

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

I. OPENING

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

REVISED *

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

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

- A. McMahan Associates – WalkWorks Grant – Status Report of Draft Active Transportation Plan

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

- A. John's Place – 3725 Old Philadelphia Pike – Conditional Approval & Waiver Requests for Preliminary/Final Subdivision, Land Development & Site Plan
- B. Longridge Subdivision – Resolution #35-2021 – PA DEP Sewage Planning Module Approval *

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Variance Requests
 - 1. Michael & Laurie Luybli – 3515 Reservoir Road – Variance Request for Side Yard Setback for Garage Addition
 - 2. Glen & Kathryn Fenstermacher – 3167 Apples Church Road – Various Variances for a Proposed Minor Subdivision
- B. Saucon Valley Community Center – Summer Recreation Program Agreement
- C. Approval of Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber Movie Night at Town Hall Park
- D. Resolution #32-2021 – Approval of Lower Saucon Township Council Ratifying the Declaration of a Disaster Emergency Within Lower Saucon Township Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic
- E. Resolution #33-2021 – Northampton County Open Space Initiative Livable Landscapes Grant Application
- F. Resolution #34-2021 – Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Resources Park Rehabilitation & Development Grant Application
- G. Discussion on Feral Cat TNR Program
- H. Request for Purchase of Flail Mower and Backhoe Replacement for Public Works

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of March 3, 2021 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of February 2021 Financial Reports

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

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

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Parks & Recreation: April 12, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Environmental Advisory Council: April 13, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Saucon Valley Partnership: April 14, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ SVSD
Landfill Committee: April 15, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.
Township Council: April 21, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: April 22, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: April 26, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CB
Zoning Hearing Board: April 26, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
www.lowersaucontownship.org

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:32 p.m., via Zoom, with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding. Mrs. Yerger said the Township building remains closed to the public. This meeting is being held through Zoom. Information to join the meeting is provided on our website.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE) – Mrs. Yerger said Council did not meet in Executive Session this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Mrs. Yerger said we do welcome input from everybody but we ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per item. If you want to speak, please raise your hand.

Andrea Wittchen, 1885 Dartford Road, said she has a couple of questions about the UGI gas line that they are calling the Colesville project. They received a letter in March indicating they were going to start construction on March 22nd, which they did not. She's wondering what kind of control or input or information the Township has on this project. She has now called UGI four times at different phone numbers and have not received any return phone calls. They ask if you have buried invisible fences, like she does for her dog, that you apprise them of that. No one has gotten back to her. Her question is they are going to rip almost two miles of roads through established neighborhoods that have mature lawns and plantings. There has been no discussion of this in Township Council in the last year, as she hasn't missed a meeting. Her question is how can a utility company simply decide to do this and cause this much disruption in an established neighborhood without the residents even hearing about it until it seems to be a done deal. The first thing she knew was when the LSA people were out there doing a One Call to identify where all the water lines are and she thinks it's incredibly unwise to put in a gas line, this is not a clean energy source and it's going to be obsolete in at least 20 years anyway. Second, how did this happen that no one that lives here knows about this until it seems to be like over and done with? Whatever you can provide as information would be great as UGI has not responded.

Mrs. Huhn asked if Attorney Treadwell could speak to this as she thinks UGI is regulated by the PUC Commission and are they working in the Right-of-Way (ROW). She doesn't think there are any permissions they need from the Township. Attorney Treadwell said they are regulated by the PUC and he doesn't know anything about this project but they are PUC-regulated and all the approvals they need to get would come through the PUC. He doesn't know where this would be in the ROW, but they are generally as a rule, regulated by the PUC, not by the Township.

Mrs. Huhn asked Mr. Rasich if he took care of the PA One Call so if you could address that. She believes they indicated to us that, and it was sent out and put on our website, that the information should be forthcoming from UGI. It's upon them to notify the homeowners because we don't know where they are going to be working or when they are going to be doing it. Mr. Rasich said that is correct. They should notify the homeowners; however, we do know what the project entails which was part of the permit process. The actual permit is in Jim Young's possession, but we did review it and most of the work is off the paved surface but within the ROW. There are several bore pits at various locations along the roadway, but for the most part, the disruption is up to UGI to restore after they are done with their project.

General Business & Developer Meeting
April 7, 2021

Ms. Wittchen said is it correct then that we have to raise complaints with the PUC about this? Mr. Rasich said he has no idea. Attorney Treadwell said we don't regulate it and he doesn't know what kind of response you would get from the PUC. He asked if we got plans or what they are doing.

Ms. Wittchen said we know exactly what they are doing, they have seen the maps. They submitted them with the permit to the Township. It's two miles running through Dartford, Bucknell Circle, Bucknell Drive, Colesville Road, Manor Drive, this is a big project. Attorney Treadwell asked what are they doing. Ms. Wittchen said they are to lay gas lines. There are no gas lines now, they are putting them in. Attorney Treadwell said he would say you should contact the PUC. He knows that won't be easy. Mrs. Huhn said they are not installing them at the Township's request. Ms. Wittchen said the letter says they are installing them because they've been requested to. Mrs. Huhn said that's the homeowners. Ms. Wittchen said there's no indication of who exactly that is. She knows plenty of homeowners who have not requested it. She said thank you for the information. Mrs. Stauffer said is this something we could reach out to and get an update and share with residents as well. Mr. Rasich said we have the plans, he's sure we can share them on our website. Mrs. Stauffer said at least a start date as to when since the letter doesn't mention that. She doesn't know if the Township would be within its right to ask that. Ms. Wittchen said it mentioned the 22nd of March, we're now two weeks past that. Mrs. Huhn said we can certainly reach out to them and try to get an update. She believes the plans were posted on the website.

Ms. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, 1682 Woodfield Drive, said recently she saw Northampton County just published free training through a grant for Police Departments for implied bias. They are a number of articles published about the training and all our neighboring Township's seem to be participating, but the articles she has seen haven't mentioned Lower Saucon Township. She was curious whether the Township knew about the offer for the training and whether they looked into having our police force participate. Mrs. Huhn said she'll let Chief Barndt speak, but she believes all our officers have received this type of training. Chief Barndt said all our officers received the training annually and its part of their accreditation standard. The training was announced publicly yesterday and that was the first time he heard of it and he attends all the Northampton County Police Chief's meetings. They have one next week and he sent an email to the District Attorney today as to the dates and times so he can check their availability and schedule. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you, she just thought this was a great opportunity to take whatever training they have and it looked like a lot of Township's were participating. Chief Barndt said they will be attending, he can assure her of that.

Mrs. Stauffer said she was hoping for an update on the fire companies. Mrs. Huhn said she had no update at this time. Attorney Treadwell said the only update he has is they had a meeting with the fire companies and they indicated that they were pursuing the merger. He knows LSFR adopted a resolution that would have approved the merger process and they were waiting for Steel City to do the same. He has not received an update from Steel City as to whether they did that or not. Mrs. Stauffer said correct her if she's wrong, but the motion we had in place was if by April 2, 2021, they had failed to completely merge their operations, and become legally merged to the satisfaction of the Township, they would be receiving a reduce 50% of the funding at this time. They would only be eligible for \$75,000 and Steel City \$25,000 as of April 2, 2021. Mr. Carocci said that was in the budget last year so we'll see what happens by May 1, 2021 and June 1, 2021 are the next two deadlines and we'll see if there's a merger or not. If there isn't, money can be reallocated; if there is, the Council can decide at that time what to do with the funding. Mrs. Stauffer said they didn't merge by April 2, 2021, they are only eligible for \$75,000 instead of the \$150,000 that LSFR could have had from our budget and Steel City is only eligible for \$25,000 versus the \$50,000. Mr. Carocci said Council can decide to reallocate money when the time comes, let's give them until June 1, 2021 and see what happens and we can decide and vote as a Council, just as we voted last year in the budget. He sees nothing wrong with letting the process run its course. Mrs. Stauffer said June could be a good time too, though she's a little concerned about waiting until June. Mr. Carocci said last year they didn't get their money until August or September. LSFR has \$800,000 in the bank and Steel City had \$300,000. Any argument they need funds is really disingenuous and ridiculous. If they merge, they'll have plenty of funds and if they don't, then Council can decide to reallocate. They have plenty of money in the bank, plenty. Mrs. Stauffer said this is really not looking what they have in the bank right now, it's looking at the promise of what they would get and April 2nd kind of being here, she wanted to make a motion to

void the date conditions of the October 7th Council meeting that passed by a 3-2 vote to be a part of the 2021 budget.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Stauffer moved to void the dates of the conditions for the fire companies that had passed at the October 7, 2020 Council meeting that passed by a 3-2 vote that was part of the 2021 budget.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon
Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks on this particular issue it's imperative that they show support for our fire rescue and give them good faith and tell them they don't have money that they would have had. She's hopeful that Council will pass the motion.

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Mr. Banonis – No, he said he sees nothing that has changed to change the timeline, Mrs. Yerger and Mr. Carocci – No). Motion failed.

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

A. MCMAHON ASSOCIATES – WALKWORKS GRANT – STATUS REPORT OF DRAFT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mrs. Yerger said the Township was awarded a WalkWorks grant to engage a consultant to develop an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) for pedestrian/bicycle travel within the Township. Natasha Manbeck of McMahon Associates will be presenting a status report of the draft Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Ms. Manbeck said she's very happy to be here this evening to provide a status update on the Township's Active Transportation Plan. They have been working with Township staff and a Steering Committee since February and it's wonderful to provide an update about their work to-date as well as their steps going forward. She said what is an active transportation plan? Active transportation typically refers to human power forms of transportation such as biking and walking and the Township received a grant from the Pennsylvania WalkWorks program. To develop an active transportation plan and for the Township to develop better strategies to accommodate walking, biking and accessing transit for both transportation and recreation purposes. They picked up the project in February and they have a seven-month schedule and in accordance with the WalkWorks grant requirements the plan must be complete by the end of September. A Steering Committee was formed by the Council and is meeting monthly to guide the process and if any of the Committee members are on the call she thanks them immensely for their service. This is the first of three update presentations that they will be providing to Council and they are aligned with public input opportunities. In terms of the schedule and the scope, they are currently wrapping up the Existing Conditions Analysis and they are starting to develop recommendations for the Active Transportation Network and the Township future plans for sidewalks, trails and bicycle facilities. This is a question that comes up fairly often when they talk about this type of plan and she wants to emphasize it is a plan and they will identify capital improvements, policy updates and programs that will support walking and biking in the Township, but implementation of any improvement will likely occur over time and it will be dependent upon the support and the resources that are available and a variety of other factors. The plan will be like a blueprint and will outline strategies for implementation including potential grant and other funding sources for improvements, but nothing will be happening before September. This is a plan and guide for the Township to move forward. Based on our review of existing conditions and input from the Steering Committee, the draft vision for the Active Transportation Plan is to improve the walkability of LST in a way that supports healthy lifestyles, access to recreational opportunities and positive economic growth in the community. This vision is supported with four goals that really reflect the focused areas of the plan. First the Route 378 corridor and creating a consistent, cohesive, and inviting streetscape along the corridor. Second is the Saucon Rail Trail (SRT) which is clearly an asset and trying to expand expansions and connections to the Rail Trail. Third is connecting residential neighborhoods to the Rail Trail and commercial corridors so that residents can access these assets without using their car and establishing policies to support expansion of the active transportation network.

Ms. Manbeck said you'll see in the study area map that the goals translate into focused areas for the plan and they are highlighted in yellow. We are focusing on the 378 corridor which is the main street and key street corridor. We are also focusing on the SRT and connecting to the Route 412 corridor and the Polk Valley Area and the connections to the school campus and other regional resources. Finally looking for those potential connections for the residential neighborhoods that are nearby. She's excited to announce tonight they are launching an interactive map and it's an opportunity for community members to provide input for the Active Transportation Plan. A link will be added to the Township's website and will be share widely and we will be asking for comments for the next month. This is a very safe and convenient way for community members to provide input. She will give a quick demo of how the map works. When you go to the link, you'll get a little introduction and some direction that you can close out of that and if you are really interested in the SRT and connections at Meadows, you can provide a comment and it'll give you some additional directions to click anywhere on the map. You can click to add a point, then in the details box you can write your concern or issue or idea is. Then you just click report it and the comment will be recorded and show up on the map. With that, she will close the presentation by encouraging everyone to go and visit the online map and provide input over the next month. The input will be used to develop recommendations and strategies for enhancing active transportation in the Township. The team will be back to Council in June with another update and some draft recommendations.

Mr. Banonis said he wanted to thank her and Bill and everyone on the Steering Committee for all their hard work on this. It's been a pleasure working with them and they are working very hard on this to bring it to a reality. They've met several times and they made some great progress and the residents are going to be very happy with this and really appreciate and enjoy the improvements that are going to come out of this. These things don't happen overnight, but he's glad we're making a start and reducing it to a formal proposal with a lot of great ideas that come out of it. He encourages the residents who may be on the call tonight to participate and share their thoughts and views as this is going to be an important resource for the community, not only recreational, but economically and just providing better access.

Mrs. deLeon said she was also going to thank you for your input, but she wanted to ask Leslie if they were going to be sending out emails and be putting it on Facebook, making the residents aware that this is happening. Mrs. Huhn said we will send it through Constant Contact and Facebook and put it on our website. Mrs. deLeon said when people submit a comment, will other people be able to see it so they can expand upon it or say it's a good comment, and I'm going to say this. Will the comments be public? Ms. Manbeck said she will do a test on it. After the test, she said you can see the comments, but you can't specifically add a comment to that like other social media, but you can definitely add another point and see the comments. Sometimes just the visual, you can see where the points are and they identify the key areas in the Township. Mrs. Yerger said she really likes the idea of the map and it's going to be an asset to the community.

Ms. Wittchen said she's a Sustainability Consultant and has been for 13 years. She asked if you are going to provide any additional explanatory material to the average resident who goes here and perhaps in the back of their mind something they are not really sure what they want to see, so they have some idea of what kind of suggestions you are looking for. Those of us who are deep into the weeds of these kinds of projects often forget that the average resident just is not as up on what the options or possibilities and those sorts of things and she just went to your website and looked at this and really there's really no explanatory material at all right now, is that something that will be coming. If she went there with someone who doesn't have the background that she has and looked at that, she'd be kind of hard-pressed what you would want her to say, what kind of information would be useful. Ms. Manbeck said she understands her comment and agrees, but they often talk about this as to whether it's better to provide more information upfront or to leave things somewhat open so that people are free to kind of come up with ideas and share comments that may come to their minds. There's an opportunity on the flash page or the posting on the Township website where we can provide a little bit more information. They are open to whatever the input is and

whatever it is could be valuable to this plan and getting people to think about walking and biking in their community, that's really the question. What are your issues or ideas and they are happy to take either of those and they will be incorporated into the planning process. Ms. Wittchen said she can appreciate that you don't want to in any way attempt to direct the kinds of answers you are getting as that would not give you valid feedback but just from the opening screen she saw, she's not even sure that as an average citizen she would look at this and say they are really talking about do I want bike paths or just the words you just said. Are we talking about walking and biking and hiking and those sorts of things? Active transportation might be can I get in my car and go to a bus stop and if that's not the kind of thing you are looking for if you are talking about more walkability or bike ability, that sort of thing, there has to be a frame in which you build this in order to help people express what their concerns truly are. Ms. Manbeck said we try to strive to keep it really simple, so part of it there's not a whole lot of information to digest and try to keep the barriers input. Sometimes people get overwhelmed if they get to a website and there's a lot to read or comprehend. They will make some edits to that flash page that comes up to give a little bit further clarification and direction for folks and that's great input.

Mr. Banonis said this isn't the first time that McMahon Associates has done an ATP for a community, correct? Ms. Manbeck said no it is not. Mr. Banonis said have you used these similar types of mapping systems to gather input from residents or stakeholders? Ms. Manbeck said yes, they have. Mr. Banonis said have you found these tools to be effective in helping to gather and synthesize comments and information from the public? Ms. Manbeck said yes, they have and they were using these pre-COVID but they had to heighten their use and promotion of them because of some of the COVID restrictions and they wanted to provide a safe and convenient way. They were finding when they were holding typical public meetings, a lot of people weren't able to attend and provide the input, so a map such as this, where it's very easy to provide input and comments, not a lot of questions, not a barrier to participate, they found it to be effective and useful. Mr. Banonis said that's great.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she's curious if the traffic or the study would include the corridors on Bingen Road, Mountain Drive South and Hickory Hill Road. She can't see the map on her phone so she wasn't sure if those areas were included. Ms. Manbeck said she will say we're specifically looking at Route 378 and Route 412, but as part of the connection for the residential neighborhood, those corridors and particularly Bingen have come up from their Steering Committee so that is a corridor they are looking at as part of the connection for a residential neighborhood. That's a great point to add on the map. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she'll make sure she posts a comment as she does travel Bingen and she feels terrible because the cars just whiz by them and they have rights on the road also. She would never try it as she wouldn't want to risk her life, but people do and she sees them on Mountain Drive South, people like on an elliptical that's on the road and it crosses the Township line but it's also lots of bicycles and other devices and exercise equipment.

Mr. Banonis said isn't Mountain Drive in South Bethlehem? Mr. deLeon said parts of it are but that's what you want to do, continue and connect. Where's that on the map? She knows where it is, she wants to see it on the screen. Ms. Manbeck said the Township boundary is the black line so Mountain Drive South is outside of the Township as it transitions to Bingen Road and is within the Township.

Mrs. deLeon said people could go up South Mountain and go through Hickory Hill development and get back on track to get on the SRT, that's all a possibility. So you normally don't show boundaries outside the municipality? Ms. Manbeck said no, not that they don't show boundaries, but in this case they use the boundary so it's very clear that it's within our focus of LST, so that's what they use the boundary for and for the purpose of collecting comments. The broader question of looking at connections outside the Township borders, yes that is something they look at as part of the planning process. You can put a point outside of the Township and give us that information as she really wants to be able to go to this destination in Bethlehem that might be over the border.

Mrs. deLeon said it could be dashed lines to indicate it's not in the municipality or something. Ms. Manbeck said just to clarify, part of South Mountain Drive is within the Township.

Mr. Barry Kessler, 1890 Felicity Lane, Hellertown, said to the point that was brought up about helping people understand what they might wish to make, he's a rail trail user and has some commentary to offer on the interactive map, but since his understanding that it's a state-funded initiative through the granting process, he's wondering or assuming that other municipalities in the Township or State have done this sort of program, and if they have done this sort of program, he wonders if some of the comments, thoughts or suggestions that were brought out in those places could help our people understand in what direction we're thinking. Ms. Manbeck said a couple of thoughts, one is the WalkWorks is a state-wide grant program and they have funded active transportation plans across the State and there are municipalities with multi-municipal plans in some situations. If you go to their website, they have links to all of the completed plans that have been funded to-date. In that sense, they have a library of previous plans they can learn from as you are suggesting. In addition, LVPC in this area has completed a walking and biking plan for the whole region, so that is another resource that we are utilizing as part of the planning process particularly thinking about those broader region connections outside of the municipality.

Mrs. Yerger said thank you and this is going to be a real benefit to the community. Ms. Manbeck said they look forward to seeing everyone's comment and they will see you in June.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. JOHN'S PLACE – 3725 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE – CONDITIONAL APPROVAL & WAIVER REQUESTS FOR PRELIMINARY/FINAL SUBDIVISION, LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SITE PLAN

Mrs. Yerger said the applicant is proposing to modify an existing dwelling and construct two (2) proposed office buildings at 3725 Old Philadelphia Pike. The applicant is requesting conditional preliminary/final land development plan approval and waiver requests.

John Blair, applicant and Ben Kutz from Gilmore and Associates were present. Mr. Kutz said they presented this a couple of times already for the P/C and Council and have been working on this for several months. He can present a plan if you want him to or he can briefly describe it. John is basically proposing two new office buildings on the property of 3725 Old Philadelphia Pike and then there's a second landlocked parcel that's immediately south and east of that parcel. PennDOT wouldn't allow access to Route 378 due to the curvature of the road, so there's a shared driveway that comes from Old Philadelphia Pike. Since they would have last presented for the Conditional Use Hearing, they've gotten the NPDES permit, the joint permit has been issued from DEP. LVPC has issued their Act 167 Consistency letter and they've been continuing to address the Township engineer's comments. The intent was to seek the granting of the recommended waivers that were recommended by the P/C and to seek conditional approval of the Preliminary Final Subdivision and Land Development and Site Plan.

Mrs. Yerger said you have the letters from Gilmore and Hanover Engineering, any questions. Mrs. Huhn said our engineer, Brien Kocher is here this evening if you have questions. Mr. Kocher said everything is in his letter and the draft motion so they are ready to go.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved for approval of the Preliminary/Final Subdivision, Land Development and Site Plan, subject to the conditions set forth in Hanover Engineering's draft motion dated March 31, 2021.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis
Attorney Treadwell said can we do the waivers first. Mrs. deLeon said she was going by the draft motion. Attorney Treadwell said are the waivers in the draft motion? Mr. Kocher said yes, they could do it as one motion. Attorney Treadwell said then do it that way.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. LONGRIDGE SUBDIVISION – RESOLUTION #35-2021 – PA DEP SEWAGE PLANNING MODULE APPROVAL

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #35-2021 has been prepared for approval for the Longridge Subdivision – PA DEP Sewage Planning Module. Mark Thaler was present representing Longridge. Attorney Treadwell said it's a planning module that has to get submitted to DEP and the Resolution says we have approved and agreed with the sewer proposed for the project which is an on lot system. Mrs. deLeon said it has nothing to do with the water? Attorney Treadwell said no.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve Resolution #35-2021 for the Longridge Subdivision – PA DEP Sewage Planning Module Approval.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mr. Thaler said thank you for squeezing them in, it was last minute. They didn't have to submit a sewage module, then DEP changed their minds.

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

A. VARIANCE REQUESTS

1. MICHAEL & LAURIE LUYBLI – 3515 RESERVOIR ROAD – VARIANCE REQUEST FOR SIDE YARD SETBACK FOR GARAGE ADDITION

Mrs. Yerger said the applicant is proposing to construct a 26x48 foot detached garage which requires a 30' side yard setback and they are requesting a 10' setback.

Michael Luybli was present. He said he's requesting to install a garage structure and is requesting a variance for no less than 10' for the property line. He's in R40 zoning which requires a 30' side yard setback and the situation at this property, on the west side is a septic system which wraps around to the south side of the property. On the east, he's got an in ground swimming pool and on the north side of the property, he has the driveway that comes in and that's where he wants to put the garage structure and there's just not enough room to accommodate the 30' side setback, so he'd like to request permission to go in no less than 10'. He has three properties on the east side of his, and those owners have signed a statement that they don't have a problem and are okay with this variance request. Council took no action.

2. GLEN & KATHRYN FENSTERMACHER – 3167 APPLES CHURCH ROAD – VARIOUS VARIANCES FOR A PROPOSED MINOR SUBDIVISION

Mrs. Yerger said the applicant is proposing to create a subdivision with a total of three (3) dwelling units. The site capacity calculations result in a maximum of 2.44 dwelling units.

Mr. Ed Schlaner from Martin Schuler Company was present. He said they are the engineers who drew the plan. He owns an 8.9 acre tract of land over by Apples Church Road and Waldheim Road. He wants to subdivide it into three lots. One contains an existing house and outbuildings and then two buildable lots along Waldheim. Part of the process of applying for a subdivision is doing a capacity analysis of the property so that means you take out all the street ROW's, steep slopes, carbonate geology and all of that and deduct all of that out of the gross area. Then you see what's left and divide that by the buildable allowable lot area. Having gone through all of that, we come up with 2.44 lots which is less than the three lots shown on the plan. Mr. Fenstermacher would like to have three lots and his plan is to give the two buildable lots to his daughters so they can start building a house, and the third lot he would retain. In order to move forward, they need a variance because due to the site capacity analysis, they can only get 2.44 lots instead of three lots and the lots that they are creating are very buildable lots and are not on steep slopes, and are not disturbing any woodlands. The two lots have been tested and the soil testing is done and suitable for onsite systems. They would meet all the requirements of the Township for a building lot; however, due to the site capacity analysis, they are coming up

a little short. That's the nature of their variance request. They submitted the variance and he understands there's a meeting coming up on April 26th on this matter.

Mr. Banonis said the third lot you said that Mr. Fenstermacher would retain, that's the one that currently has the existing family dwelling. Mr. Schlaner said yes. Mr. Banonis said you said if this is allowed that the resulting three lots are very buildable and useable. Do you foresee the need for additional or extensive additional variances to make the project workable? Mr. Schlaner said no, not at all.

Roberta Blackwell from Saucon Valley Community Center said she doesn't see her name anywhere on the list and she's worried as she is next. Mrs. Yerger said you are next. Ms. Blackwell said she was going through all the people participating on the list, and she's not there. What if they can't find me? Mrs. Huhn said that's okay, we're almost done with this one. Ms. Blackwell said sorry to interrupt.

Kyle John, 1593 Hafler Road, said he has a couple of comments for the Council. He doesn't know if anyone from Zoning or Council has had the opportunity to drive by the property that they are looking to subdivide. There are currently multiple unlicensed abandoned vehicles on the property. There are piles of inoperable farm equipment, rubble piles, etc., and then across the road of Apples Church Road where Mr. & Mrs. Fenstermacher live, there's again abandoned vehicles, farm equipment and their home there which was built in 2001, does not have siding on it yet. He's just a little concerned with the addition of two more homes to this land that they are going to wind up with more of the existing and it's going on, on the two properties owned by the Fenstermacher's. In turn, bringing down the value of other homes in the neighborhood. Again, the Fenstermacher's are great neighbors, wonderful people, he's just a little concerned with adding more of the same to what we already have.

Mrs. Fenstermacher said both her and her husband are on the call. Mr. Fenstermacher said are we replying for Kyle John's issue or are we replying for the variance. Mrs. Yerger said she thought you may have want to reply to Mr. John's remarks. Mr. Fenstermacher said he never said nothing that he was very unhappy on anything we had here. We took over the farm, which was in the family for over 100 years. There are several buildings that they tore down to improve the area and they did just have new roofs and soffits put on the farmhouse. They did clean up a lot over the period of several years, but it was in very bad shape. All they are trying to do is...my son lives in the farmhouse now, he's the 4th generation, and we're trying to get my two daughters a lot and have them start a family. That's all they are trying to do. If he wants this place more cleaned up, that's fine, they can do that somewhat. It's going to take some time. He never knew there was an issue with anything here.

Ms. Erin Rudolph, 1857 Waldheim Road, said this is in close proximity to the land that is being discussed for the subdivision. Just to actually piggyback on what Mr. John kind of brought up, that's a really valid question, it's not what she came to the meeting to address, but having lived here for 8 years and seeing how that property on Apples Church, the siding is not finished, her children ask all the time why it's not done. She just wanted to weigh in that we as residents all have the same concern and want our neighborhood to stay at a standard that we all around really maintain really strongly and are very devoted to. Her question in addition to that concern is she was wondering where the driveway entry points for these proposed subdivisions would be. Would they be on Waldheim Road or would the access be on Apples Church? Mr. Schlaner said the driveways would be off of Waldheim for the two building lots that is shown on the plan. Ms. Rudolph said there would be two separate driveways coming out to Waldheim or would there be a shared driveway. Mr. Schlaner said no, there would be two separate driveways, one for each lot. Ms. Rudolph said she knows herself and her neighbors as well, the neighbors that live to

the exact right to these two homes, there are serious water issues, living on our street for eight years and whenever it rains, it substantially flows from the hilltop of the field at the top of the road of Waldheim down to the church, basically like a river. Is there extensive plans for waste water management so it makes sure it doesn't affect their neighbor who is already dealing with that on a very severe level and also the people across the street? As residents, she doesn't know if any of them are present tonight, but she knows we've talked about that, and it's a major concern for the people who live here.

Mr. Schlaner said what they plan to do is put in infiltration pits up on each lot, which would take care of the impervious cover which would be the house and driveway so that there would be no additional runoff from the roof, or the driveway or any impervious cover. They would also comply with the Township stormwater ordinance and this has been reviewed by the Township Engineer and they have a comment letter which they will address so this will not aggravate or make anything worse as they will be dealing with the stormwater that will be generated by the two houses on the two lots.

Mr. Banonis said he has a handful of questions that maybe Jim or Linc could address. He thinks he knows the answers to them but he wants to put them on the record so the public is aware. Would siding on any potential built homes be required as a requirement for the Certificate of Occupancy for any of those buildings? Mr. Young said at this time, it really would not be as long as the building itself is weather-tight. Mr. Banonis said any driveways that would be put in there, they would be required to meet the ordinances and specifically sight lines, correct? Mr. Young said that is correct also. Mr. Banonis said any construction would have to meet our requirements for stormwater management, correct? Mr. Young said correct.

Mrs. Stauffer said she wanted to thank the residents for speaking and she wanted to thank the Fenstermacher's for speaking. It sounds that there might be some concerns, she doesn't know in terms how you might want to best handle those amongst yourselves, but it sounds like typically when these things go to the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB), that might be a good time to talk about them then or potentially talk about them before without Council or the ZHB's navigation of them. It sounds like there's some communication that could happen there, but she's not sure if that's already happened and doesn't know if someone could speak to that. She doesn't know if everyone has had a chance to talk about it.

Mrs. Huhn said the neighbors received the agenda for tonight's meeting and they will also be notified for the ZHB. Mrs. Yerger said as long as they were notified for the ZHB, if they have concerns, they should be addressed there. Mr. Banonis said in addition to that, the property will be posted for the ZHB meeting. Mrs. Yerger said yes, hopefully they will have all the information they need.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to take no position on the variance request for Glen & Kathryn Fenstermacher at 3167 Apples Church Road for the site capacity calculations resulting in the three dwelling units.
- SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

B. SAUCON VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER – SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Mrs. Yerger said the agreement for the Saucon Valley Community Center's 2021 Summer Recreation Program has been prepared for Council's review and approval. The program is structured similarly to previous years and maintains the nominal \$10.00 fee for one child and \$5.00 fee for each additional child.

Ms. Roberta Blackwell, Executive Director at the Saucon Valley Community Center (SVCC), said she's excited to be with you tonight. Just to say that they would love to host the Parks program and she's sure all of you that have kids at home know that they are just dying to get outside in nature and breathe fresh air and run with their friends. We just want to be able to provide that for them this summer.

Mrs. Huhn said Roberta and the SVCC provided us with a proposal. They are not running the full program as we have done in the past. They will be operating a modified schedule. They'd like to only operate this year at Town Hall Park and Southeastern Park, unfortunately, limiting the number of children. In the past, we've had 70 here at Town Hall and now it will be 40, and at Southeastern it will be 30 versus 40. Ms. Blackwell said correct. She said Steel City only has six children enrolled the last year they had it and there were days there were no children there so that's one of the reasons she thought maybe we wouldn't focus energy on getting that up and running and would just focus on the other two parks that are more heavily attended.

Mrs. Huhn said if Council has any questions on what Roberta has developed and provided for this evening, we've drafted the agreement we've normally entered into as well, and if Council has any questions, they can answer them. They will offer the program following CDC guidelines and safety protocols.

Mr. Banonis said he's really happy that this is being able to be put together and hopefully occurs as is proposed. Thank you for doing that. He knows the residents are really looking forward to getting back to some normalcy and this is a step in the right direction, so thanks for all your hard work. Mrs. deLeon said she wants to reiterate what Jason just said, thank you. The one thing, she saw Southeastern was spelled separately, and that needs to be changed. Ms. Blackwell said it's probably correct in the agreement, and she apologizes for that. Mrs. Yerger said she loves the idea you are going to get the kids out on nature walks and scavenger hunts. They need it so badly and this is a real bonus for the kids. Ms. Blackwell said thank you.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she was curious with the recreation program for children, where would it be publicized so that people knew about it. She heard about it through word of mouth and she heard about it a couple of years from a friend of hers but she was curious we could let more people know about it. She doesn't know where it's currently going to be advertised. Mrs. Huhn said we'll have it on our Facebook and website and the Community Center will have it also. It hasn't been advertised yet as it wasn't approved. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thought it would be helpful if the Township or the SVCC put something or had Saucon Source put it out there so there's another way if people don't go on Facebook and know to follow these different organizations and know they have pages.

Mrs. Huhn said the Saucon Source always works with us on getting the information out there. Ms. Blackwell said we have multiple social medias. We have a website, we have Facebook and we have been getting more and more followers and we plan on putting it on wherever we place any of our social media events will know about it.

Mrs. Yerger said she has a strong feeling that especially because you have to reduce the numbers, that you will have no problems filling your slots. Ms. Blackwell said she already has a waiting list. As soon as the trees started to bud, people started calling as they are really concerned about their children and she is too.

Mrs. deLeon said she'd like to take this opportunity to remind the people on the call that they can sign up for notifications of different events we have on our website, and newsletters, constant reminders and emails and Facebook things. You might want to do that if you really aren't on Facebook. The Township can just send it to you.

**General Business & Developer Meeting
April 7, 2021**

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she was wondering how to get a Township newsletter as she never got one. You have to request that to get one? Mrs. deLeon said they go to people's addresses, but the Township only mails them out a couple times a year. Mrs. Huhn said one will be coming out shortly, Victoria, so let us know if you don't receive it. Our newsletters are always posted on our website, so there are back issues there as well.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve execution of the 2021 Summer Recreation Program agreement between Lower Saucon Township and the Saucon Valley Community Center in the amount of \$25,000.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon
Mrs. Stauffer said it's hard to get a word in on Zoom sometimes, but she wants to say the program looks wonderful and everyone has spring fever and she really hopes that everyone has a safe summer, fingers crossed as we embark on these outside and community events. Ms. Blackwell said thank you and she learned from doing the start-up at the Center how many supplies you need to have in place and how many helpers and they are very vigilant about it. Mrs. Stauffer said she believes that, absolutely. Ms. Blackwell said a shout out to Leslie who is her phone friend, we never ever met face-to-face. Mrs. Huhn said we have had good conversations. Ms. Blackwell said Mrs. Huhn is great.

ROLL CALL: 5-0
Mrs. Huhn said thank you and we'll get that agreement squared away with Roberta. Mrs. deLeon said thank you for your time on this.

C. APPROVAL OF HELLERTOWN-LOWER SAUCON CHAMBER MOVIE NIGHT AT TOWN HALL PARK

Mrs. Huhn said Jessica and Lauren are with us tonight. We'd like to offer a Movie Night here at Town Hall again on Friday, July 23, 2021 with Council's approval. It appeared that Friday, August 20th was going to be offered as a rain date, but that has since been taken by another event. We do have the park available that evening, so if Council approves that, we will get working on getting the word out and spreading the information. Mrs. deLeon said she thinks it's a great partnership with the Chamber to do this for our community and she'd like to support it.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved to approve July 23, 2021 as Movie Night at Town Hall Park.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer

Jessica O'Donnell said this is a great segway from Roberta being here about providing some type of normalcy and giving our community something to look forward to. Obviously, we've done these movie nights in years past and you have a beautiful park and we will have social distance, bring in a food truck, but we really want to give the community something to look forward to, so we're very excited to partner up with you and Mobile Technology Graphics to offer this to our community. We hope we can bring brighter days ahead for our community. The date is July 23, 2021. Mrs. Stauffer said do you have a movie selected? Ms. O'Donnell said we do not. Every year we typically pick four with the Hellertown Library and then we do a Facebook vote. Mrs. Stauffer said very nice.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Ms. O'Donnell said she knows Council received her email a couple of nights ago about the upcoming ribbon cutting, but she wanted to get it on the record, the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber and Steel Club presents our Honors and Hors D'oeuvres event which is Tuesday, May 25th at Morris J. Dimmick Park in the pavilion from 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm. We are honoring the past, present and future where we are giving out multiple awards which are the Non-Profit award which is the Saucon Valley Community Center, again a great segway with them before. Community Lifestyle award the team at Heintzelman Funeral Homes; Community Partner award Dewey Fire Company and EMS, Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue and Steel City Volunteer Fire Company; and a Good Samaritan Award to Wesley Morris from SV Massage Therapy; and the Small Business Leadership award to Black River Farms as many businesses pivoted throughout this pandemic and

we look at Black River Farms as they supplied hand sanitizer to those on the front line and have been really great throughout this entire time so we're so excited to honor them, bring the community together, to celebrate these individuals and everything we've accomplished in the last year together which is the key word "together we are stronger" so she's inviting all of Council to join us. If you are interested in participating, and getting your tickets, thank you and if you are interested in being there, please let Laruen or herself know as we'd love to have you there and are looking forward to this great, great event.

D. RESOLUTION #32-2021 – APPROVAL OF LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL RATIFYING THE DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY WITHIN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP DUE TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #32-2021 has been prepared for approval of Lower Saucon Township Council ratifying the Declaration of a Disaster Emergency within Lower Saucon Township due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Mrs. deLeon said we need a date to insert in the Resolution. Mrs. Yerger said yes, she understands, she thought that you were going to continue and offer. Mrs. deLeon said it's the same thing we were doing for the past year now. She wanted to extend it beyond tonight and the last time that didn't go, what's everyone else thinking. Mr. Banonis said how about another 60 days. Mrs. deLeon said the end of summer, I don't know. Mrs. Yerger said she likes the 60 days, we'll have a better handle on what's going on then. Mrs. deLeon said the end of April, the end of May, the end of June, what are you thinking. Mrs. Stauffer said it depends if you want to go before or after the 4th of July. Mrs. Huhn said we'll only have one meeting in July which is the 21st. Mr. Banonis said how about if we extend it to July 21, 2021. Mrs. deLeon said that's pretty much all of summer, but that's okay.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to approve Resolution #32-2021 for approval of Lower Saucon Township Council Ratifying the Declaration of a Disaster Emergency within Lower Saucon Township due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic until July 21, 2021.
- SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

E. RESOLUTION #33-2021 – NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE LIVABLE LANDSCAPES GRANT APPLICATION

Mrs. Yerger said Staff is requesting approval of Resolution #33-2021 to permit the application for grant funding for repairs needed to the pervious trail at Polk Valley Park.

Mrs. Huhn said this is a grant we'd like to submit for the pervious trail repairs out at Polk Valley Park. It was the concrete that was installed by our Public Works years ago when the park was developed and it does need some repairs. It's widely and heavily used so we would like to make these repairs. She doesn't have the exact figure in front of her and Roger is with us, but she thinks the project is overall \$200,000 for the work that needs to be done so we're going to try and apply for these grants and hopefully to subsidize the work being done. As part of the grant submission, with Northampton County Open Space, we often submit a Resolution in support of our Council and this one is a match and this money is budgeted in our Capital Plan, so the required match would be \$96,200.

Mrs. Gorman said the cost of this in comparison to when we first installed it is strictly attributable to we are going to be looking for outside contractors to do this so it is a prevailing wage job. The grant for NC is a 50% match and that is a grant that is through a tax, through NC and in the last two years, open as competitive grants as opposed to just appropriating money to each municipality.

Mr. Bryan Evans said he's not sure how many people have been on the Polk Valley Park trail but there are multiple sections that definitely need attention, so this is definitely a good use for

something that is important. Mrs. Yerger said she agrees. She walks her dog up there a lot to the Dog Park and the entire park and into town, there's sections that definitely do need work.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve Resolution #33-2021 and apply for the Northampton County's Livable Landscape Program for the Polk Valley Park trails.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer

Mrs. deLeon said are we just limiting it to that for now, or how are we going to do that. Mrs. Yerger said limiting it to what for now? Mrs. deLeon said weren't we talking about the SRT too. Mrs. Yerger said not that she's aware of. Mrs. Huhn said it's specific for this grant. Mrs. deLeon said oh never mind.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

F. RESOLUTION #34-2021 – PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES PARK REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION

Mrs. Huhn said staff is requesting approval of resolution #34-2021 to permit the application for grant funding for repairs needed to the pervious trail at Polk Valley Park. Cathy is trying to apply for grants wherever we can. Mrs. Yerger said good girl. Mrs. Yerger said this one is to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for park rehabilitation and development grant which is for \$76,267. Mrs. Gorman said correct and she spoke with the grant administrators in both programs and they are aware of her intent of applying for funding for both.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve Resolution #34-2021 for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant Application for remediating the trail at Polk Valley Park in the grant amount of \$76,267.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

Mrs. deLeon said did you say Resolution 2020? Mrs. Yerger said #34-2021. Mrs. deLeon said you said 2020, but that's okay. Mrs. Yerger said sorry. Mrs. deLeon said that's okay, she just wanted to make it right.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

G. DISCUSSION ON FERAL CAT TNR PROGRAM

Mrs. Yerger said in response to a resident from Steel City, we conducted an investigation of other municipalities and what programs they may offer. We have not received any other resident complaints other than the woman from Steel City, and after a police investigation it was determined a neighbor was feeding the cats, who was subsequently told not to. The Manager and Police Chief will review the current Township Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) policy and present policies from surrounding municipalities.

Mrs. Huhn said we have done a survey with municipalities and if they offer a TNR program and what they do, if they don't offer a program, different costs. We've included some contracts with some of the municipalities that do offer it, and how they are set up, specifically the Sanctuary at Haafsville offers a program, No Nonsense Neutering (NNN) offers a program so that's in your packet as well, if you'd like to consider expanding our program. What we have in the packet is a stray animal policy which Council adopted back in 2013 and it was amended a couple of times, what you have now was adopted in 2015. The program we currently have in place is we have traps here, we offer traps for residents to pick up and trap the cats, take them to NNN. We haven't set aside any financial obligation to this because we don't have any contracts with them, but we do offer the traps which people can borrow and have the cats neutered. There's some contracts in your packet if you'd like to discuss them as we did the survey. Hellertown Borough (HB) offers the program, as well as Lower Macungie, Emmaus, Upper Saucon and North Whitehall. Fountain Hill, Wilson Borough, Coopersburg, Williams Township and Upper Macungie do not. They are all slightly different with the amount they fund and how they are set up with the two neutering entities. She and the Chief did have a nice conversation with Laura Civitella who is on this evening and we explained we would bring this back to Council and see if there's something you would like to do.

We also explained that if Council would like to approve something and work something out, we can contact these groups and see if we could formulate a contract and share in the costs, but she and the Chief both agree that there's no one on staff to take care of this. The Police Officers cannot catch cats and take them somewhere and have them neutered and bring them back. We just don't have the staff to do that. We tried to put as much information together as we can so if you have any questions, we'll certainly try to answer them.

Mr. Banonis said he doesn't have a question but an observation as he's looking at the paperwork you provided that outlines the HB TNR program and how successful it was. If you look from 2014 to the present, there's a marked decline in the number of cats that were being trapped and neutered which suggests to him that these programs work. If you look at 2014, it was 145, then the following year it was 126, 111, 643, 39, and 9 and in 2020 it went up to 13, but in 2021 there have been none so far. That data suggests that this is a good way to go about addressing this issue.

Mrs. Yerger said she had a discussion earlier and said at one point, believe it or not with some Township residents, she was a volunteer with the TNR for NNN and it works, so she thinks it's something we need to look at seriously.

Mrs. Huhn said if you'd like to discuss a starting amount that you'd like to budget for this, she can contact both NNN or the Sanctuary of Haafsville and see if they are running the program right now. It may be different right now with the pandemic, but she can reach out to them and see what program they could work out with us. You will see in all of them that it is a shared cost with the contracts we provided. She doesn't know who HB is contracted with but she thinks they did cover the entire cost. Mr. Banonis said he sees the agreement that NNN is with Upper Saucon and it looks like the Township pays \$25/feral cat. Mrs. Stauffer said the resident pays \$10, so she guesses its \$35 total which is in par what HB was paying per cat. Mrs. Yerger said it's fairly comparable.

Mrs. Huhn said she can contact them and look into what their pricing is and maybe she would have to bring that back to Council. We'd also have to set something up to work with them to provide some information that when the resident brings the cat in that they are a Township resident and we need some way to verify that for them and she has to work that out. Mrs. Yerger said the other thing she wanted to point out is both of these organizations, the other thing that is very positive, is that they provide them with the vaccines, the rabies shots, as well as the neutering and that's very important in her opinion, as these cats are going to be outside.

Mr. Banonis said Leslie, do you think it's fair to expect that if you were to contact NNN that they would provide similar financial terms as to what they are providing to Upper Saucon. He says that it looks like this agreement is for 2021. Mrs. Huhn said she would hope so. She believes back when the stray animal policy was adopted, NNN was quite high at that time, and she doesn't know why if at that time Council didn't develop a program then. We're right next door to Upper Saucon so she's hoping they will do the same kind of deal with us. Mr. Banonis said it looks like Palmer Township charges \$40 a cat.

Mrs. Stauffer said she knows this is typically a trap and release program, but do any of the partners with these feral cats, evaluate the cat to see if it would actually be an adoptable cat as opposed to being released and then potentially be kept and adopted out to find a home if that's something they would just do or something we ask about. Mrs. Huhn said she would have to ask about that because she doesn't think they take cats in with their program as they would get inundated with cats then. Mrs. Stauffer said fair enough, she was just wondering if the cat was adoptable and what they would do.

Mrs. Yerger said if you look at the 2021 Assistance for Stray Cats, Lower Macungie Township one, go into the bottom. The Sanctuary of Haafsville, and she's not sure where they hold the cats or stray dogs for 72 hours, but if they aren't returned to their owners, at the end of 72 hours they will be made available for adoption. She doesn't know exactly how that works. Mrs. Stauffer said it could be a component. Mrs. Yerger said she also sees the fees are much higher as they are holding the cat or dog and she's sure that's the reason they are much higher. Maybe we can work something out. Leslie just needs direction, she doesn't need a motion for this yet. Mrs. Huhn said she can certainly reach out to these groups and speak with them. She doesn't know if it's something Council wants to set an amount for at this time or if you just want her to bring back the agreements and review them at that time. Mrs. Yerger said she's fine with talking to the organizations and bringing information back. Mrs. Huhn said she'll reach out and see what they can do for us. Mr. Banonis said the next Council meeting is April 21st so that's two weeks away and may be able to address this issue by then. Mrs. Huhn said she should be able to. Mrs. Yerger said hopefully so it won't drag out.

Mr. Barry Kessler said he's been in TNR programs and it seems like the Council has a lot of compassion to this issue but it does work. To Jason's comments, this kind of program is very effective. He was wondering if we know where some of the highest concentrations of feral cats are in the Township. Mrs. Huhn said she believes around Riverside Drive is a high concentration. Mr. Kessler said what about Main Street, around the restaurants in Hellertown. Oh, that would be the HB, Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Kessler said that's somewhat encouraging there. It also from his experience, seems too often hinges on doing everything possible to assist a novice in trapping a cat. It's often very daunting and he knows that information is sometimes provided but he's thinking it might be a group of volunteers and he would be willing to volunteer to talk to people, through how it's done and encourage them and possibly even assist them in getting the animal trapped. Mrs. deLeon said that's very nice. Mrs. Huhn said thank you for your offer. Mrs. Yerger said she thinks some people would be intimidated just with the whole trapping idea, so she thinks that's wonderful. You can mark that down, he has a strong feeling about this and he is so glad Council also has a feeling. Mrs. Huhn said Laura is on next and we will certainly get your information to her. Mr. Carocci said if anybody calls the Township, needing assistance in this matter, maybe we can refer them to Mr. Kessler. Mr. Kessler said sure.

Ms. Civitella, 2451 Schwab Avenue in Steel City, said she spoke with Chief Barndt and Leslie. Thank you so much for talking to her about the stray feral cat situation and for bringing it to Council, as she truly, truly appreciates it. She did want to just ask and see if Leslie wanted to keep an open line of communication between the two of them. She has been doing additional research and she does have two rescues who are willing to help send out people who will help with the trapping of cats. If you are doing research on the facilities to fix them and get the vaccinations, she just thinks that team work, working together, if she can get some manpower, she would be more than willing to help out in that arena. She also has a rescue that's within HB who is run by a stellar high school student. She works more with kittens in Steel City, the female strays are now becoming pregnant and they are going to be having litters and they are willing to take the kittens once they start appearing which is going to be this spring and they have two to three litters each year. They currently have eight strays that are in her yard and she does not feed them. It is an issue in Steel City and she truly appreciates the time looking into this.

Mrs. Yerger said hopefully we can help this and make it better. Mrs. Huhn said if the rescue can help you with the kittens, that's wonderful. Mrs. Yerger said the one good thing about kittens is they are more adoptable than the big ones. Ms. Civitella said that's true. A lot of residents here when we talk about the cats is that the return coming back here is an issue. She has been in touch with farms around here to see if there are cats that are on the friendly side but could become barn cats as a kind of adoption. There are residents around here that do have outdoor cats so they would want their cats scanned or chipped. There are a lot of other components that do go along with this and again, an open line of communication would be needed, but she thinks that this is fantastic just to have on the radar and the consideration is wonderful.

Mrs. deLeon said thank you Laura for all you are doing, she really appreciates it. Mrs. Stauffer said that's helpful to know that there are residents in the area with family cats that are outdoor cats that are trapped as part of our program, they would want their kitties home and back. Mrs. Huhn said anything you can share with your neighbors is appreciated. Ms. Civitella said knowing it's being considered is fantastic, she truly appreciates it. Mrs. Huhn said she'll bring this back to the next meeting.

H. REQUEST FOR PURCHASE OF FLAIL MOWER AND BACKHOE FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Mrs. Huhn said Roger is with us this evening and she can briefly explain what he explained to her. Our Township's existing flail mower head is in need of replacement at an approximate cost of \$7,000 after four (4) mowing seasons. Roger Rasich, Director of Public Works is requesting to replace the current mower blade assembly with a rotary head device at the cost of \$14,005.52. In the 2021 budget, Council approved a replacement backhoe in the amount of \$175,000.00. Roger is requesting to purchase a 2021 Case Model 590SN Loader Backhoe at the cost of \$134,779.00. We can put up some pictures. The flail mower is made up of many small blade mechanisms. There's also a crack in the drum.

Mr. Rasich said if you look at that picture, you have the drum that goes around on the flail mower and then there is a series of 24 blade assemblies and each assembly is comprised of two blades. Each one of those assemblies you are looking at is about \$60 to replace. The drum itself is currently beyond repair. It needs to be replaced and to replace the drum is about \$7,000. The cost to maintain this thing has been astronomical as every time it goes out, if you look at the picture, it's missing one blade. That thing spins at around 17,000 RPM's, even with one blade missing, it's unbalanced. You have to stop, take it apart, replace it and put it back together again. One of those assemblies is about \$60. You go down the road and can mow for an hour or 5 minutes and you hit a rock you can't see and you break another one and there you are stopping again. They had in the past had a rotary mower as their previous machine and that is made up of two blades instead of 24. The blades are much heavier and much more durable. There is an upfront cost, double the amount of \$7,000 to \$14,000 but he does believe in the long run it's going to be much more cost effective and definitely less labor intensive to keep the machine on the road longer and more efficiently.

Mrs. Huhn said Roger, you also mentioned that for safety reasons as well. When they get off balance, then the operator of the mower is also struggling because it does throw the whole mechanism off balance. Mr. Rasich said not so much as it's a safety issue as more so, you can't run the machine. You get a vibration in the machine and you can't continue running it. You have to stop and replace the missing or damaged blade. Mrs. Huhn said and that can't be done in the field? Mr. Rasich said it is done in the field, but again, every time you do that, you have to stop the whole process, unassemble, reassemble and the cost to do that is \$60 for the two blades, the bolt, the nut and the spacer. Mrs. Huhn said would they be doing that along the roadside. Mr. Rasich said yes as opposed to the rotary mower where they would sharpen it each shift and you wouldn't have to touch it again until the next day.

Mrs. deLeon said how old is this machine? Mr. Rasich said this is its fifth year. Mrs. deLeon said the screws in the other photo, how long a time period did that happen. Mr. Rasich said are you talking about the first blade on the top on the left. Mrs. deLeon said she's talking about a completely different picture that was in their packet. Mr. Rasich said even in that picture, you can see where we have circled some of the cracks in the drum. We have been welding on this probably after the second year when we had to maintain it for the cracks. This is a machine that does require a significant amount of maintenance and we do anticipate replacing sections of it on almost a yearly or semi-yearly basis where one major type component in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range has to be replaced. The tractor itself which is the \$100,000 portion of it, that will last for 20-30 years, but the mower itself takes a lot of abuse because of what it is. That we have to replace parts as we go along. Mrs. deLeon said wasn't it under warranty. Mr. Rasich said not on the mower. This just wasn't from normal maintenance or anything like that, it's just from mowing or hitting a rock or a

stump that's hidden in the weeds alongside the roadway. We're not mowing yards, so it's not like you can see right to the ground. They are mowing all kinds of stuff. You never know what you are going to run across when you are out there. Mrs. deLeon said are you going to show us all of the other pictures. Mrs. Yerger said they are in our packet. Mrs. deLeon said she guesses the resident can see them online.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve the purchase of a Flail Mower at the cost of \$14,005.52.
SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger
ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mr. Banonis said he's glad the 2021 Case Loader Backhoe is \$40,000 less than what was budgeted. Mrs. Yerger said that's great.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve the purchase of a 2021 Case Model 590SN Loader Backhoe at the cost of \$134,779.00 and the current one would be sold through the Municbid program.
SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger
ROLL CALL: 5-0

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MARCH 3, 2021 COUNCIL MINUTES

Mrs. Yerger said the March 3, 2021 minutes are ready for Council's review and approval. Mr. Carocci said there's a misrepresentation he'd like addressed, on page 11, line 11 to line 14, "Was Ms. Hecker on the board when the Library Director was hired, Noelle Kramer. Mrs. deLeon said she wasn't on the board for her appointment." This is incorrect and he wants that noted in the minutes. Mrs. Hecker was on the board in March 2020 as the Hellertown Library minutes state and that's when Ms. Kramer was hired. Mrs. deLeon said she apologizes she read that wrong, sorry. Mr. Carocci said the line before Mrs. Stauffer said Robin was the Director until very recently. She was appointed a year prior to Mrs. Stauffer making the statement. Mrs. Stauffer said that's pretty recent considering Robin has been the Director for a decade plus and the fact that Noelle took over being the Director and then being hit with the pandemic pretty much right away, that's pretty much to fill. Mr. Carocci said when did Ms. McGovern resign as a Board Member of the HAL? Mrs. Stauffer said she doesn't remember, not at the top of her head, do you? Mr. Carocci said yes. Mrs. Huhn said she doesn't know for sure, 2019. Attorney Treadwell said it was the end of 2019. Mr. Carocci said that's when Ms. Hecker was put on. He doesn't recall appointing a replacement for Ms. McGovern at that time, he thought we just replaced her this year. Attorney Treadwell said he thinks and he knows this information Kristen, as he and Leslie have been going over the way that the library board is set up and how the rotational schedule works because one member of the board alternates all the time and it's extremely confusing so it took them awhile to figure out who was up and he happened to have it all written down. Ms. McGovern resigned at the end of 2019. Her term was set to expire at the end of 2020, so the vacancy created when Ms. McGovern resigned was filled by Ms. Hecker. On February 5, 2020, she was appointed to fill out the remainder of that term which would have been December 31, 2020. Mrs. deLeon said she wasn't aware of that, so sorry. Mr. Carocci said did Council vote on that? Mrs. Huhn said she believes so. Attorney Treadwell said Council voted to appoint Ms. Hecker on February 5, 2020. Mrs. deLeon said she doesn't remember that, sorry. Mrs. Stauffer said on February 5th was before she was sworn in for the first time. Attorney Treadwell said it could have been, he doesn't have that date as it wasn't part of their analysis. Mrs. Stauffer said she's curious as to where you are going with the history of the appointments. Mr. Carocci said there's nothing wrong with correcting a misrepresentation. He didn't say it was an intentional misrepresentation. He said it was a misrepresentation and there's nothing wrong with...Mrs. Stuffer said she didn't say there was. Mr. Carocci said correcting the minutes and having accurate Township books and records, there's nothing wrong with that at all. He didn't say it was intentional and he's not accusing anybody of anything. Mrs. Stauffer said well no one said it was intentional. Mr. Carocci said he said it wasn't intentional. Mrs. Stauffer she thought he had a question and right, she was just asking what your question was here other than the timeline. Mr. Carocci said Mrs. Stauffer, he stated it at the very

beginning, it's to correct a misrepresentation. He's sorry you weren't listening or paying attention. Mrs. Stauffer said hey, whoa, Tom, she thinks it's inappropriate to use slanderous terms like that. If you were like that's not exactly what is being said by her, your attributing adjectives are not correct right now. She's basically asking you if you had a question here, so thank you for restating it, she just wanted to clarify the record. There's no subtleties here whatsoever than asking what your intent was. For you to describe her in that way adjectives, is inappropriate and also not accurate for this record. Mr. Banonis said if we addressed the misrepresentation in the minutes...Mrs. deLeon said what line is this on, page 11 of 15. Mr. Carocci said 11 of 15, line 11 to 14 and ends on 15. Mrs. deLeon said she wasn't on the board for her appointment. Mrs. deLeon said sorry, she's looking at the bottom of the page and it says 11 of 15 and you are telling her which page is it on then. Mr. Carocci said it's on page 11, it's on line 14 and 15. Mr. Banonis said line 13 to 15. Mr. Carocci said 14 and 15. Mrs. deLeon said she apologizes for that. Mr. Carocci said thank you, Priscilla.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the March 3, 2021 Council minutes, with corrections.
SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mrs. deLeon said whoa, before we do the roll call, what's it going to say then. Attorney Treadwell said can he make a suggestion because the minutes are the minutes, what was said, was what was said. Maybe you drop a footnote in there and say actually whatever the facts we agree on are the facts. Mrs. deLeon said then after her statement it will be in parenthesis this isn't accurate. Attorney Treadwell said we won't have to say it's inaccurate, we can just say that whatever the actual issue is, but Ms. Hecker was on the board when the new Director was appointed. Mrs. Yerger said sounds good.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis amended his previous motion and moved for approval of the March 3, 2021 Council minutes, with corrections as stated above by Attorney Treadwell.
SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci amended his second
ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Yerger said February 2021 financial reports are ready for Council's review and approval.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the February 2021 financial reports.
SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis
ROLL CALL: 5-0

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

A. MANAGER

- Mrs. Huhn said we will be starting our Adopt-a-Road program on April 17th and will continue through June 7th. All of our 28 roads have been adopted. The groups that are going out were asked to follow CDC guidelines which are in place at that time. The supplies and road signs for the programs this year again are sponsored by the Bethlehem Landfill. You will be seeing people out and doing roadside cleanups which is very much appreciated.
- Mrs. Huhn said we had a current vacancy on the P/C which we advertised through our website and Constant Contact and we received several letters of interest and she'd like to recommend for approval Doug Woosnam. He served on Land Preservation Committees and has worked closely with Planning Commissions in that capacity. He has been a resident of the Township from 2010 to 2016 and then briefly moved away and has since moved back in the area in 2019. He's a consultant in the heating, oil, and propane industry.

General Business & Developer Meeting

April 7, 2021

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved for approval to appoint Mr. Woosnam to the Planning Commission.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

Mrs. Yerger said sounds like he has excellent qualifications. Mrs. deLeon said we don't know who the other ones were. Mrs. Huhn said they were sent out to Council. Mrs. deLeon said she must have missed that email. She doesn't like the new email system that we have, the one that got changed. Mrs. Huhn said the email system didn't change, we got a robust spam filter as too many spam things were coming in. She can ask Brenda to send them out again if someone didn't get them. Mr. Banonis said he received them. Mrs. Huhn said she contacted the others and told them she'd like to keep their letters on file and if we have anything else, we'd like to certainly use them as volunteers wherever we can.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

➤ Mrs. Huhn said she would like to request Council's approval to authorize advertisement for our seasonal part-time help for Public Works this year. Last year obviously due to COVID we did not hire any additional help but they are gearing up for the summer season and she knows Roger can certainly use the help. The year prior we advertised for two seasonal helpers, so if we could have the authorization to advertise for that, and then she will work with Cathy on bringing back a resolution for the pay scale. Cathy, our resolution was done in 2019, so since that has not been replaced, it is still in effect. The seasonal pay at that time was \$13.63/hour. Mrs. Gorman said correct. Mrs. Huhn said if Council would like to amend that, then we would have to amend the resolution. Mr. Banonis said do you anticipate having difficulty getting applicants based upon that pay scale. Mrs. Huhn said in the past we've had some difficulty in getting college students or just someone who might be in between jobs. Mr. Rasich said it is beneficial for us, for our summer help to be 18 years of age just because of restrictions on the roadway, we can't put somebody younger than that unless we close the road. Most of our operations we work with an open road that we just restrict the lane to try to inconvenience people as little as possible. At 18 years old, typically we've been having a little bit of issue to get applicants at that wage. Mr. Banonis said what do you think an appropriate wage is? A dollar more? Mr. Rasich said he would say a dollar more should be a good incentive. Mr. Carocci said what if we went a dollar more and are having trouble hiring people in April or May we can always revisit, but you can advertise it at a dollar more for now. Mrs. Huhn said that would work. Mr. Carocci said he'd like for Roger to have people for the summer so if we have to raise it to get people, then we can. We can start with a dollar more and see what happens. If Roger comes back in May and says we are unable to hire people, then we'd have to go higher. Mrs. deLeon said what is the minimum pay scale as PW employees. Mrs. Huhn said she doesn't have the contract in front of her. She would have to say the laborer rate is \$18. Mrs. Gorman said it's a little over \$18. Mrs. deLeon said okay she just wanted to know what the range was. Mrs. Stauffer said it would be \$19 then is what we are advertising it at? Mrs. Huhn said no, that's a full time employee. Mrs. deLeon said these people aren't part of the contract. Mr. Rasich said he wouldn't recommend going that high. In their experience, hiring the summer helpers have been rather strange. One year we get a whole slew of applicants and the next year we'll have one. We won't know until we put the advertisement out there and see what kind of response we get. We will post it as soon as we can. Mrs. Stauffer said can we post it at the current rate and then see if you receive any applicants. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't know how soon you would like someone in place. Mr. Rasich said he'd love to get a resolution this evening so have someone in place by mid-May. If we get them in June, the college kids go back to school. Mr. Carocci said he'd be in favor of increasing a dollar now.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to adopt the resolution that was approved in 2019 with the amendment that the hourly rate will be increased to \$14.63/hour.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. COUNCIL & JR. COUNCIL REPORTS

Jr. Council – Tyler Dickens

- He said June 1st Saucon Valley High School is having a Sr. Prom so if you have any kids that are seniors at the school, they should come out to the Prom. It's at the Steel Club this year. Mrs. Yerger said that's great. Mrs. deLeon said enjoy and be safe.

Mr. Carocci

- He said if there are any residents interested, there's an EAC meeting on April 13th and a Landfill Committee meeting April 15th which are public meetings where we talk in depth about the environment and the landfill, so he'd encourage anyone that's interested to Zoom into those meetings.

Mr. Banonis

- He said the Pension Committee met on March 10th and he's happy to report we are doing better than most municipalities. We are fully funded. We've had above market returns and we went to a monthly payment system as opposed to a fully funded system and the monthly system seems to be working very well in that we are catching the market at the right time. Non-uniform pensions, the total receipts for 2020 were \$460,000, the assets are about \$3 million and for the Police pension receipts were \$1.4 million and the total assets are \$8.8 million. He wanted to thank the Pension Committee for their hard work in managing that money effectively and making sure the pensions are adequately funded.
- He said he wants to go back to the library issue. He looked at the library minutes from February 23, 2021 and it reflects that Janie Hecker who was not a board member for the library made a motion with regard to the Treasurer, the President and the Vice President with the endowment. He has a question as the Township pays around \$100,000 a year to fund the library. He appreciates the library and he thinks the library is a great resource for us, but he has to ask the question, how does somebody who is not appointed, a citizen, get to vote and make a motion at an organization that is funded with a six-figure amount from the Township. His follow up question to that is why doesn't this organization follow basic parliamentary rules for conducting their meetings wherein elected board members are the ones that make the motions and decide what to do in the operation of the organization and then his third question to that is, where was our Council liaison when all of this was happening February 23, 2021. He would expect anyone who is a liaison to an organization that the Township is providing \$100,000 to would pay attention to these things and identify that these kinds of activities just should not happen with taxpayer funds. He doesn't think he's going to get an answer to these questions tonight, but hopes at some point he does and he hopes the taxpayers are owed an explanation. Maybe somebody at the next meeting can respond to those questions if they are not capable of doing so now. Mr. Carocci said he shares his concern. The minutes showed Mrs. Stauffer was at the meeting. Ms. Hecker had not been appointed by Lower Saucon Township, yet she was on the board making motions. That just makes us show what low regard the library board has for LST and the \$100,000 we provide. There's no regard whatsoever. Mrs. Stauffer said she would say those are assumptions in terms of what you are saying in regard. She thinks the library board has regard for LST especially since they did install Sarah at our last meeting respecting the Township's wishes with their Council member vote or Board member vote. In terms of your question, we had not had our Reorganization meeting because there were questions as to the applicants, and so the library board honored Janie at that meeting as being still a member. Mr. Banonis said you would agree with me that the board members for the library are appointed by LST and HB, correct? Mrs. Stauffer said by agree, you mean that's what the agreement says? Yes, the Township and LST Council have the final say. The library board has in the past made recommendations, which you, Mr. Carocci and Sandy decided to vote against last time. Mr. Banonis said you would agree with me that there's an agreement in place and that agreement is binding upon the library because the library is a party to it and has agreed to conduct itself in accordance with that agreement, and in fact, by gratuitously or however they decided to keep Janie Hecker as a board member, even though her term had expired and even though she was not approved or appointed by Township Council, that they run afoul of that agreement? They've chosen to

simply ignore it. Mrs. Stauffer said they haven't ignored it, they've honored Sarah. Mr. Banonis said let me finish. That just reinforces his concern here and you just validated what Tom had said and that is there is a disregard for the taxpayer and the money that's being provided to them. Mrs. Stauffer said there's absolutely no disregard. Mr. Banonis said let me finish please. Mrs. Stauffer said no, because you are stating inaccuracies, but you are stating inaccuracies, there's no disregard. Mr. Banonis said he's going to make a motion.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to mute Kristen until he's done speaking.

Mrs. Stauffer said you can't do that. Sunshine law.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mrs. deLeon said you can't do that. That's an invalid motion. Mr. Banonis said well he'd like her to conduct herself in a way to allow him to finish speaking without interrupting. Mrs. Stauffer said well you are speaking like fallacies. Mrs. Yerger said okay, one at a time. Yo, one at a time, please, both of you. Mr. Banonis said it's not both of us and he takes an issue with that. He's trying to speak here and he's being interrupted. He doesn't think it's unfair for him to ask for a little bit of courtesy when he's questioning why an organization that we are giving \$100,000 to, acts in a way that runs afoul of the agreement they have with us and they allow non-board members to make a vote and to do things in advancement of the organization when they have no standard to do so. That's what his point is. Mr. Carocci said this was our appointment to make. It was our board member that should have been appointed and it wasn't because we never approved it. Mrs. Yerger said they are correct. They are absolutely correct. Mr. Banonis said it goes back to his fact that what is the Council liaison doing to oversee and make sure this is being administered and run properly, apparently nothing. Mrs. Stauffer said that's not true. Mr. Carocci said she's at the meeting. Mrs. Stauffer said yes, she is at the meeting and that's not true. She speaks with Leslie about what is going on with library events. This is something that would have come up because the minutes are sent to Leslie. Mr. Carocci said Leslie, did you approve Janie Hecker to remain on the board? Mrs. Stauffer said no, she wouldn't have done that. Mrs. Huhn said no. Mr. Carocci said he doesn't understand what she's saying about the meetings, the minutes. He doesn't understand about the minutes. Can somebody just explain it to him, either Leslie or Kristen. Mrs. Huhn said she doesn't want to speak for Kristen, but she thinks she's saying she notifies Leslie after the meeting of things that have occurred at the library. Mrs. Stauffer said pretty much, if something happens at that meeting in terms of the role of liaison, she thinks it's clear that we're not supposed to direct or give directions as you so eloquently attacked Priscilla for earlier with the Landfill Committee as to what to do, but we are to serve, to listen, and then bring our opinions. Mr. Carocci said so Leslie, were you notified after that March meeting? Mr. Banonis said Leslie, did Kristen ever say to you at any time between December 31st and February 23, 2021 that the library board decided to keep Janie Hecker on as a board member regardless of whether it was presented to Township Council? Mrs. Huhn said no, she wasn't aware of it. Mr. Banonis said thank you. Mrs. deLeon said she's sorry, she had to step away, could you say that again. Mr. Banonis said yes, his question to Leslie was at any time from December 31, 2020 until February 23, 2021, did Kristen ever come to Leslie in going over what took place at library meetings, to say to her that the board decided that they were going to keep Janie Hecker on as a board member regardless of it not having a vote by LST Council; and Leslie said she doesn't remember having that conversation, is that right Leslie? Mrs. Huhn said correct. Mr. Banonis said thank you. Mrs. deLeon said she feels like we are in court here. Mr. Banonis said no, you're not in court, he's just trying to get to the bottom of why we are giving \$100,000 to an organization that doesn't follow basic parliamentary rules and runs afoul of the agreement that we have with them and just willy nilly starts appointing people or deciding to allow citizens to vote at their meeting. He can look at our list of attendees now and say why don't you come and vote at the LST Council meeting. That doesn't seem to be appropriate, and we're the stewards of the taxpayer money. Mrs. Yerger said just let me add something. She works for a non-

profit which the library is, and they have very strict rules with their board, and there's no way a non-board member would be able to vote. Somebody that was not approved as a board member would not be able to vote on anything or make a motion or do anything, they wouldn't be at the meeting to be perfectly honest. So, she hears you. Mr. Banonis said he appreciates that, he appreciates the perspective. He has nothing else to say at this point, but he's hoping at the next meeting someone can come forward and answer these questions for us. Mr. Carocci said he has a question, how does this happen? Kristen, how does it happen? Mrs. Yerger said well, maybe we need to find out. We have another meeting this month and hopeful by our next meeting, we will find out. Mr. Carocci said we have a contract to negotiate with the library this year and we are going to have to have people negotiate that who are going to be aware of what's going on and are going to defend, not defend, but at least make sure that for LST \$100,000 we get at least a seat at the table and a vote at the table. Mrs. Stauffer said she will say that Sarah Phillips was lovely to meet at our last meeting. She thinks she is going to serve the board well, and she thinks the concerns over the \$100,000 that we spend at the library, well, she would like to see this Council put their eyes on things that we spend even more money on as much as we do at the library and what the library has done for this community during the pandemic on \$100,000 which is a shoestring budget. Mr. Carocci said excellent deflection, you should have run for office. Mr. Banonis said so he'll move on, he's got a couple other things here.

- He said this is a public service message, Mark Hartney from the Department of Economic Development, Director for Northampton County, sent an email and he identified some additional funding sources that are available due to COVID. One is the COVID Hospitality and Industry Recovery Program. It offers \$10,000 grants to hospitality-based businesses that have been affected by COVID so he wanted to draw that to the public's attention. There's also a CMED which provides emergency housing for people that have been affected by COVID. Leslie, you may have those flyers and maybe you can get them up on the Township website just so that they are a resource for people.
- He said with regard to the Landfill, there were some meeting reports that the lawsuit against the landfill was dismissed or withdrawn by the plaintiffs in this case as there was an individual who is a class representative who was complaining about smells and brought a lawsuit in the District Court in Easton, PA and he recalls at one meeting, Priscilla had brought this up in conjunction with some discussion about the landfill and according to the news report, there was deposition testimony that was given and it revealed that the plaintiff in that case had a history of making complaints about odors and she ultimately identified this source of the odors at the waste water treatment plant for the City of Bethlehem. She apparently drove past the waste water treatment plant often, it was ½ mile from her home and she had blamed the landfill for it and had then identified the sewage treatment plant as the source of that, and apparently the lawyers never considered the possibility of odors coming from other sources including the sewage treatment plant that was further away from her home. He just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention that to the extent of that lawsuit was identified by anyone as being a concern, it is now in fact been resolved and looks like it's been dismissed in its entirety.

Mrs. deLeon

- She said we received a letter from a resident regarding Easton Road with the trash and garbage with the plants along Easton Road and she knows Leslie wrote a letter to both the City and the Zoning Department. That's great and if you recall, a year ago, when the proposed development for Easton Road was on, the residents were complaining back then so she'd like to keep this on our radar. If they don't respond by next meeting, she'd like you to bring it to our attention again because this is just unacceptable that the residents have to deal with the trash like that.
- She said regarding the landfill, several citizens have complained to her about strong landfill odors, not only in Steel City, but along Applebutter Road going from the landfill entrance way past the Red Barn going up the hill; and they also complained about litter. Many plastic bags in trees along the border and off-site, and apparently, the landfill sent

- She'd just like to go on record saying this is very unacceptable for us to wait another three months to even start cleaning the garbage in the trees and off-site, like this is an ongoing problem that landfills have, so she thinks the landfill should have somebody on standby 24/7 or however often it takes, so she wanted to go on record of saying, of complaining about that complaint.
- She said today, we received an April 2nd inspection report from HEA and they indicated there was a light coating of dust to the west of the entrance and the truck wash was in use, so she doesn't understand where the dust was coming from, if they were using the truck wash, she doesn't know; and they aren't taking care of that. Then there was, according to the report, slight garbage odor past the entrance and a slight intermittent garbage odor at Applebutter and Ringhoffer. She just wanted to report on that. It also mentioned about a wind defender, and she apologizes, but Tom do you know what a wind defender is. Mr. Carocci said no, but he does want to make one comment that none of these people voiced their complaints at the Landfill Committee meeting in March and if they have complaints they are more than welcome to voice them at the meeting on April 15th. We'd love to hear from them, as it's kind of the time and place for this discussion and they are more than welcome, so go ahead Priscilla, you have your time, you have your time, he knows she likes to hear herself talk, continue. Mrs. deLeon said excuse me, that was very rude, Tom, and uncalled for, but pretty much to par for you. Do you know what a wind defender is, it was in the report, she's not familiar with that term. Leslie, do we copy DEP with our HEA reports as a lot of this stuff they probably should know about. Do we do that on a routine basis? Mrs. Huhn said she has to check with Diane to see who is on her group list under the Landfill Committee, but she would hope it does go to them. Mrs. deLeon said she thinks Roger Bellas should be seeing them. Mrs. Huhn said she'll respond to Roger Bellas tomorrow, he was included on these emails and send him Jake's report. Mrs. deLeon said can you pass along some of her complaints that weren't on it, please.
 - She said back in December a vehicle was coming down on Shimersville Road past Applebutter Road making the left onto Freemansburg Bridge, and failed to negotiate curb and ended up where the car was teetering on the sidewalk barrier and the accident before that had taken out the safety fence that was there to prevent you from falling down, she doesn't know how many feet, down to the railroad tracks. That still has not been fixed, can you look into that Leslie. She knows it's right at the corner of where Lower Saucon and the City meets. Mrs. Huhn said with the City? Mrs. deLeon said no, PennDOT, she would think they have jurisdiction over replacing the fence because it's on their bridge.
 - She said Jessica when she was on the agenda item, talked a little bit about upcoming Chamber events. On April 15th, two ribbon cutting ceremonies at one spot, they are at Dewey Social Hall Club and Chef Meals are doing the delicious food there. The event will take place between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with a 5:45 p.m. ribbon cutting ceremony. Upcoming Jessica mentioned about the Honors and Hors d'oeuvres so she won't go into detail on that, and that's something you need to attend. Next Wednesday, the Saucon Valley Partnership meeting on April 14th has been cancelled due to some issues with the multi-comp plan.

Mrs. Stauffer

- She said the Historical Society is having a Spring on-line sale. They are collecting inventory right now to sell on-line and this is to replace the shutters on the Schoolhouse which is a necessary upcoming project. They will also be having a highway adopt-a-road program on April 24th. They are also going to have an upcoming photo contest and information will be forth-coming and that will be with a deadline in September. The Conservancy is also potentially planning a gardening day. There's no hard dates on this but they are also potentially planning a membership newsletter and there's no hard date on that either. It's also National Library month and there are several events going on at HAL from the things they put together with that shoestring budget. They have adult craft night on Monday, April 26th at 6 p.m., so sign up in advance. They are also looking to put together a fiber arts club, weekly or bi-weekly, so if you are interested in that, please reach

out to the library. We will also be having a joint event with the Chamber on Wednesday, June 16th which is a Council meeting night and that's from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Black River Wineries. Since it's a Council night and it's at 5:30 p.m. and our meeting is at 6:30 p.m., maybe we would all do well to have a drink before we come to our meeting, just socialize a little bit here. Basically Monday's at 3:30 p.m. they have a therapy dog named Toby so if you are interested in meeting him, he loves visitors. Mr. Banonis said what's the website for the Historical Society's fundraiser. Mrs. Stauffer said you can just go to the Historical Society's website itself and there should be information there.

Mrs. Yerger

- She said she thinks we may want to reconsider considering the whole plastic bag issue. It is not just a landfill issue, it is every time they come and collect the garbage along Easton Road, there are plastic bags everywhere including her yard, so we may want to consider somehow addressing this issue with the Governor. She understands the Governor may need to have some letters from the Township as it is a substantial problem no matter where you live, whether it's by a landfill or not. Something to consider over the time until the next meeting.

C. **SOLICITOR** – No report

D. **ENGINEER** – No report

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for adjournment. The time was 9:00 pm.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Submitted by:

Leslie Huhn
Township Manager

Sandra B. Yerger
Council President