

**I. OPENING**

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

**II. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

- A. District Attorney John Morganelli – Community Safety Assistance

**III. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**IV. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Zoning Hearing Board Variances
  - 1. John & Brenda Rosado – 2561 Kings Mill Road – Variance Requests for Floodplain, Woodlands, Steep Slopes, and Impervious Coverage to Construct a House
  - 2. Alex Patullo – 2695 Greens Drive – Variance Requests for Woodlands and Impervious Coverage to Construct a House
- B. Discussion of Proposed Ordinance Amendments
  - 1. Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
  - 2. Ordinance No. 2018-02 – Sign Ordinance – Authorize Advertisement
- C. Heller Homestead – 1890-1892 Friedensville Road – Historical Marker Selection and Placement
- D. Town Hall Complex Painting – Approval to Grant Final Acceptance & Enter Into Maintenance Period
- E. Resolution #80-2018 – Authorizing Disposition of Township Records in Accordance with PHMC Guidelines

**V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Approval of September 5, 2018 and September 19, 2018 Council Minutes

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

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

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Environmental Advisory Council: October 9, 2018  
Saucon Valley Partnership: October 10 @ SVSD  
Zoning Hearing Board: October 15, 2018  
Township Council: October 17, 2018  
Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: October 22, 2018 @ HB  
Planning Commission: October 25, 2018  
Parks & Recreation: November 5, 2018

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at Lower Saucon Township, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Sandra Yerger, President; Priscilla deLeon, Vice President; Donna Louder and Ryan Stauffer, Council Members; Leslie Huhn, Township Manager; James Young, Zoning Officer; Cathy Gorman, Director of Finance; Tom Barndt, Chief of Police; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Judy Stern Goldstein, Township Planner; and Kevin Chimics, Township Engineer. Jr. Council Member: Matthew Wagner. Absent: Glenn Kern, Council Member

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mrs. Yerger said Council did meet in Executive Session this evening. Attorney Treadwell said we discussed a personnel and a litigation issue regarding the acquisition of property. We had a request from a property owner to reimburse that property owner for engineering and legal fees regarding a storm water easement that we ended up not acquiring, and Council will need to take action on that request.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to not reimburse the request for the cost for the storm water easement engineering and legal fees.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

**PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Yerger said if you are on the agenda, you have Council and Staff's undivided attention. If you do choose to speak, we ask that you use one of the microphones and state your name for the record. She asks that you give your fellow public the courtesy of the floor.

**II. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

**A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN MORGANELLI – COMMUNITY SAFETY ASSISTANCE**  
(7:02 p.m.)

District Attorney Morganelli was present. He said he has reached out to municipal governments throughout the County of which he has a high regard for. He gets to speak with the Police often and works closely with Chief Barndt, and Police Officers who are in and out of his office all the time. This summer they had a strong year in their drug forfeiture fund, as the law allows them to seize the profits of drug dealing in the County and the facilities that facilitate the drug trade. They are allowed to use those funds not only for drug enforcement but also drug prevention and education. Since they had a good year he is reaching out to the legislative bodies of the County and encouraging the formation of Town Watch Groups and are prepared to assist them financially with start-up costs. Although they do get requests from Chiefs for drug forfeiture funds and for police needs, he's also interested in hearing from Council members. People who are not in law enforcement have a different perspective on needs that the DA's office can assist directly. He will send each Council member follow-up information directly and provide his email to allow more communication. He is very interested in coming into jurisdictions to do presentations whether they are in conjunction with elected officials, or other organizations that would like to them speak on just about any topic.

Mrs. deLeon said she would like to involve the Saucon Valley Partnership; DA Morganelli said if they would like to go forward with that she should get in touch with him. Mrs. deLeon said Hellertown would like to partner and do this as well. The other issues with bullying and harassment would be a separate thing. DA Morganelli said we can also do a Town Hall. Bryan Evans said it would be fantastic if some of that forfeiture money would be able to support a School Resource Officer at Saucon Valley. A lot of things that DA Morganelli mentioned are all things that need to be dealt with in school, and our PD does a great job, but more of a presence of law enforcement in the school would be great. His only other request is that EMS and the fire

departments respond to these scenes as well and they don't have all the protective equipment that law enforcement is provided. If there's a joint opportunity, maybe all emergency services can look at this. DA Morganelli said those are kinds of program they can look at. He'd need a letter from the school district or PD outlining what they have in mind. He would strongly consider it as those things are important. Forty-four percent (44%) of their cases are drunk driving cases and another 24% are drug cases, so almost 70% of their cases are related to alcohol and drugs, and other crimes like domestic violence and property crimes are often driven by alcohol and drugs.

Attorney Treadwell said a School Resource Officer comes from the school district and school board. It's not something this Council could force onto a school district and it would have to be in cooperation with the school district and Hellertown. DA Morganelli said school districts employ them so they don't work like the municipal PD. The law provides that a school district can have their own PD force. Those discussions can be had between the municipal police and the school district. The DA's office is here to help but can't impose anything on anyone.

**III. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**IV. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. ZONING HEARING BOARD VARIANCES**

**1. JOHN & BRENDA ROSADO – 2561 KINGS MILL ROAD – VARIANCE REQUEST FOR FLOODPLAIN, WOODLANDS, STEEP SLOPES AND IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE TO CONSTRUCT A HOUSE (7:16 p.m.)**

Attorney Emil Kantra, Brenda Rosado and the builder, Hersh Ruhmel were present. This development was approved 20 years ago; since that time there were extensive amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which posed the restrictions that are at issue in their application. This is a 4.5+ acre lot and the home proposed is consistent with what is in the development already. Ninety-percent of the lots are built out and many are unique as they are on the north side of Kings Mill Road and the Saucon Creek goes east to west across them. The builder has done everything possible to minimize the impacts. There are some variances that are requested across the frontage for steep slopes which were the result of the original grading, and not natural slopes.

The home would be situated in the lower left-hand corner of the lot and placed in a fashion to avoid steep slopes. There is no alternative to avoid the environmentally sensitive woodlands, which runs along the rear of the property, and there's a deed restriction in the original development that there shall be no access to the lot from Easton Road at the rear.

Attorney Treadwell asked if the grading plan addresses the storm water issues and if it meets the storm water ordinance? Attorney Kantra said it's not a stormwater management plan specifically but does comply with the ordinance. They are not seeking any retroactive waivers. The total lot area is in excess of 170,000 s.f. and the building footprint is slightly less than 7,000 s.f. Mrs. Yerger said it's about 3% of the lot. Mrs. deLeon said we try to keep numbers down, she probably voted for this subdivision 20 years ago, and there are different regulations in place now that are stricter, but they did that for a reason. As a property owner they have to appear before the ZHB who can impose extra conditions on their application that aren't in the regulations. Attorney Treadwell said if the ZHB grants a variance of special exception, they can impose reasonable conditions.

Mrs. deLeon said previously there was another applicant who came before Council and she attended the ZHB meeting and learned a lot about that subdivision. He was in the same situation and there were other homeowners at the meeting complaining because of storm water runoff; she did not know that previously and was not happy about that as a Council member sitting there as a resident. One of the applicants said, Council has the choice to either oppose, support or take no action, and Council took no action. Her opinion is that

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Council took no action as we want the ZHB to do their job and review it, her impression was that we didn't really object to that, but this wasn't the case. We didn't object to it or favor it as we wanted the ZHB to look at it and put conditions on it, and we knew they could impose them. She wants to know if there is anything we need to look at because had she known about those residents and their concerns; she wouldn't have taken "no action" but would have looked at it a little harder.

Attorney Kantra said the variances do not directly relate to stormwater and are "environmental limitations." They are not seeking relief from the required amount of infiltration. Mrs. deLeon said she's not just talking about stormwater; she's talking about impacts to that neighborhood. Attorney Kantra said this house isn't going to look any different than any other house on that cul-de-sac and there will be no other impact. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said this lot has existed a long time. They are entitled to reasonable use of the land and need variances to take back to the ZHB, which will then determine what reasonable use is. The stormwater management is a separate ordinance and they have to comply with that no matter what, which the Township Engineer has confirmed they will comply with.

Attorney Treadwell said another important point is the request for ZHB relief is a result of the site capacity section of the Zoning Ordinance (ZO) that LST adopted ten years ago. These lots existed prior to those site capacity calculations that were adopted, and as Mrs. Stern Goldstein said, the property owner has a right to the reasonable use of their property, and were it not for those site capacity calculations, the previous ZO would have allowed development of 20% of this property, whereas the applicant is proposing 3%. Although site capacity calculations apply to all applications that come into the Township, they are primarily for someone has 100 acres and wants a new subdivision. Percentages that look pretty high, when looked at in this context considering the size of the property and what they are doing, are not actually that high.

Mrs. deLeon asked if there is another way we can take no action; can we write to the ZHB? Attorney Treadwell said we can send a letter to the ZHB that says Council took no action and explain what that means. What she said earlier was correct, the applicant who appeared in front of the ZHB last time didn't say "took no action", they used a different phrase that made it appear that we supported it and had no problem with it.

Mrs. Louder said she went out to this property and what she's looking at on the paperwork, it seems everything is compatible to whatever is already there, and she supports this.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Stauffer moved to send a letter to the ZHB that Council took no action.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 3-1 (Mrs. Louder – No (as she supports this); Mr. Kern – Absent)

**2. ALEX PATULLO – 2695 GREENS DRIVE – VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR WOODLANDS AND IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE TO CONSTRUCT A HOUSE**  
(7:35 p.m.)

Mr. Patullo said this is an old subdivision; this lot had a grading permit and after he spoke with previous Zoning Officer Chris Garges, was told that they can build on the lot but needed to put a new footprint on the new drainage plan. They did that and came to the Township and were told they would have to do a new grading plan. They have done that, and it's been reviewed. Attorney Treadwell asked if the stormwater is handled on the grading plan? Mr. Patullo said yes. Mrs. deLeon said when their subdivision was created, they didn't have a grading plan ordinance. Mr. Patullo said this grading plan has been sitting for ten years; they cleared the lot in 2007, but then there was the recession, so it wasn't economically viable to continue building. Mr. Karl Scherzberg from Keystone

Consulting Engineers, said from a stormwater standpoint, when the subdivision was designed, there was an existing detention basin on this lot which serves the entire development. When it was designed, they allotted 5,000 s.f. to each lot of impervious cover. The lot now is proposed at 5,400 s.f. total so 5,000 of that will be covered by the original design and they are proposing to infiltrate an additional 700 s.f. which surpasses the 400 s.f. and give them a little extra for any future development.

Mr. Scherzberg said they are looking for three variances. The first is to allow disturbance of the regular woodlands at 26% while permitted to be disturbed is 20%; the second is to allow disturbance of 26% of the environmentally sensitive woodlands where they are allowed to disturb 15%; and impervious surface, they want to increase it to 34% instead of 20%. The impervious surface one is really restrictive because of the environmentally sensitive resources on the lot. It would take a 2.2-acre lot down to 0.39 acres. Attorney Treadwell said it's not the gross impervious coverage of the lot; it's net that results from the site capacity calculations which weren't in place when the original plan was approved. Mrs. Louder asked if the water across the street from the house on the hill comes onto that property? Mr. Patullo said no, that it might on the driveway, but it has its own swale and a catch basin which takes it to the detention basin. Mrs. Louder said she was out to look at the lot and supports this one also.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Stauffer moved for approval to send the ZHB a letter of "no action".  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 3-1 (Mrs. Louder – No; Mr. Kern – Absent)

**B. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS**

**1. SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (7:44 p.m.)**

Mrs. Stern Goldstein said this started in 2006 when a sub-group of Council was tasked with meeting with her and implementing the four-step approach to land development. During the preliminary plan submission there was a long four-step process, and it made a lot of sense at that point, but since then there was the recession and a big push for economic development which was at odds of where the Township was a couple of years ago. When they later checked with the Township, they asked what was desired or wanted at that time and were given the direction to stick to the design standards, definitions, and procedural things that needed to be updated, but take out the four-step process. They worked with Hanover Engineering and Township staff and came up with the update for the design standards. They took it to the Planning Commission (P/C) and reviewed it with them through 2017 and 2018, and at this point are asking Council for permission to move ahead and format it into your existing Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). In 2006, they were writing a whole new ordinance so all the design standards and sections they wrote were waiting for that premise. They can keep most of it, but all the formatting needs to change and made current. They didn't want to do that without checking with Council; and once that is done, it will be brought back to Council for authorization to advertise.

Mrs. deLeon asked if they will indicate what is the new language? Mrs. Stern Goldstein said yes, and it might end up being a whole section that is new. They'll present it in the best way possible to Council, so they can see what the topics are. Mrs. deLeon asked about lighting? Mrs. Stern Goldstein said they didn't do lighting, that is staying the way it was. There was a period of time they were looking at the dark sky ordinance and it was not put into SALDO, it was separate. Attorney Treadwell said this version is an update as opposed to starting over. The new one will be more user-friendly. Mrs. deLeon asked if they are using some of the suggestions from the Economic Development Task Force? Mrs. Stern Goldstein said yes. Mrs. deLeon said a lot of people have said it costs too much to develop in LST. Attorney Treadwell said that was one of the reasons for not moving

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forward with the four-step process. Mrs. deLeon said when someone comes in for an application, they are told they have to meet certain requirements and are provided the book. Then they submit something and are given 30 questions, and we say it was in the book, and then the client has to pay their developer. Attorney Treadwell said if the plan gets designed based on the rules that are in place, then the review letter isn't very long. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said it's a lot easier if everything is followed; all the information is there.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved to authorize the Township Planner to reformat the proposed amendments to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance for future review and consideration to authorize advertising.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

**2. SIGN ORDINANCE (7:51 p.m.)**

Mrs. Stern Goldstein said the sign ordinance is not as lengthy as the SALDO. Sometime in late 2016, the Zoning Officer came to them and had some issues with the sign ordinance enforcement, interpretation, ease of use and wanted to clean it up. She brought up a few items wherein with sign ordinances, you can't regulate the content or the words or pictures on the sign, and you can only regulate its size, dimension, or placement. They did a small audit of the ordinance to come up with the issues that needed to be addressed, incorporated the concerns of the Zoning Officer and came up with a draft. It's modeled after another ordinance they wrote previously and includes charts and figures, so it's more user friendly not just for the applicants, but for the staff also. It deals with permanent and temporary signs for residential and non-residential uses in each district, which is broken out and all the components are in one section.

Attorney Treadwell said we had already revised the billboard section to bring that up to date and in compliance with some court cases. The sign regulations were in two or three different spots in the ordinance, and the way it's being formatted now, you just go to one section and it tells you what you need to know. Mrs. deLeon said she feels a business should have a right to display their signs and show people they are there so we can increase commercial business. She wants the tone of this to do that.

Mr. Stauffer asked if the ordinance deals with political signs or little signs such as those that say a security system is in a house. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said there's a whole category of exempt signs like security signs in a window. Political signs would be temporary signs. Mr. Stauffer said regarding garage sale signs, would people have to get a permit? Mrs. Stern Goldstein said she believes the temporary signs don't require a permit as long as you comply with the regulations. Mr. Stauffer said for temporary signs, he noticed one per street frontage for a single-family house, if a husband puts one out and the wife puts out a different one, are they just limited to one? Mrs. Stern Goldstein said unofficially in the Commonwealth is people don't regulate political signs, but she's not the enforcement officer, you would have to defer to him. Mr. Stauffer said he's wondering if there should be a wider exemption for temporary signs. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said if you say you can have as many temporary signs as you want, you could have big signs on people's lawns. They don't and shouldn't regulate political signs as a separate class. Attorney Treadwell said about ten years ago we used to require a permit and a fee to ensure they would be taken down. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said the Court said you can't do that. It was on the books, but we never did it. All the model ordinances are "hands off political signs".

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance #2018-02 for Public Hearing and consideration of adoption.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Louder

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

C. **HELLER HOMESTEAD – 1890-1892 FRIEDENSVILLE ROAD – HISTORICAL MARKER SELECTION AND PLACEMENT** (8:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Yerger said Council is requested to authorize the purchase of a historic marker for the Heller Homestead and determine the wording to be engraved. Mrs. deLeon said the registered name is Michael and Margaret Heller House and it's confusing when you see the 1751 on the middle line, so it should be underneath the name. Council agreed the sign should read "Michael & Margaret", "Heller House", "1751" on three lines. Mrs. Huhn said we can make that change and order the plaque. Regarding placement, the masonry work has begun on the stairs and porch, which have been ripped out, so it's progressing nicely; if the plaque is something they want to place on the house, normally it would be by the door, but there's not enough space for the size of the plaque. Mrs. deLeon said she'd like it on the house, and if you are looking at the porch and look to the left of that, underneath that closest window, it could be centered or maybe between the two windows. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said she would say eye level, between the two windows and centered. Mrs. deLeon said that way there is light on there from the sun, so that is the better side. She asked if we would have a ribbon cutting ceremony? Mrs. Huhn said we can do that to unveil it. Mrs. deLeon said maybe we can do it the night they are having their Christmas party in December. Mrs. Huhn said they will see if they can coordinate it with them, and we will order it and move ahead.

D. **TOWN HALL COMPLEX PAINTING – APPROVAL TO GRANT FINAL ACCEPTANCE & ENTER INTO MAINTENANCE PERIOD** (8:05 p.m.)

Mrs. Huhn said Hahalis Painting did an amazing job on painting the buildings; they were quick and efficient, and the job is excellent. This approval is to release final payment for the work and then accepting the maintenance period. Mrs. deLeon asked that when the budget is prepared next month a list of accomplishments for this year is included. Mrs. Huhn said we usually have a list, which is done at the end of the year for reviews and evaluations, but she can put something together.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved to authorize the release of the final payment of \$3,969.00 to Hahalis Painting for the Town Hall Complex painting and to enter into the twelve-month maintenance period, which will expire October 3, 2019.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Louder

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

E. **RESOLUTION #80-2018 – AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF TOWNSHIP RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PHMC GUIDELINES** (8:07 p.m.)

Mrs. Huhn said this is a resolution set by the PHMC Municipals Record Act of 1968; and whenever we dispose of Township records, we must provide a list and must meet the requirements within the act. This resolution is for the disposition of the records which we are taking to the shredding event this weekend, following the regulations. Previously Mrs. deLeon had some concerns about disposing of records and not keeping things for historic value in perpetuity. We do scan them and everything is in an electronic file before anything is disposed of.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Stauffer moved for approval of Resolution #80-2018.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

V. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 AND SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 COUNCIL MINUTES** (8:10 p.m.)

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval of the September 5, 2018 Council minutes.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Louder

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

Mrs. Louder said page 5, line 20 of the September 19<sup>th</sup> minutes, change "what" to "that". Mr. Stauffer said page 5, line 25, change it from "Williams Lane" to "Willings Lane."

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**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the September 19, 2018 Council minutes, with corrections.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon  
**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT/CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS (8:12 p.m.)**

- Mr. Atom Kallen, 4263 Roberts Avenue said he wants to let Council know of a growing sense of confusion and anger in Steel City regarding a house fire the previous week. Some of the residents are concerned at the response time of various fire departments, especially the Steel City Volunteer Fire Company because they are a 3-minute walk up the street. People are aware it's a volunteer fire company and can't necessarily expect them to be there 24 hours a day, but at the same time, they are starting to question the wisdom of having a volunteer fire company there which we can't rely on. He's concerned that some residents are blowing the story out of proportion by saying it took over an hour for them to get there, which he knows is not accurate. He also heard that some firefighters were asking for donations at an event last weekend, and at least one of them was yelled at by a resident saying that they were not only not going to give them any donations, but that they were going to make sure they went bankrupt. He thinks it would be in Council and Township's best interest to address these concerns before they increase and stories start to spread. Mrs. Louder said she contacted the Police Chief and asked him for the dispatch times and within ten to eleven minutes there was a fire department there. Chief Barndt said he thinks it was Dewey or Freemansburg. Mrs. Louder said there was a news article that Chief Snyder said he was there in ten minutes. Mr. Stauffer said ten minutes from Hellertown is good. Mrs. Louder said she sent a letter to PSATS and Leslie and all the Fire Chiefs received a copy. The problem was the fire was in the middle of the afternoon on a Monday, volunteer firefighters work, and they weren't as close. She's on the Fire Service Committee and they are trying to figure out how to give the volunteers more accessibility to get on a truck and get out right away. It's very scary, she understands completely, and thank goodness no one was hurt. Mr. Kallen said he agrees, but unfortunately in a situation like that, it could be less about facts and more about feelings, and the 10 minutes felt like a long time. Mrs. Louder read the dispatch times for the fire. She said Steel City and Freemansburg on scene time was 12:57 E1212 was on scene and 1259 R6341 on scene; the fire call went out at 12:45 p.m. That's a lot of time, and she agrees about the distance of the fire company to that property. Mr. Kallen said the residents do understand it was a middle of an afternoon, but they'll always follow it up with what is our money going towards and thinks they would really appreciate this being addressed in some way. Mrs. Louder said their concerns are being addressed, the Fire Service Committee has been working on this and are trying to figure out how we can recruit more volunteers. She's looking at the fire tax to get more money for the fire departments and is asking to look into the transition into a paid fire department, which would cost the Township about \$3 million a year, if not more. It's going to come at a cost to the residents, but the Township is changing so much and getting huge industry out on Easton Road, and we need to start looking at how we can start evolving with it. Mr. Bryan Evans said the fire in question was not in the primary jurisdiction of Lower Saucon Fire Rescue so it's not appropriate for him to comment on those particular circumstances, but all of the Township resources were dispatched immediately. He thinks we have to learn from it. He would encourage everyone in this room to attend the Fire Services Committee meeting and get the word out as there will be a lot of decisions coming. Statistics from the PA State Fire Commissioners office are that 97% of the fire fighters are volunteers. In 1976, there were estimated to be over 300,000 volunteers, now it's estimated to be 50,000. We've done a lot of things in LST to be ahead of that, one of that being the Township PW employees are released for fire calls. Unfortunately, that policy has some stipulations, one of which is paving or chipping, which is what the Township PW employees were involved in the day of the fire in question, so there were at least three firefighters who were employed by the Township, but because of that policy were not able to respond that day. That policy is something ahead of the curve and not many municipalities in Northampton County have it, and it's a perfect opportunity why we need to evaluate that. Mrs. Louder said the PW employees belong to Se-Wy-Co and Southeastern Fire Companies. Mr. Evans said correct, but they could have been paving in Steel City across the street from the firehouse where they are cross-trained with that apparatus and

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not authorized to respond. As the budget process unfolds there's going to be requests and recommendations from the Emergency Services community and he would encourage more representation from the community. Mrs. deLeon asked if they ever had a fire or incident where too many people showed up and you had to say some must go home. Mr. Evans explained how a call unfolds and referred to the resources that were used at the accident on I-78 last week. Mrs. deLeon said one of her reasons for supporting the policy we have with the PW employees is because we want to also get our PW work done. Is there a way the policy could be written that if you get called, you are told what you might be encountering? Mr. Evans said the policy does have some parameters on what types of calls, the problem is the initial call may not be what it actually turns out to be. We have to come up with a balance of what PW can do to accomplish their necessary task and public safety. Mrs. Yerger said she had multiple fire companies there within ten minutes and they came from Williams Township, Hellertown, and Southeastern when she had a house fire. They lost the entire upper story of their house and all of the possessions, but all got out alive. She thinks it comes down to the number of volunteers available. A ten-minute response was not horrific, but she can see the point of someone a couple of doors away from a fire company waiting for someone to show up. Mr. Kallen said the question he's been hearing, is people are concerned about where the money they think is going to the fire department is actually going. Mrs. Louder said as a Township we can only ask them what they do with the fire tax money and the donation from the Township of \$50,000. Anything the fire company owns on its own through fundraising, we cannot question what they are doing with that. The fire companies are audited by the Township on just the money we give them, but we don't see the books for money donated privately by a resident. Mrs. Louder said they can ask the Fire Chief and financial director of Steel City Fire Company or tell the Attorney General they want them audited. Mr. Evans stated the cost associated to outfit one firefighter is about \$10,000 at a minimum. He also referenced the training requirements which are over 200 hours. If there's a desire to do something more formal, they can do a public presentation on fire protection and put some FAQ's together. Mrs. deLeon said there are Form 990's that fire companies have to complete every year and you can find them on a website. Mrs. Yerger said it is "GuideStar."

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

**A. TOWNSHIP MANAGER (8:45 p.m.)**

- Mrs. Huhn said the LVPC is updating their regional plan which is entitled "FutureLV". Recently she, along with Craig Kologie, Kathy McGovern and Kathy's husband, attended the Planning Action meeting for the southern tier on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Upper Saucon Township. The southern tier includes Coopersburg and Hellertown Boroughs, and Lower Saucon, Upper Saucon and Williams Townships. They've scheduled informational meetings across the region, grouping municipalities with similar opportunities and challenges. The participation involved with all these groups will aid them in their planning process. They were happy to say the Township has a lot of good opportunities and brought up challenges like traffic and roads, and the one she brought up as it is important, was our volunteer fire services which needs to be looked at on a regional basis.
- The shredding event is October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dimmick Park and open to all Hellertown and LST residents. You will have to have proof of residency. We are offering two of our PW employees to help out.
- The Saucon Valley Spirit Parade will be on October 21<sup>st</sup>. If any Council member would like to ride in the truck, let her know.
- We received the funds from the settlement with PPL for the easement acquisition at the Heller Homestead in the amount of \$6,300. Cathy Gorman has asked for Council approval of her recommendation to deposit the funds in the Historic Capital Fund for future use.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval to have the \$6,300 deposited in the Historic Capital Fund for future use.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

**B. COUNCIL/JR. COUNCIL REPORTS (8:49 p.m.)**

**Matt Wagner**

- He said it would be nice if our Township could contribute for a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the SVHS and also for drug prevention. Mrs. deLeon said that topic was talked about earlier with DA Morganelli. Mrs. Yerger explained it has to be initiated with the school first and go through a process. Attorney Treadwell said it's something that needs to be discussed between the Township and the school district. The school district has the ability to hire their own police officer, and there are other municipalities who have partnered with school districts and allowed Township Police Officers to participate as an SRO and there are funding issues that need to be resolved. Mrs. deLeon said she doesn't want anyone thinking the Township is not doing something they should be doing. Attorney Treadwell said we have a cooperation agreement for our PD to go there when the need arises. Having someone there all day long while the school is open is something that the school district has to decide. Mrs. deLeon said people have to know we're cooperating when there's an incident out there and we respond, but for us to initiate something like that, it has to start at the school district. Mrs. Louder said she thinks DA Morganelli would love to come to the school and do a presentation. Chief Barndt thanked Matt for sitting in as a Jr. Council member, and said today he got a letter from a health teacher and they are going to the school the second week of October to do a presentation in a health class on drug awareness trends, the cost and consequences of that. The school is in contact with the PD to go that route and he totally supports DA Morganelli.

**Mrs. Yerger** – No report

**Mrs. Louder**

- She extended condolences to Thomas Nolan's family. He was a Bethlehem Township elected official and she sat beside him at the gaming commission. Mrs. deLeon said she shares that also as she sat on the board with him.
- Kudos to our fire departments as they had a busy week.

**Mrs. deLeon**

- On September 20<sup>th</sup> she attended the ribbon cutting for the Steel Club's opening and it was very nice and well attended.

**Mr. Stauffer**

- He's been seeing a lot more of the spotted lantern flies and thinks that they don't require the tree of heaven to survive, but it is their favorite thing. He doesn't know if there are state funds available for destruction of those trees to make the Township less hospitable to them, but if there are those types of trees in right-of-ways, we should look into that. Mrs. deLeon said the Township has put this in our newsletter and on Facebook but we need to still keep aggressively putting the word out there.

**Mr. Kern** – Absent

**C. SOLICITOR** – No report (8:56 p.m.)

**D. PLANNER** – No report

**E. ENGINEER** – No report

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Louder moved for adjournment. The time was 8:57 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Stauffer

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Kern – Absent)

Submitted by:

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Leslie Huhn  
Township Manager

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Sandra B. Yerger  
Council President