great program. It lasts a half an hour, an hour. She can run over there. They can enjoy the program. She can get back in time to get her other kids off the bus. She can't get to Bethlehem and back in time to get younger kids off the bus. It's just not possible. While they are making a bigger kids section library, in BAPL, that's not useful to her. Her child in high school just learning to drive can't use that. Her 15-year old who walks to the library, can't walk to use that. Her third grader, when she was in third grade and went to the field trip, she knows she seriously doubt that someone is going to pay for busses to run those kids over to BAPL when they can walk to the HAL. Everyone wants to consider the children, we need to consider the children. What do they physically use? They physically use the HAL, especially the older ones who are independent enough to go on their own, but not independent enough to go to BAPL on their own. She also wants to mention that everyone is talking about is the library going to change, isn't it? To be perfectly honest, she doesn't need to go to the library as she can download any book she wants from the comfort of her living room without going out in the cold. She goes to the HAL for the community, for the other people, so her children can interact with their peers, so she can interact with other parents, so that she can meet other people from her community. Her child in high school doesn't do research at the library; she goes to the library for books she wants to read for her own amusement. She does research on the internet, again, from the comfort of her home in her own living room. You will find even at the school as you mentioned, when they do research at school, it's on the computer. They are not physically going to the library to do research. When her high school students do research on-line, it's through the high school, it's not through any library at this point. They have certain websites that they access from the high school. She doesn't know what databases specifically BAPL has. She knows her family doesn't use them. She does know they go to the HAL for community activities. That's where her kids meet their school mates. That's where she meets other parents. That's where her children can independently go safely, walking, even after dark. They live close enough to the library, even though they are in LST, that they can walk from school to the library and when the library closes, walk home. They can't do that with BAPL. She is from an area that originally had a library system that ran county-wide and she has to say, she didn't use the library all that often as it was county-wide. The nearest one to her was a 20-minute drive. The nearest bookstore was five minutes away. It's just easier with small children, car seats,

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carriers and strollers to go closer. To not have to walk a long distance for parking. What she does now is use the library. She didn't do that before they moved. She didn't use that when they had a county system. She uses the HAL now and she would like, as a resident, you to consider that our kids do use this library. It's an extension of the school district and she thinks we need to keep that in mind.

- Matt Wolf said he works for Chevrolet, he's just kidding. He works for BAPL. He's in the adult services department at the information desk. Just to give you some background, to give everybody in LST that hasn't come to BAPL, he worked in California out there in a county system. He started at Lehigh and is now at BAPL. He's had thirteen years of experience in libraries. Eight year in California was fantastic, but it's a challenging place to work. He's in Bethlehem, his home town now. He's back and it's a tremendous staff. He's not sure how much you care about those things, but he can say that it's a fantastic staff that works there. They are doing tremendous things across the board. His next point would be again, if you would be taking money away from the BAPL, you would be damaging it. It sounds as if there's the other side of the numbers where there's x amount of people that are LST residents that use BAPL and use it a decent amount. It would be like you are damaging your own system, your own citizens as they would lose out on a library. It's not just books, movies, CD's, they have e-books, the internet, children's programming like Candy Land events that draw 500 people, adult programs. He runs an open mike event. There are so many things that are going on that aren't going to show up in the studies. Libraries do such a fantastic thing in our country and it's the last thing we should arguing about. This is a positive thing in our country that is free for everybody. He's hoping everybody can find some type of common ground where we're moving forward on the issue, helping HAL, which he's sure is a fantastic library with tremendous workers as well, maintaining what's going on in Bethlehem, and just not damaging each other. How can we move forward with this? He came because he works there and he hears x, y and z, but he came tonight as he really wanted to hear what other people are saying. What are people in LST saying in a meeting for two hours? He wants to know this. He wants to know more about this topic. What he's hearing so far is we do have to go a little further in the data taking and studying as there should be pros and cons of both sides. Feasibility on one side, what would it be like? What would happen if we left? It's a funny system we have here with the libraries and how we are divvying out tax money. It's a little strange and chopped up and some get it and some don't which is silly to him when it's so viable. That is what we have. We have to make the best of it. He asked if there will be some kind of referendum. He's not going to doubt what citizens here say. That's how their experience is. There's all kinds of other people in this room that have a different experience, so what do they have to say. Are you going to be polling the citizens? Is there going to be a referendum? Mr. Kern said that's why they pay us the big bucks. Mr. Wolf said he doesn't want anyone to be in the dark and all of a sudden have all these changes. People are really busy and this is an important topic.
- Alison Finkbeiner, Hellertown, said she was on the Task Force and serves on the Hellertown Board. She also is a librarian. She's worked in both the city library and the suburban library and understands how both work. She understands the differences and similarities. There are a few things she wants to address as she worked on the Demographics Committee. She did send quite a few emails, two or three to BAPL, asking for program statistics, programming numbers. She even addressed at the April meeting when Ms. Fricker stood up, she asked, can we have program numbers. Why don't you keep program numbers? It's important to the library to know who you are serving. If only 5% of your story time people are coming from LST, then you are not reaching the Township and that's important to know. She would like you to know that those numbers were asked for and the numbers were not provided. It's really hard to stand up and listen to someone say if you pull your money out of BAPL, that you are debilitating them somehow. When you are talking about the HAL, and let this sink in, you provide more money to BAPL than the HAL budget. The HAL budget is \$146,000.00. We provide a lot of services with that budget. We check out almost the same amount of books that your residents are checking out of the BAPL. That says a lot about a library as obviously we have the resources that your community is looking for or else they wouldn't be checking out those numbers. She feels that the HAL has a connection with the school district. They do have volunteers from the high school who do volunteer at their

library. They have their staff that helps out with the reading team. Third graders come for visits. They have community groups that use their meeting room areas. Girl Scout visits, Boy Scout visits. She also feels the Township has a working relationship with the Hellertown Borough. You already know how the Borough works. You are in the Saucon Valley Partnership with them. This is just another step in the right direction. Working with the HAL you have one building you are paying for, not two. The Southside branch, she believes, 3% of the checkouts came from LST. Just remember you are paying for that building too with your money. With the HAL, you are paying for one building. We would be focusing on two communities, not multiple communities with different statistics. She wants to address the Council as a Hellertown taxpayer. It really goes against the grain of what she stands for as a Librarian, but when she walks into that library and she sees all those new books coming in and she knows those are her tax dollars, paying for those books, and your residents are checking out half of the materials, oh man, as she pays a lot in taxes and it frustrates her; or she sees the new movies coming in. As a Hellertown taxpayer, it hurts her to say it as a Librarian, and she understands what libraries work for and she knows anybody should be allowed to come to a program whether or not they support the library in tax dollars or what, that's what a library is for. But, as a taxpayer and a board member, she's going to have to fight for it and put her foot down on some things. She's not trying to be a bully and if anyone knows her, she's not. She just have to address it as Hellertown taxpayer as well. Mr. Kern said what you are saying is it's not really a free library, it comes down to someone's paying for it.

- Peg Opthof, said she's a LST resident. When she came to PA in 1984, she went down to Hellertown to join the library and there was none. She was in a state of shock and said how can't a community not have a library. The answer was their Council felt very strongly at the time that library service was not an important function of government and that if she wanted to join a library, she would have to go to BAPL and she could as she was a resident of LST. This is what she did. For the next 20 years or so she had her library card, and meanwhile while she's been using the library and other residents of LST have been using the library, Hellertown residents, the ones who wanted a library, had to fiercely fight with their own Council to get a library. First it started as a volunteer group and the Council did not support it. It was only through Senator Jeanette Reibman who gave money so they could start a volunteer library. At that point, LST school children could not use the HAL because it was not a State accredited library. It was only for the residents of Hellertown. This went on for quite a long time, now Hellertown is an accredited library, and why is it accredited? Because it has accepted State money and became part of ACCESS PA. Because of that, LST residents finally can use the HAL. She thinks it is grossly unfair and inaccurate for people her to say that LST residents do not support the HAL. We certainly do through our taxes. Because of that, we have every right, every right, to use the HAL. Now, Hellertown residents also have the right to go to the BAPL and use their books, but there's no sign in the BAPL that has a note attached saying that Hellertown does not support Bethlehem. It's probably true that many residents go to HAL and use it, but we should use it as Hellertown is part of ACCESS PA. If it doesn't want to be part of ACCESS PA, don't use State money and be your own library the way you wanted to start out to be. You can't have it both ways. In ending, the HAL was designed to meet the needs to the people in Hellertown. It was not designed to help out LST or Fountain Hill or to help anybody else but Hellertown. Now that other residents are using it, and she doesn't blame them in a way, because it's true, they've accepted money and they are part of the system and now they don't want other people to enjoy that system. They just want Hellertown residents to enjoy it or have other people pay. You can laugh about that, but it's the truth. Am I wrong about that? Tell her what she's wrong about here? Council, what is she wrong about here? Mr. Maxfield said you lost him on the tax issue. None of their taxes go to the HAL. Ms. Optaf said none of our local taxes, but our State taxes go there. We pay State taxes that goes in a library pool and goes out to the different libraries. Because Hellertown said they want State money for our library, that's what Hellertown said, so the State said fine, you can have State money, but to get the State money, you have to give other town's access to your library. You have to join ACCESS PA. That's exactly what has happened. That's why LST residents can go into HAL. That's why Hellertown residents can go to BAPL. Mr. Maxfield said he's not quite sure how it works. Ms. Opthof said that's how it works. It gets her upset when she sees the younger people in the audience with children who are using HAL, and they have been made to feel that

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they are taking something for nothing when they're not. They are not. It's just the way the system works. You should continue to support BAPL. Mr. Maxfield said obviously this Council isn't up to snuff to answering these questions. Can we get somebody who can answer the questions? Ms. Rotherham said the State funds all ACCESS libraries in PA. It's funded on a very strange formula, which you all know as we talked about it at the Task Force meetings forever. The HAL currently gets \$18,000.00 from the State. We can ask Bethlehem what they get funded from the State. ACCESS PA is unfunded because we used to get funding from ACCESS PA for what they checked out to other residents and since that's gone, they get direct funding from the State depending on their population served. Mr. Maxfield said ACCESS PA is not funded? Ms. Rotherham said no, but it was. It's not been funded for four or five years. She does not quite understand how she made the connection. You do get State money. Mr. Kern said he thinks her point was that there's \$18,000.00 in State funding so there's a contribution from each of us towards that \$18,000.00 which probably doesn't amount to too much, maybe less than a penny each. Ms. Rotherham said yes, that's the State funding.

- Ms. Finkbeiner said they think the issue at hand here is because ACCESS PA is a wonderful thing. The issue at hand is the amount of material that is going out of the HAL through LST utilizing the ACCESS PA program. You don't see the Hellertown residents going to the BAPL and checking out 30,000 things using the ACCESS PA program. When the ACCESS PA program was funded, the HAL was one of the libraries who received a greater amount of funds because of what they checked out to their ACCESS PA patrons. She thinks that's the issue at hand is the amount of materials going out. It's a lot. You don't see the Borough residents going to the BAPL and checking out 30,000 thing utilizing the ACCESS PA program.
- Mr. Jay Lazar said he'd like to point out a couple of things in response, especially to Mr. Maxfield and to some of the other people, if the Township decides to switch in funding from the BAPL to the HAL, everything that's said about \$35 a person and everything that's said about the money would apply the opposite way. He's not saying it's irrelevant, but it doesn't answer any of the questions. The second thing he would say about comparing a Chevy and a Ford were that his remarks were specifically prompted by Mr. Cahalan because he believes if the record were read back, his very first comments were the feasibility study was very narrow. It did not compare the BAPL services with the HAL services. That maybe very close to a direct quote. Until that's done, until someone does that in an organized way, it seems to him again that you'd be operating in the blind to make a decision, we want to switch from one to the other. Third, nobody seems to discuss it, and he hopes in the coming months you do discuss it, that if the HAL is getting a raw deal, maybe there's a funding mechanism that keeps the BAPL happy and keeps the services for the people who use the BAPL, the way they are, but somehow takes care of HAL and solves the raw deal they feel they are getting and maybe they are getting.
- Donna Louder, LST, said she sat here listening and both libraries are a great asset to this community. She says a community as we all share the same school district. Years ago when they wanted to do the Open Space, they put that on the ballot. Why don't we put this library discussion on the ballot? She believes you have to answer to BAPL by November 15<sup>th</sup> and the election is November 5<sup>th</sup>. She was wondering if that was something that could be considered as well as keeping a lot of information on LST website so the residents can continue following it. Mrs. deLeon said that was a discussion items at one of our meetings. She thinks someone mentioned that in April and she's mentioned that too. Attorney Treadwell said in PA you're not allowed to put any question you feel like putting on the ballot. You can't say to the voters, would you like to have green signs instead of black signs. You have to be specifically statutorily authorized to put a question on the ballot. The only question he could find that your statutorily authorized to put on the ballot about the library is would the residents want a special tax levy to fund some form of library, which is completely different than would the residents like to leave BAPL and go to HAL or vice-versa. Mrs. deLeon said how did Hellertown do it years ago? Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't know what Hellertown did.
- Mike Karabin said he knows quite a few of those positions you are in. His question comes up, you see what you are creating. You have a group from Hellertown and LST to work free and to come to some kind of feasibility. All the data and information you are looking for is in this document. Now you are creating this atmosphere and this is just the public meeting about discussion. It

sound like it's become more of a hearing. His concern is you are starting to alienate groups. There are some residents from the Township that want to belong to HAL, but we don't truthfully don't know how the Hellertown populous feels in relation to us joining them. Could there be a group out there or a majority saying we like what we have and we are going to be supported with this many dollars and that's all we're going to have. If we come along, well we make their lives all that much better. He's not sure, but it depends how people feel. His suggestion is we did our work; we gave you the information, start having public hearings. If you need more information from Hellertown and LST, have hearings. Hear it from them. You haven't gotten a chance to sit with the Hellertown Board to see what their total feelings are. They could come along and destroy the whole program depending on what we propose to them. The HAL has to know what they need, and they are showing us, but until you talk to all entities, you're going nowhere unless you just decide, we're done, we're going to vote and we're going to HAL. That could make the simple life. If you are going to move on, call the groups together, have open hearings, have open meetings, but you have to discuss with Hellertown Borough. He's sitting here wondering why are we creating dissension in our community. We should be working together as the Task Force did. We had discussion, disagreements, and agreements. He had some proposal that never made it as the majority ruled and that's the way it should be. To him, he's witnessed many times the method of madness, but it's time that maybe you could be the catalyst on setting this whole Lehigh Valley in the direction of a County or County libraries. You have the people to work with now, everybody is here, everybody is listening. Whatever you guys say is going to be heard loud and clear. He wishes you luck and he's hoping you go join forces with the people who have the power to make the difference. Mr. Kern said you've been on boards like this, so you know what it's like. Democracy isn't always pretty. This is democracy. It's part of the process. That's why this study is part of the process. We had to find out whether or not it was even feasible. If it wasn't feasible, we're done. It's status quo. The study said it is feasible, now we're at the next step. This is the next step, this meeting. We get to hear the pros and cons and decide what the next step is from here. What the gentleman said before, it comes down to the funding and determining what the most equitable thing is for, not only HAL, but for BAPL. It needs to be studied what works and what's the best thing for LST and Hellertown as a group. That includes talking with Hellertown Council. This is just the next step in the process. Mr. Karabin said don't try to prolong it and move it along. His real question was what is the plan for this Council and where can we find out what your next steps will be. Mr. Kern said that's what we're here tonight to talk about. Mr. Karabin said you'll have another meeting to see where you want to go? Mr. Kern said the next step is to determine what would be equitable. That does involve library discussion with HAL and BAPL. Mr. Karabin said good luck.

- Mr. Joe Pampanin said let him comment on the attitude of Hellertown Borough. Basically, they felt for this initial discussion the first move is really Lower Saucon's. Certainly, they'd be more than willing to entertain in the discussions with you any of the various proposals in this report and some of the other ones that came up, some of the split funding that wasn't part of the report or obviously, that would be fine with them. They didn't want to come here to represent the Borough and push you in any particular direction and that's why he hasn't said much here tonight. Certainly, first move is yours. Whatever LST and the citizens decide how they want their library services, if that would initiate a discussion with the Borough, certainly we are open to that.
- Kelly French, LST resident, said she and her husband have lived her for 20 years. She is here to ask the Council to support funding for the HAL. They have been using the HAL more so since they've had children 11 years ago and when she learned in April 2012 from Robin that the HAL did not receive any funding from the per capita tax, she was amazed and flabbergasted and embarrassed as Robin waits on her, Allie waits on her. They waited on them hand and foot for the last 11 years. Her children are the ones who take out all the movie from the Hellertown kids, only kidding. If she doesn't have a book in stock, she's bought one for her to read. They love it there. It's their community library. When she talked to her 10 and 11 year old, and said did you know that \$183,000.00 of LST per capita taxes go to the BAPL. Did you know that none of that goes to the HAL? They said why? We go there all the time. We take out all their books. We take out all their movies. They help us so much. We love Mrs. Robin which he called Mrs. Pigeon as he forgot her name when he came home. It is just such a part of her community and a part of her

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family. Isn't there a compromise out of the \$183,000.00, couldn't 20% go to the HAL, which is about \$36,000.00 and she doesn't think the BAPL would crumble at the loss of \$36,000.00.

- Mr. Jay Lazar said he wants to clarify something. When he's talking about a way to compensate HAL, is the \$187,000.00 chiseled in stone that has to be divided. The Township could not pay more than \$187,000.00 by adding something to the budget for the HAL in addition to what we pay to the BAPL. That's what he's suggesting to find a way to do that. The second thing goes way back to what someone said earlier, he believes it was Sandra Miller. In the future, when you put the library discussion on the agenda, please make it somewhat specific as to what's going to be discussed. He thinks people came tonight thinking it was decision night and it sound like there's going to be meetings in the future that are going to be discussions of specific points and it would be nice to know what those points are in terms of public attendance. Mr. Maxfield said it could have been decision night. Any night could be decision night. These are public meetings. Mr. Lazar said if it was clear that tonight was only going to be a discussion, if you could be more specific, that would be more helpful. Please be more specific. Mr. Maxfield said he'll take the blame for this one. When it first came up in front of Council, what triggered it off was that bill that came in of \$180,000.00 or so. We're buying a small house every year. That's a lot of money. Does he want to add more on top of that? Heck no. He doesn't want to and he won't. Mr. Willard said Mr. Wolf asked if we polled the community and we have and in the Task Force Study there are results of a survey where 325 residents responded. This was done on-line. It's still available and the results on page 46 through 52 and the appendix on page 59 through 64 are verbatim comments which you've heard for two hours, but if you want to read more, they are in here. The second question is for the Solicitor, he understands how we divide the money cannot be a public referendum but we as a Council can decide whether we give it all to BAPL, split it or give it all to HAL? Attorney Treadwell said yes. Mr. Willard said we are powerful, that's why we make the big bucks. Mrs. deLeon said when you say all, it could be the \$183,000.00 plus additional monies in our budget. There are monies in the budget we could allocate to that. Mr. Willard said yes, add to that. He asked if libraries accept donations from the public? Ms. Rotherham said yes. Mr. Willard said if anyone wanted to solve this problem for HAL while we are deliberating and wanted to make a donation to the library based on your usage, you may do so.
- Ms. Robin Rotherham said to Mr. Willard that LST people do contribute greatly, monetarily and otherwise. There are at least probably eight people in the audience from LST that volunteer so they do contribute greatly and we appreciate it. Mr. Willard said in relation to Tom's \$35 comment, and seeing Mr. Wolf here, he helped him at the BAPL find a book. It would have cost him \$35 to buy that book, but the next time he comes to HAL as he'd like to make a donation as the got two brand new books there last summer that were not available that time at BAPL.
- Bill Scheirer said he commented on the survey at one of the Task Force meetings and it seems pertinent to comment again on it. It was well analyzed, graphically and other ways. It purveys the views of 325 people, and only 325 people. In any survey, and this is true of all these national surveys you read about. Let him put it in that context this time. A survey of 1,000 adults nationally plus or minus three percentage points, yes, if those 1,000 people who answered their phones had the same views as all the people who didn't answer their phones. It's called non-response bias. There are ways to check for it. They are seldom used. In this case, this survey was only people who went by the table where the forms were and only the forms who stopped and said they'll fill it out. It does not reflect the views of the people who saw the forms and kept walking; it does not reflect the people who weren't there in the first place – non-response bias. Mr. Willard said he mentioned the survey not to justify what's in here, but the question was asked was any attempt made to survey public opinion and it was. He agrees that the 325 number is a small number in relation to 11,000 residents in LST. Mr. Kern said the responses in that particular section were interesting, but not relevant to the statistical numbers that were generated that showed the usage and what was taken out, so it was more of a general interest for him, more than the statistics.
- Kathy Weil, President of the Board of Trustees of the BAPL. She's retired and found this discussion tonight painful in a lot of ways as we are really arguing about money. What Robin said about the HAL being a community library and how places for community to meet are more and more important to people and that's what libraries are becoming. She feels the same way and

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Bethlehem works really hard to do that to provide good programs that bring people in, a safe and comfortable place where you can meet your neighbors and discuss what's going on in your community and see what's going on in your community. In a lot of ways, it is about money. If you go the HAL, which she knows is a great library and does a terrific job and what you want is some children's books and some movies and the newest fiction. They spend more on materials than the HAL spends for its entire budget. They have a lot of different titles. When you want that \$50 book in microbiology or that new database or even an on-line version of something, an e-book, something much more expensive, is not on the best seller list, it's true that BAPL is more likely to have it than HAL. Does that mean that BAPL is better than HAL? No, it's bigger, it has a bigger collection, it has more programs, it has more computers. It provides a different kind of service. It's not a better service. It's a different service and we need both those services. We need the library where you can walk and a library where some people can walk, but the people who can't need to come and get something they can't find at the smaller library. She doesn't know what the answer is. She encourages you to come and speak to the BAPL Trustees as well. Their feeling at first when they talked about it was they weren't willing to accept that LST is a member for less than the full per capita. Would we be willing to discuss it again? She's sure they would and they encourage you and invite you to come. It isn't fair for HAL. Once the ACCESS PA money wasn't funding non-resident lending anymore, you feel like you are being taken advantage of. It's true. She doesn't know what the answer is. She encourages you to come and talk to them. Maybe they need to talk to HAL. Certainly regionalization is in our future. It's not in ten years, but it's not in six months either. That's probably a long term answer for all of us, and if we can do something that's going to work for both of us, that's great. It really is a matter of money and that's really the point. Mr. Maxfield asked if that was an official invitation to us? Ms. Wile said yes, absolutely. She feels confident that the Board would not mind. Mr. Kern said thank you very much, that was a very nice note to end on tonight. After the results of the discussion tonight, he was thinking of the possibilities of reincarnating the Library Task Force if they are willing to determine what an equitable distribution of funds might be. If they are willing. Mr. Maxfield said they are a great group and if they are willing. Mr. Kern said that seems to be a logical next step. Mr. Maxfield said he would like to thank everybody for their comments. He appreciates having a large group of people and everybody maintaining the quorum. It's one of the few meetings we've had with gobs of people where no yelling has ensued. Thank you very much. He felt we really talked about some good stuff.

Mr. Willard said if you really enjoying this, this evening, we have a very interesting program beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>. It's called our Citizens Academy. It's on six Thursday nights from March 7<sup>th</sup> through the first Thursday of April. You'll meet with all of the staff and learn about all of the functions of Township government and you'll learn how your tax dollars are spent. We're limited to 25 people. Unfortunately if you all want to sign up tonight, we can't take you in the first class, but he does encourage you to pursue the first Lower Saucon Township Citizen's Academy. You can find this sign-up information on the Township.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Kern said he moves to attempt to revitalize the Library Task Force for purpose of the feasibility of looking at ways to utilize both libraries in a more equitable fashion.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Willard  
Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any comments. No one raised their hand.
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. TOWNSHIP COMMENTS ON IESI MINOR PERMIT MODIFICATION**

Mr. Kern said the Township received a Minor Permit Modification application from the IESI Bethlehem Landfill on January 16, 2013 for Adjustments to Final Grading. Township Landfill Consultants are in the process of reviewing this application and will have technical comments that can be forwarded, with Township Council approval, to PA DEP.

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Mr. Jim Birdsall said there is mention before the Township and a deadline for comments to be provided. They provided comments to the Township Manager. It's his understanding that IESI does want to meet with the Township representatives to go over some of these issues. That meeting has not occurred yet. He can go over a brief overview of what they are asking. IESI is asking to change the configuration of the top of the final mountain. There have been various submissions over the year. The latest one was submitted for this phase was 2003 and to give you a point of reference, it gave you an elevation at the top of the crest of the mountain after filling 725' elevation of above sea level. More recently, there have been changes you have been made aware of that have been improving with regard to the change in configuration of the mountain top. Most recently approved was in 2011 where the MSE wall was introduced as a design which allowed the peak of the mountain to be pushed a little bit to the north to allow more drainage to the south. There has been another submission by way of that elevation, if you looked at the elevation above sea level, it would reduce the top of the mountain to 707' in elevation. Since that time, there have been submissions to DEP, but not to the Township to change the configuration again somewhat. Finally, a submission to the DEP, but not to the Township in land development what we're calling the 2013 final grade adjustment modification plans. That would return the elevation to an elevation of 712' as opposed to 707' on the latest approved Township plan. Why does he say submission to DEP vs. submission to the Township? To make a change of this nature, the IESI will have to receive approval from both. Most of the information on these plan revisions are technical in nature and involve a lot of investigation by DEP, so currently IESI has chosen to make these applications first to DEP for clearance, but they recognize they also have to come to the Township for clearance and final approval of any land development plan before they close out their operation; otherwise, we would have to hold them to a plan that was approved several years ago. The primary concerns that have been raised by the Technical Committee by the Township have been storm water management along the western edge of the landfill where it meets the unpermitted area which we used to call the Fox property to the west. The other issue of major concern is the plans now the western edge of the landfill property on the current design that's pending for this review, leaves a very steep cut along the edge of the easement that the Lower Saucon Authority has running from Applebutter Road up to the tank at the top of the hill. We're very concerned that the steep slope should not be left as a permanent final configuration of the mountain. Number 1 for just general safety and erosion, but also it doesn't meet Township ordinances with regard to side slopes. The comment letter is geared towards the submission to DEP. We are not reviewing it at this point under SALDO or land development and that's why it hasn't gone to the Planning Commission. If there are any questions, he'll answer them.

Mr. Horiszny said is it really 400% slope? Mr. Birdsall said yes. They are leaving a cut along one face that's almost vertical. For someone standing on top, they would think it's vertical. Mr. Horiszny said how can it be 400%? You said 3 to 1 is 33% and 4 to 1 is 400%, would it be 40%? A steep slope can't be more than straight up and down. He's thinking that's a typo, but it's in there a couple of times. Mr. Birdsall said they can express that more clearly.

Mr. Maxfield said the slope is not marked as temporary? Mr. Birdsall said it's not marked as temporary. They are calling this a final grading plan so they have to assume it's a final grading plan. They would have expected dotted lines to show what the final grading plan would be. They don't show up, so we have to raise it as an issue.

Mrs. deLeon said eventually they have to come back and do a site plan to revised the site plan that was approved? Mr. Birdsall said we believe they need to make a separate application to LST for approval of this configuration if they want to stick with this or even the last one they had for the lowering of Cell 4E as they have never really finished that submission, or ever started that submission with the Township. They are like one submission behind with what he would call "bring the Township up to date with the final configuration plan".

Mr. Willard asked why are they making this request to DEP at this time? Mr. Birdsall said we do not know that.

Mr. Maxfield said you said they are one behind that one and the one after the subsequent one, are those adjoining, so maybe the grading on the one has to smooth into the grading of the other one. Mr. Birdsall said if he understands your question, the area that they are changing relates to all the western part of the landfill. It relates to the cell that they just reviewed a couple of months ago, but it also now carries some of the fill over to what used to be a low area, just slightly west of the maintenance garage. They are actually filling in a little valley that they had previously shown. Overall, they are not changing the capacity. Mr. Maxfield said that valley was not considered to be part of the final grading plan before? Mr. Birdsall said there was a valley as part of every plan up to this point in time. This is the first time they've actually filled in what was prior on the plan that you do have approved and the interim plan that you do not have approved there was a little extra low point.

Mr. Kern said his interpretation is that this possibly was a temporary measure of grading that they are doing and it's kind of mislabeled as final. Mr. Birdsall said when he first opened the plan he thought this can't be right. Mr. Kern said that's possibly what the discussion is going to be with IESI. Mr. Birdsall said he hopes. Mr. Kern said this letter is very thorough and covers all bases. Mr. Birdsall said we only had x number of days and had to be in thorough as we could. Mr. Kern said because they were intending this was the final so we are covered. Mr. Birdsall said correct. The review does also raise some other issues that he hasn't mentioned. In the question of tying one slope into the other and how the fabric is going to be linked together – things that were very unclear in the plan that we brought that to the surface too so they could address everything at once. Mr. Kern said did we get official continuance from DEP to extend the deadline? Mr. Cahalan said yes. That was received today from William Tomayko in an email. It said a request to extend the comment period until April 1, 2013 is acceptable. Please keep us posted if any changes to the application are made. That was distributed to everyone, Council and the Landfill Committee. Mr. Kern said we have this letter, is it necessary to mail it yet or should it wait until after you meet with IESI and figure out? Mr. Birdsall said he would recommend we wait closer to the deadline. If they don't ever set up a meeting or please put it back on the agenda. If they do set up a meeting and want to withdraw their application, that would be great and maybe they can take care of some of this stuff.

Mr. Kern said no action is required at this point.

**C. RESOLUTION #34-2013 – JOINT SUBMISSION OF LOCAL SHARE MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NCGRERA**

Mr. Kern said Resolution #34-2013 has been prepared to support the submission of the Local Share Municipal Grant Application by Hellertown Borough for the purchase of a Lifepak defibrillator for Dewey Ambulance Company.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE JOINT SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL SHARE MUNICIPAL GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY GAMING REVENUE & ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Race Horse and Development and Gaming Act (Act 2004-71), as amended, local governments receive a “Local Share” of gross terminal slot revenues of certain licensed gaming facilities to support and enhance community and economic well-being and mitigate the impact of gaming and related activities; and

**WHEREAS**, Northampton County, as the host county to a licensed gaming facility receives gross terminal slot revenues which must be distributed as follows: 20% to the host city; 30% to the host county and 50% to the host county for the purpose of making municipal grants within the county, with priority given to municipalities contiguous to the host city; and

**WHEREAS**, Northampton County established the Northampton County Gaming Revenue & Economic Redevelopment Authority to administer these competitive municipal grants based upon impacts associated with licensed gaming facility operations; and

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**WHEREAS**, Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township are contiguous to the City of Bethlehem, which is the host city of a licensed gaming facility; and

**WHEREAS**, Hellertown Borough has prepared a Local Share Municipal Grant Application for Dewey Ambulance Company to be submitted to the Northampton County Gaming Revenue & Economic Redevelopment Authority for projects that fall under the eligible uses of these funds; and

**WHEREAS**, Hellertown Borough is requesting a resolution from Lower Saucon Township supporting this submission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the Council of Lower Saucon Township hereby supports the submission of the Local Share Municipal Grant Application by Hellertown Borough for:
  - Dewey Ambulance Company for the purchase of a Lifepak defibrillator
2. That grant funds, if awarded, will be utilized in accordance with the provisions established by the Northampton County Gaming Revenue & Economic Redevelopment Authority.

Ms. Gorman said she has the application here that was provided by Hellertown Borough. They will be the lead municipality for this. Historically, extra points are given to applications if they are supported by two of the contiguous municipalities. Dewey Ambulance provides ambulance service for both LST and Hellertown. Any funding we can get for them that would actually lower any cost for their services, she would think we would be in support of so we are asking Council to approve this resolution.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Horiszny moved for approval of Resolution #34-2013.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any comments. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2013 MINUTES**

Mr. Kern said the minutes of the February 6, 2013 Council meeting have been prepared and are ready for Council's review and approval.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval of February 6, 2013 minutes, with corrections.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any comments. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-1 (Mr. Horiszny – No)

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

**B. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2013 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mr. Kern said the January 2013 Financial Reports have been prepared and are ready for Council's review and approval.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Horiszny moved for approval of the January 2013 financial reports.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any comments. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Mr. Gordon Gress, Black River Road, said he wanted to thank Council for sending the Engineer, Road Chief and Zoning Officer down to look at their problem. He hopes it results in a resolution of the problem. Today he ran across an article in the Easton Express that he never realized. It said DEP gives out grants for storm water resolution. He's sure you people are well aware of it but in case you missed any of it, he cut the clipping out and you can look it over in case you missed it.
- Lynn Koehler said she would normally do this in a public setting, but since it happened in a public setting and was in the minutes, she felt she should come and speak. This was in response to your January reorganization meeting and some comments that were made and she wants to make sure there are some things that are clear. First of all, she spent fifteen years as your representative. She was appointed to represent LST to the BAPL. As a public citizen, she was also part of the Library Committee for fifteen years. She is still on the Library Committee. Her concern is there seems to be some misunderstanding about her role. As a public citizen, she came with experience from libraries. She worked for Philadelphia Library. She worked for the County Natural Sciences Library. She volunteered for her school library. She worked in the Temple University library. She came with experience and she had business experience from various publishing companies and for her own business. She felt she was very qualified as a citizen to represent LST on the board. There seemed to be concerns about her dual role. That's where she has some issues. The role of a Trustee of a library is to protect the interests of the library. That is a State requirement. Her dual role was because she was representing LST. She also had to do what was best for LST and what was directed to her. She always was directed by LST including when she asked the Board of Trustees at the November and December meetings to consider splitting the library cost funds which at one meeting was met with the comment "no" and then they asked to have it a straw poll and they voted no. She just wants to be clear of what the role is of someone who goes to board meetings. There's a thing called responsibility and duty of care. You have to take care of your responsibilities and that's what she did. For those of you who think that she didn't understand what was required or what was needed, it's not true. Thank you Priscilla for speaking up for her. She was told when she took the position that it was a citizen position and she's not sure why it was not opened to other citizens to apply for it and posted on the Township website. She understands there are other positions that are open and posted on Township website, but last time she looked a week ago, this position was not posted. Having a staff member as an interim representative, especially considering the change that is going on or potentially going on, but it really is a conflict of interest having someone who is a paid employee because as a a citizen the only thing you would ask her is to not come back another year. A paid employee has to follow what is exactly told, otherwise she might lose her job, might not get a raise, might not get a promotion, so she cannot do what is best for the library. She's sorry you didn't understand what she was doing, but she was doing the best she could. She wants to make sure you understand that it's clear what the role is of the Trustee of the library and that for fifteen years she went to all the meetings except two. One was when her daughter graduated from high school last year and the other when she had a parental mental block and had babies and forgot all about it. For fifteen years, she thinks she did her job and to read that in the minutes really made her feel really clueless. If you have any questions, she'll answer them and if you don't, she take a thank you for her service and step away. Mrs. deLeon said she appreciates your service. Mr. Kern said definitely. He appreciates what she has done.
- Mr. Gene Boyer, Saucon Avenue, said regarding the library information, the gentleman who got up and he forgot his name, with the Chevy and Ford, he would predict and make that example as keep it in the same company. He'd say we have a Cadillac and we know what it is and we're looking at a Chevy. We have a lot of services right now and we don't know what all the services are. Some of them may not include internet and so forth. When we look at Hellertown, not only the money, but the fact that the services of each of those are doing. If we give up one or hurt one or the other, the services are important to the people in the study or whatever comes out of the next meetings. The other question is for Mr. Cahalan. He was at an EAC meeting twice this year. The first one he made a recommendation if they could put their meetings notes as a draft up on the Internet instead of having to wait which was the usual procedure. Mr. Willard had the Council change their procedure and put up a draft after the meetings so they were available to the public. He went to the second meeting and they said Jack was going to bring it up at Council and he doesn't know if he brought it up to you folks

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that these other Committees and Sub-Committees and so forth could put up their minutes as a draft instead of waiting two months for the official meetings to be on the Internet. Mrs. deLeon said if Council does it. Mr. Maxfield said he could see very much why. Council is a decision-making body and all these other groups are recommending bodies. It's not like anything is going to happen if you're not a decision maker. He doesn't see the need to rush and put it on as a draft. Mr. Willard said he did have a chance to discuss this with the internal staff who is in charge of making the minutes and posting them, and his recommendation, which the Council did support was because as Mr. Maxfield indicated, this is a decision-making body and so many residents were involved in the landfill discussion at the time, the question was raised can we see the minutes which we are drafted a couple of days before the meeting as we receive our packets the Friday beforehand. It was not his intention to suggest that every committee should do this. This is unusual to be even doing it on behalf of Council before the minutes are officially approved. Yes, he did make the recommendation, but he thought of it in terms of the Council minutes and particularly the discussion topics and immediacy at the time. Mr. Boyer said he said that was the example. Going to the EAC meetings, he knows they have \$3 million to spend and he just thought that they would be the first to bring up some of those ideas where that may be spent to Council. Mr. Maxfield said the EAC doesn't spend any money. The Council spends the money. The EAC makes recommendations. Don't confuse the issues. We don't have the money. The Township has the money. Council makes any decision about spending money, not the EAC. Mrs. deLeon said she hears you Gene, and as a resident sitting in the audience, she can understand how you would want to see that, and she doesn't have a problem with it, but she doesn't have the support. She's sorry.

**VIII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

**A. TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

- Mr. Cahalan said he's recommending the appointment of Michael Boyle of 2019 Alice Drive to fill one of the vacant Associate non-voting slots on the EAC. Mr. Boyle has been to an EAC meeting and met the members. He has spoken to the Chair and they are pleased with him. His term would run until December 31, 2013. He would recommend Michael Boyle to the vacant Associate non-voting slot on the EAC.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the Manager's recommendation as stated above.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any questions? No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

- Mr. Cahalan said the Township has received a copy of a Title V Air Quality permit application from DEP dealing with the landfill. The Landfill Consultants are in the process of reviewing it. Jim Birdsall advised him after yesterday's meeting that they are going to need the assistance of Lou Militana who is the Township's Air Quality Engineer to help them complete their review of the Air Quality Permit Review Application. He indicated the Lou could provide up to 8 hours of assistance with the review. The last fee he had with him was back in 2006. He was at \$110. He tried to email Lou today and get a response. He would say it does not exceed \$150 an hour, so it should be no more than eight hours. He's asking for Council's approval to authorize that.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval as stated above by the Manager.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any questions? Mrs. deLeon said thank Lou for doing this on such a quick notice.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

- Mr. Cahalan said he put in your packet an information sheet on the Steel City Park construction. Council approved the plan for the Steel City Park construction a couple of years ago. We had two public meetings up there at the park to put that together with the Parks &

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Recreation Board. We are waiting for some approvals that the Engineer is working with PennDOT to obtain. That's taking some time to do that. It's pushed our window for construction of the park which our Public Works Department is doing the bulk of and saves a considerable amount of money. That pushes the window back to sometime in the summer which is a conflict with their road maintenance duties and it also would push it beyond the optimum planting time for the reseeding of the fields. He's made the decision that we will have to push the construction of the Steel City Park into 2014. Once that construction starts, we need a six-month period to open it up to do the construction and button everything back up and have it ready for the public to use. 2014 looks like that's the best time for that project. Public Works this year will be working on finalizing Kingston Park and getting the composting toilet installed and also installing the trailhead on Reading Drive which are two priorities. They have enough on their plate. He wants them to concentrate on those projects so this will be put off until 2014.

- Mr. Cahalan said the PD has hired a new part-time officer, Daniel Bencsics and he lives nearby on Moravia Street in the Township. He'll start working effective February 25, 2013.
- Mr. Cahalan said as you know we have completed the improvements and the painting of the Old Mill Bridge. We should like to hold a brief re-dedication ceremony at the bridge with Council and some dignitaries and nearby residents in attendance. We are thinking of doing that before the April 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, weather-permitting at about 5:00 pm. If you could let him, Leslie or Diane convenient, we'll go ahead with the planning for that event.

**B. COUNCIL**

**Mr. Horiszny**

- He thanked Jim and Dan for their fine work and wishes them a Happy National Engineers week.

**Mr. Kern** – No report

**Mrs. deLeon**

- She said a reminder that Hellertown-Lower Saucon's Chambers is sponsoring a breakfast on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be held at McDonalds from 7:30 am to 9:00 am. It's a free event, but you are to pre-register no later than February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- She said on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm to 9 pm, the Heller Homestead is having the Bethlehem Palette Club Plein Group exhibit, their artist reception. Snow date is March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- She said just to save the date in your calendar, April 27<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Saucon Valley History Day at three historic societies, the Heller Homestead, the Hellertown Historical Society and LST Historical Society. It's going to be a nice day. It will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm – rain or shine.

**Mr. Willard**

- He said the Gaming Authority meeting scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled, so, so far he's been doing a terrific job as your representative as there haven't been any meetings. He was informed the grant application that would be sent to him electronically and he thinks the decision-making meeting will be in May.
- He did meet with Leslie and Diane as a follow-up to the Citizens Communication award from PSATS and some of the comments that were made on our application. We met with the web developer and are pretty convinced that our website is one of the best ones around. The judging of this contest, of course, is subjective and the Township that won was designed by the same design as our website, with the same template, and does not have as much comprehensive information on it as we do on ours. There may be some minor tweaks to be done with the website with some new technology. We also looked at the design and editorial process for the newsletter and we expect to bring you a recommendation for some enhancements there at a future meeting.

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- He said this is his last commercial tonight for the Citizens Academy, but he thought when there was a full house, it would mention it.

**Mr. Maxfield**

- He said a couple of weeks ago we got a letter from Justin Simmons asking if there were any issues in the Township that he could give us a hand with. He was hoping there might be something at a State level that could benefit the Township that we could ask for his assistance whether it be infrastructure, roads, whatever. If someone offers like that, we should ask for help.

**Jr. Council Member** – No report

**C.** **SOLICITOR** – No report

**D.** **ENGINEER** – No report

**E.** **PLANNER** – No report

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for adjournment. The time was 9:50 pm.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield

Mr. Kern asked if anyone had any questions? No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Submitted by:

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Jack Cahalan  
Township Manager

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Glenn C. Kern  
President of Council