

AMENDED AGENDA

I. OPENING

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

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

*** AMENDED AGENDA**

- A. Authorization to Advertise to Fill Police Department Eligibility List

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

- A. Presentation of Donation Check from Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber to Lower Saucon Police Department

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

- A. Daniel Edelman – 1816 Reading Drive – Resolution #61-2021 – PA DEP Sewage Planning Module Approval
- B. Bethlehem Landfill – 2335 Applebutter Road – First Environmental Assessment Review Conducted by PADEP

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of 2022 Proposed Budget
- B. Approval of American Rescue Plan COVID-19 Bonuses for Staff
- C. Authorization to Prepare and Advertise an Ordinance to Rescind and Terminate Ordinance No. 2017–01 for the Open Space Tax
- D. Review of Draft Letter to State Legislators Regarding PA Development Laws
- E. Release of Maintenance Bond – Seidersville Hall Window Replacement
- F. Authorization to Advertise Bid for Seidersville Hall Interior Improvements

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of September 9 & September 15, 2021 Council Minutes

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

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

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Environmental Advisory Council: October 12, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall
Saucon Valley Partnership: October 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
Landfill Committee: October 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m. @ Town Hall
Zoning Hearing Board: October 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m. @ Town Hall
Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: October 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CB
Township Council: October 27, 2021, 6:30 p.m. @ Town Hall
Planning Commission: October 28, 2021, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
Parks & Recreation: November 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m. @ Town Hall

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6:32 p.m., with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present: Sandra Yerger, President; Jason Banonis, Vice President; Thomas Carocci, Kristen Stauffer and Priscilla deLeon, Council Members; Leslie Huhn, Township Manager; Tom Barndt, Chief of Police; Cathy Gorman, Director of Finance; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Diane Palik, Administrative Assistant; Avia Weber, Jr. Council member.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE) – Mrs. Yerger said Council did meet in Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Attorney Treadwell said it would be a motion to notify the LST Police Officers Association that the Lower Saucon Township Council agrees to the terms presented in the October 4, 2021 email from Attorney Taglioli for a five-year contract subject to the contract document being prepared and executed by both parties.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the Police Contract as stated above by the Solicitor.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

ROLL CALL: 5-0

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to amend the agenda this evening.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to direct the Township Manager to compile a list of all eligible full-time and part-time Police Officers for hiring purposes.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

Ms. deLeon said what do you mean for hiring purposes? Attorney Treadwell said for the full-time, he's guessing what we have, is eligibility lists. Mrs. Huhn said correct. Attorney Treadwell said from what we pick from for full-time and part-time officers. He thinks both of those lists have expired so we don't have anyone on the list. In order to create a new list, we need to advertise to get people on the list before we can hire someone...Ms. deLeon said would this be at the end of the agenda then as a new agenda item. Attorney Treadwell said no, he's making a motion to do it now. Ms. deLeon said okay, this is new. Mr. Carocci said we have one full-time position open and we have some part-time positions open to advertise to fill those positions. Mr. Carocci said he'll second that motion. Mrs. Yerger said she did already. Attorney Treadwell said the Chief is here so let him explain it. Chief Barndt said we have one full-time position vacant that we need to fill. We have two part-timers that we can test to attempt to fill that full-time position which is what our policy states that we should do. From there, we would also create an eligibility list by advertising outside for a period of time through social media and the Pennsylvania Police Association. We would create that eligibility list and then test for that written and physical assessment test. It would actually be two things, to fill the full-time position, preferably from the part-time candidates that we currently have then create an eligibility list. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't want to put any words in anybody's mouth but he thinks what the motion was is to get more people on the full-time list as well, is that correct, other than just part-time officers. Chief Barndt said correct, it would be an eligibility list for part-time employees.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

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 and come to the podium.

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

Mr. George Gress said has there by any further development or hopefully any resolution from the July 9th data breach that was discussed several months ago. Attorney Treadwell said actually he was going to do that under his report, but he can do it now. Ms. deLeon said you have a report? Attorney Treadwell said he was going to have one for the first time in a long time, but George beat me to the punch. Mr. Gress said his apologies, please proceed. Attorney Treadwell said the cyber security investigation was completed as of yesterday. He and Leslie had a conference call with the attorney that they were using in that investigation which is why it isn't a Council agenda item as it was too late. It was determined during that investigation that an unauthorized individual or group accessed parts of our computer system. Those parts of the system did not contain any personal or sensitive information and the Township has taken additional steps to prevent this type of occurrence in the future so when it happened on July 9th, somewhere around July 9th, it was basically these unauthorized individuals got into a server. That server was able to be taken off-line, everything was backed up on another server, so we were able to use the other server and that the individuals that got into the system did not get any sensitive or personal security data information. Mrs. Huhn said the areas they got into didn't even contain that type of data. Mr. Gress said all the cost associated with that will be covered by our insurance company? Attorney Treadwell said we will not pay anything towards those costs as a Township; there is a deductible. Mrs. Gorman said \$2,500. Mr. Gress said thank you, he appreciates the update.

Ms. deLeon said as of this date she still doesn't have access to the Township email. She has to use a gmail account, does everyone else have a problem. Mr. Carocci said you were supposed to set it up with Roger. Ms. deLeon said so Roger set her up like the old way we had. Mrs. Huhn said we'll get in touch with Roger and he can do that. Ms. deLeon said that's really sad that she wasn't contacted to do that. Mrs. Huhn said she thought everybody got notification, she'll check. Ms. deLeon said he set her up on a gmail account so her emails were forwarded. Mrs. Huhn said that was even before this happened. Ms. deLeon said no, it was after July 9th. We lost all our emails, right? Mrs. Huhn said those emails were totally not on our server, so no, those weren't backed up. They were offsite. It's a different way that Council has to go in because you are not through our server. Ms. deLeon said she feels like she got left out. Mr. Banonis said he recalls receiving an email addressed to all of us with instructions to contact Roger. Mrs. Huhn said she thought we did, but she'll double-check. Mr. Banonis said it would be your same name and township.org email. Mrs. Huhn said she'll talk to him tomorrow. Ms. deLeon said so she wouldn't have to use her gmail account, right? Mrs. Huhn said you shouldn't have to. Ms. deLeon said she still has her own email account at the Township? Mrs. Huhn said correct. Ms. deLeon said before she was able to go on a site that wasn't a gmail site, do you know what I'm saying, so I'd be able to do that again? Mrs. Huhn said you should be able to, she doesn't know how he set it up. We will talk to him tomorrow.

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

A. PRESENTATION OF DONATION CHECK FROM HELLERTOWN-LOWER SAUCON CHAMBER TO THE LOWER SAUCON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Yerger said Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce hosted a Pint for a Purpose fundraising event on September 29th at Lost Tavern Brewing. Jessica O'Donnell, Executive Vice President with the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber and Lauren Bertucci, Manager of Affiliated Chambers were present. Ms. O'Donnell said last week we had our "Pint for a Purpose" at Lost Tavern Brewing in which we saw many of you there and we truly appreciate it. Prior to COVID we did have "Pint for a Purpose" for our local fire companies if you recall, so we wanted to spread the love and share some support to our local Police Officers who are definitely on the front line and are community heroes if you will. We had a fabulous event at Lost Tavern Brewing (LTB) with great sponsors coming out, tons of raffles, and we are happy to present the Lower Saucon Township Police Department with a big check. We don't have an official check yet, but she promises they will get it over to you, but it is for \$810. Both LST and HB are walking away with \$810 and again, we have heard from many sponsors, many people in attendance, even partnering with LTB and also the local food vendors and even businesses who donated raffles. They were more than willing to support this event. It was a tremendous night supporting our local PD and we would just like to take a picture.

We do have some local board members here with us this evening. We have our Chair Kim Rosario, we have our Second Vice-Chair Kendra Snyder and then we have Tom Rieger, who is from Hellertown Borough. They'd like to do a quick check presentation and take a picture so they can pump it out there. Mr. Banonis said he was at the event and thought it was a fantastic event. The venue was great, the turnout was great, and the sponsorships was fantastic. It was great to see so many local businesses come out and support the police. Ms. O'Donnell said they will have more. Mr. Banonis said and he will be there. Ms. O'Donnell said they have two upcoming events that are in LST, so Lauren is going to talk about them, and they are gaining some momentum and are excited to also support local businesses.

Ms. Bertucci said on October 13th from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. they've been listening to their businesses and a lot of them are struggling with staffing, so for our first community round table they have partnered with Work Force Lehigh Valley Executive Director Nancy Dischinat and how businesses can best be marketed effectively for job openings. This is at Black River Farms and you can also purchase beer and wine. On October 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. they are back at Lost River Caverns for their Lost Spirits Event so they will have the paranormal spirit finders there. You can go through the caverns with them. We'll have Lost Tavern Brewing, Black River Farms, a food truck, we'll be raising money for community initiatives as well as Lost River Caverns. This sold out last year so if you are interested, let us know so we can get your tickets booked so it doesn't sell out again before you get yours. Mrs. Yerger said thank you for your generosity. Ms. O'Donnell said thank you for your continued support. The last 19 months have been hard on our businesses, even hard on what they've been doing, so thank you for your support.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. DANIEL & ELIZABETH EDELMAN SUBDIVISION – 1816 READING DRIVE – PA DEP SEWAGE PLANNING MODULE APPROVAL

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #61-2021 has been prepared for Daniel Edelman – PADEP Sewage Planning Module. The applicant was not present. Mrs. Huhn said this is just their planning module. It's a resolution that we need to send in for them for DEP. The last one we did was Longridge. It's nothing that the developer has to be here for, this is just something we have to do for them in order to move forward with their plan.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to approve Resolution #61-2021 for Daniel Edelman – PADEP Sewage Planning Module.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. BETHLEHEM LANDFILL – 2335 APPLEBUTTER ROAD – FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW ORDINANCE 2017-01 CONDUCTED BY PA DEP

Mrs. Yerger said DEP has issued their first Environmental Assessment Review regarding Bethlehem Landfill's Major Permit Modification Application for the Northern Realignment. The response is currently being reviewed by our Consultants. The applicant has a 90-day time period to respond to DEP.

Ms. deLeon said she has a lot of comments. It seems like every time they do an expansion, they never seem to get their name right on the application, remember with the Blue Ridge landfill? She was just disappointed to see that, and a lot of the questions from DEP, in response to their questions, especially on Form D there's deficiencies and that they should provide a schedule for the RNG facility. They state there's no adverse air impacts to the surrounding community are anticipated and DEP says there are potential impacts of odors and dust. BLC should further evaluate and describe the potential impacts from dusts and odors. On September 19th and October 3rd, maybe, she personally called in a complaint to DEP regarding landfill gas smelling at her property. You just go through all the harms and this is an experienced company. The owner should know better. It raises a question with her, what else is wrong if they can't get the easy stuff right. She can go on and read

all this stuff which she's not going to. The benefits they talk about, maximizing the disposal capacity within currently permitted areas not a benefit, they should know that. This is an experienced landfill. They should know what's a benefit and what's a harm and they don't. You just have to read this. Who is going to look at this? Do we have someone looking at this? Mrs. Huhn said this was sent to the Landfill Committee so she did have a conversation with Rich Sichler and he feels that DEP did a really good job on reviewing this. He did a cursory review and he noted that they actually pointed out things that they found in this Northern Realignment that were not part of the SE Realignment so he felt comfortable with that. He said DEP did a really good job and he did take a look at it. Mrs. Yerger said it's good to know that DEP did a good job and did it well. Ms. deLeon said she was happy they did, but she was disappointed that the landfill, like she said, didn't know how to fill out the application right. It's very disappointing.

Ms. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro said just on this particular request, she was curious to know if the Township had engaged an Environmental Attorney as it has done historically whenever there are DEP matters up for review with the landfill. Mrs. Yerger said as far as she knows, no. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said has the Landfill Committee discussed consulting with an attorney who specializes in the area of landfills and environmental impacts when it comes to the Township in this situation. Mrs. Yerger said not to her knowledge. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said does the committee have any intent in the future on contacting the Environmental Attorney that we've used in the past whenever there's been a DEP matter.

Attorney Treadwell said the Environmental Attorney that we used in the past has retired, but he doesn't know if the Landfill Committee has had a meeting. Mrs. Huhn said no, this just came in. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't even know if it's been discussed. Ms. deLeon said then you'll report back to us after the meeting. Mr. Carocci said we'll ask them about this. They have 90 days to respond to the DEP, but we'll ask them at the next Landfill meeting about this and see what they have to say. At that time, we can report back to Council and Council can decide if they want to engage in an Attorney, but he thinks that's all premature at this meeting. Ms. deLeon said it's nice that the DEP has a response so you know...Mr. Carocci said right. They got it. He'd like to hear what Scott Brown has to say also.

Mrs. Stauffer said with our Environmental Attorney retiring, how long would it take the Township to hire another? Attorney Treadwell said if Council directs the Manager to hire another Environmental Attorney, it would probably take a week at the most. Mrs. Huhn said would you want her to bring back different attorneys. Attorney Treadwell said the discussion we had before and the discussion we used to have with Attorney Elliott before he retired was Attorney Elliott used to come to the meeting and say thank you for hiring me, what do you want me to do? Hiring a Landfill Attorney or an Environmental Attorney to represent the Township in front of DEP or any other body, we need to give him or her direction on what this Council wants them to do. In the past, when we had an Environmental Attorney there was a Zoning Hearing Board, we asked the Environmental Attorney to go the ZHB and represent the Township. As far as the DEP Harms Benefit Analysis is concerned, our engineering consultants, Rich Sichler and Scott Brown can review what DEP says and make additional suggestions or not make additional suggestions, and at that point, Council can decide, do we need an Environmental Attorney to push those suggestions or not.

Mr. Carocci said again, he points out the letter is dated September 24th, the Landfill has 90 days to respond which is December 24th. They can tell us stuff at the Landfill meetings, and all that, but until they respond in writing, you know, and we certainly can have an Environmental Attorney hired by December 24th, if we need one, but it's one thing to make representation at the meeting, it's another thing to put it in writing and officially respond to DEP, which is what any Environmental Attorney is going to be concerned with and December 24th we have time to come back before Council and hire someone. Hopefully we do it before then if we need it. Mrs. Stauffer said that all makes sense, the question was just to think about the timetable and introduce it into discussion. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she would just ask Council and especially the Landfill Committee with the meeting

coming up, the engineer would be prepared to discuss this and make recommendations as to what we need to do as a Township to protect residents and all interested parties and she thinks that discussion should also help with what would you want an Environmental Attorney to protect your interests. There are many ways an Environmental Attorney can assist in making sure the DEP regulations are followed and that there isn't something overlooked despite everyone's interest to try and do the right thing. She thinks historically we've seen it aides our Township, it assists our residents and it makes sure that there's an independent person looking through things that doesn't have an interest in the outcome, so she hopes we'll see that at the next Landfill Committee meeting and there will be a report at Council so all residents can hear about it if they are unable to attend that particular meeting. Ms. deLeon said Rich Sichler is a hydrogeologist and not an engineer and Scott Brown is not an engineer so we really...Mrs. Huhn said she thinks Rich is a PE. Ms. deLeon said okay. She knows he's a hydrogeologist and he's really good at that. Mrs. Huhn said he reviewed these in the past. Ms. deLeon said when will this be back on the agenda, after the Landfill Committee meeting? Mr. Carocci said it's October 21st. We'll have to see what happens. If there's an update, he'll bring it before Council.

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mrs. Yerger said the 2022 proposed budget is being presented incorporating the changes and updates requested by Council at the September 15, 2021 Budget meeting. Mrs. Gorman said the total budget for 2022 is balanced at \$11,765,557 of which the General Fund is \$8,458,775. Depending on the decisions made tonight by Council, the revenue over expenditures will be in the \$920,000 range which \$315,000 of that would go into your capital allocation as discussed at the Capital Plan meeting awhile back. Some of the differences she wanted to point out from our work session meeting was that we did receive our Pension State Aid in the amount of \$235,066 which she amended that amount in the Proposed Budget and our relief for the Fire Association as \$74,318, so that was \$8,500 or \$8,600 less than what we got last year. Also, at the Sub-Committee for the Compost Center, the grinding fees are getting more and more expensive and we are getting a difficult time to get somebody to come in. There's a lot of licensing and permitting issues that they are required to do so we try to get the best bang for our buck out there and get somebody to come in as much as they can for a period of time. There's also modifications needed at the pole building so they requested to use some of their fund balance to increase their budget by about \$7,000. As for the expenses, there's the spread-out through the budget which are some IT recommendations made by our IT company that addresses some of the security issues which are annual expenses for each department for software licensing. There's also an increased amount for two server replacements. Originally she budgeted \$6,500 for one. He is saying that two servers need to be replaced. The one that was involved with this and also the PD is fairly old and they will both run around \$8,900 so that is under the IT Department under 407 so we need to increase that. The other items in here that were modified were based on Council's suggestions at the other meeting, so depending on the salaried wages and the library amount you wish to appropriate next year, we can modify this budget with whatever you decide. It will be posted on the website for public inspection for 20 days and we would be able to bring it back to Council at that time at the December 1st meeting. Keep in mind that in this time period we are permitted to modify any line item by 10% or a department by 25% if something should occur within this time period, so before the final budget would be adopted we do have that latitude.

Mr. Banonis said there are two items he would like to see addressed and one is last time we spoke you had given us two budgets he recalls, one based upon a 2.5%, the other based upon a 3% salary increase for non-union staff of the Township. He would like to see the 3% option and to the extent a formal motion is needed, he'll make that motion.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve a 3% salary increase for non-union staff of the Township.
SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mrs. Stauffer said to clarify the motion, is that pending review with Leslie or is that per the bonuses of the COVID money we received. Mr. Banonis said this is just out of the operating fund based upon Cathy prepared the proposed budget previously and we instructed her to prepare two models, one with 2.5% annual increase for non-union Township staff and the other was 3% for non-union Township staff. His motion is based upon the 3%, it has nothing to do with the COVID bonus. Ms. deLeon said normally in the past we would set the budget for the raises, but we would also meet with Leslie in Executive Session to go over performance appraisals of the Department Heads and whatever, is that going to happen this year? Mrs. Huhn said yes, she will be doing reviews of staff. Ms. deLeon said okay. Mrs. Stauffer said thank you for clarifying.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mr. Banonis said he saw in the summary there was a reference to a \$15,000 allocation for a grant writer. That seems to be unnecessary. He knows Cathy has been doing grant writing for us for some time and has done an excellent job. Maybe Cathy can tell us her recovery rate as to what she applied for. Mrs. Gorman said her recovery rate, she knows since she's been here she applied for over \$5 million and received about \$3.7 million to date. Mr. Banonis said he thinks that's a pretty good effective rate and to spend \$15,000 on something that is despicable, of what Cathy already does, as long as Cathy is okay with still doing it, he'd ask that we remove that \$15,000 allocation and just keep it in the General Fund or allocate it somewhere else.

Ms. deLeon said she has an issue with that removing it because she and Leslie attended, she forgets the name, the County level...Mrs. Huhn said the PSATS forum. Ms. deLeon said oh, the PSATS forum, sorry she got it confused. There was a person there that was talking about grants and she was excellent. No disrespect to Cathy, she does a good job, but she thinks a better job could be done by hiring this person. Cathy can't spend every moment of her day looking for grants. This person knows them like the back of her hand. She was really impressed so she couldn't support taking that out of the budget. It's needed.

Mr. Carocci said how much did we use out of the allocation last year for the grant writing? Mrs. Gorman said we didn't have it last year. It's under the Zoning Department under consultations, so it depends on who Council hires for whatever purpose. She put in the \$15,000 for the grant writer in for 2022. Typically that fund was used to pay our Planner in the past and some of our other consultation for the landfill. The funding amount could stay at the level it is and Council can address it as a consultation request each time you may need somebody.

Ms. deLeon said she'd like to hear a proposal from that person that was at the PSATS forum and have them come to a Council meeting and make a presentation so you guys could hear what she heard. Mrs. Yerger said again, that's what she does, so she would like to hear what this person proposes. Ms. deLeon said yes, right, it should stay in the budget. Mrs. Stauffer said if we were to include this would it be a help to you recouping even more, like over each year? That \$15,000 could pay off tenfold as we have someone applying for however many grants with those funds, correct? Mrs. Gorman said that would be up to Council. What she typically does and the Manager, the Director of Public Works, the Chief or herself, depending on what the project is, they all sit down together and go through almost the engineering or planning phases of it and if it is something that requires engineering, obviously we involve HEA or if it's something that is legal, we involve Linc. We've applied for various types of grants, whether it's Federal, State or Local. She feels pretty confident that we've been doing a fairly decent job in doing it, but if Council is in the mind to have somebody else take a shot, that's fine. Ms. deLeon said she would really support that and have somebody come in and give a presentation. Mrs. Yerger said she'd like to hear what avenues this particular person would want to pursue. Cathy is very familiar with the government grants. Mrs. Gorman said the Federal grants, yes. Mrs. Yerger said she knows she would consider her an expert on those. What alternatives this person potentially offers is what she's saying.

Mr. Banonis withdrew his motion. You've convinced him that it doesn't hurt to listen. Mr. Carocci said just because it's set aside in the budget, doesn't mean you have to spend it, it's just budgeted. Mrs. Yerger said maybe it will only be two grants and will only cost \$5,000. Mrs. Huhn said she'll reach out to her. Mr. Carocci said just to be clear, we still have the \$5,000 grant writing assistance for the fire service to use, that is in? Mrs. Gorman said yes. Mr. Carocci said they do use that. Mrs. Yerger said that's separate. Mrs. Gorman said that is very highly specialized grant writing that she's not an expert on anything when it comes to vehicle apparatus. Mrs. Yerger said even their supplies. You have to know what you are talking about in terms of the fire department and what their needs are.

Mrs. Gorman said the Special Funds budget was not changed. It was \$1,759,800 and the Capital Fund was slightly modified. We bumped up the pick-up truck in the inventory schedule for purchase and she also modified the budget addressing the Heller Homestead windows since we won't be getting it done this year. Ms. deLeon said so what happens to the money that was in this year's budget, it stays in the Capital. Mrs. Gorman said it stays in the Historical Capital Fund until the project is done. Ms. deLeon said did you add more money to that fund. Mrs. Gorman said there will be another \$20,000 allocated in the 2022 budget. Ms. deLeon said is there more work that has to be done out there? Mrs. Gorman said certainly. Ms. deLeon said is there any way that the money we got for COVID, can some of that money get put into the historic fund for projects. Mrs. Gorman said from her understanding, it really has to deal with COVID. If that was a museum situation where you needed ventilation and you have a high volume of traffic going in, then you would be able to do something like that but for just renovation work, no. Attorney Treadwell said he thinks we are still waiting for the Treasury Department to finalize what the rules are for that money. They have an interim rule, but it's not a final rule. Until that comes out, nobody is really spending any money.

Ms. deLeon said what's going on with the library? Mr. Carocci said he thought we discussed that last time. Mrs. Stauffer said she asked for a per capita model. She didn't see it in here. Ms. deLeon said what do we normally do. Mrs. Gorman said Council requested that she show them how much it would be for 5% and how much for 7.5% which she had put in either option. If Council is in mind to put a certain amount in there when everything is a contract agreement or your agreement with the library is signed, then as long as we have enough money to cover it, that's fine. Ms. deLeon said why did we go from percentage to per capita. Mr. Carocci said he thought we did agree with per capita last meeting. Mrs. Stauffer said she was hoping to see a per capita model just to show the history. The previous agreement with the library was based on a per capita model based on census numbers. We had various opportunities to fund the library a little bit more year after year, and that's changed and we've been offering that to them. Last year the 2020 census was held up because of COVID, we waited and did a memo for a one-year extension to see what the per capita threshold would be. For those of us here tonight, you might find it interesting to know that LST is now at 11,094 residents after the census and Hellertown is about 6,000 she would say. Attorney Treadwell said 6,132. Mrs. Stauffer said she doesn't have the first half of the model, she may have missed it.

Attorney Treadwell said he thinks the concept of the per capita model is that Leslie received last week a draft agreement from the library for the agreement between HB, LST and HAL. You may have meetings set up to discuss that, but what that draft agreement proposes is \$9.66/person per capita, so that would be the per capita model which gets you to a total of \$107,168.04. That would be in essence the highest number you would pay. Council might not agree when we get to discussing that agreement to the \$9.66, but \$9.66 is what is in the draft that was prepared from the HAL, so that is the highest number. If you want to budget based on the per capita based on \$9.66, right now he thinks the 2022 budget has on line 456, \$107,784, so it actually has enough to do the \$9.66 per capita model if that's what Council chooses to do. You might not, and like Mr. Carocci said earlier, that's a budget amount and doesn't mean you have to spend that. Mrs. Stauffer said we said we can only go above 10% in the beginning. Mrs. Gorman said once it's advertised. Under that model, you can only increase it by 10% before adopting the final. Mrs. Stauffer said so what if Hellertown would approach us and ask for a different amount, and her question is how can she put the cart before the

horse or vice-versa. Mr. Banonis said he sees we have some representatives from HB here, maybe they can offer us some indication as to how they view this issue.

Mr. Thomas Rieger, Hellertown Borough Council President, said they were as shocked as you were to see the library was on your agenda and that's why they are here tonight. He would like nothing more than to direct his Manager with, as he would hope you would direct your Manager and Attorney if need be, to sit down and talk about the library agreement and negotiate it. He doesn't see negotiations with a contract normally done in a public setting. Mrs. Huhn said this actually isn't on the agenda, it's on for the budget. We still have to sit down and work all that out. Mr. Rieger said that's why they are here tonight, they want to sit down and figure it out. Will it be a 7.5% increase, as his Council as they just began their budget on Monday night, and he doesn't know what it's going to be. Mrs. Huhn said this is more coming from the library as a request. Mr. Rieger said they got it Friday afternoon and typically in the past those negotiations have included Township management, somebody from Council, both attorneys sat down and that's how they got to the old agreement. The proposed agreement seems that we just signed what we signed before and it doesn't even address, we already did that agreement. It's we are extending the agreement at a per capita cost or we are rewriting the agreement. We really can't sign a new copy, its two different things. Been there done that. He'd like nothing more than to commit to you guys, that he will direct Cathy tomorrow morning to set up a meeting with HAL and you guys and we'll begin that negotiation and be able to wrap it up in a couple of weeks.

Attorney Treadwell said he didn't mean to say we were approving an agreement or negotiate it, we're not. It's just what's in the budget and what's in the draft that the HAL asked from both municipalities is \$9.66. If we budget for that, then it's covered. It could obviously be less. Mr. Carocci said this is a budget meeting and we're talking about how much money to budget. Ms. deLeon said so line 456 under Library is under request 2022, it says \$105,277, so that should say \$107...Mrs. Gorman said that was the 5%. There are two models. Attorney Treadwell said the one he was looking at was the \$107 one. Ms. deLeon said she forgot about the two of them. There should have been a memo in each packet on what you were doing with the two different budgets. Mr. Carocci said we budgeted \$107,784 and if it's \$9.66 per capita, its \$107,064 so there's about \$600 or so more in the budget than what the library is requesting.

Mrs. Stauffer said her concern with the library is just that making sure they are competitive and able to serve the public. That per capita rate of \$9.66 is pretty low compared to others. If you look at Nazareth or others and Bethlehem itself is \$18.00. She's not saying we should be Bethlehem, but she's saying this is an opportunity to maybe see how we would approach that since this is the budget, we can only go up by a certain amount, and we can go down. We seem to be making it dependent on our relationship with Hellertown and that is the respectful thing to do, but she is confused as to how we can approve this tonight not knowing the result of their discussion as well. Mr. Banonis said this is why this is a budget. We're trying to set a cap as to what the maximum amount would be. The number we've allocated here is actually in excess of what the library has proposed to us, so you are suggesting we should budget greater than what he library is actually asking. Mrs. Stauffer said yes, she thinks it would be wise for us to round out so that way we are able to have flexibility if we need it in the future.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved the set the library budget line item at \$107,168.04 which is the maximum amount based upon the current census of 11,094 residents living in LST at a price of \$9.66 per person which the library had requested.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

Ms. Andrea Wittchen said she has a question about Account No. 400-420 Council expenses. Attorney Treadwell said sorry, Andrea, do you have a question on the library? This is just the library. You can come back to us.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she does have a great concern with the motion that was just made. Respectfully she heard from Hellertown Council President that he was looking to work with LST in a cooperative manner to try and come up with something that both LST and HB could work together in supporting the library. If you tie LST's hands by capping your library budget before that negotiation process has started, you might as well not have a negotiation process because you are just going off the initial letter which she thinks Mr. Rieger has indicated is the same exact thing that you had been working off of the last five years or whatever the last agreement was. She doesn't think it's in good faith effort to try and negotiate with HB and provide with our library in a way that's consistent with other Townships of the same size and with the same resources. She would encourage Township Council at this point in time to either allocate a larger number to permit a good faith negotiation process with HB or hold back the budget until you are able to have a sufficient amount of time to look over what Hellertown's Library Board is asking for to discuss it with HB and then make a meaningful informed decision about what you are going to spend on the library. She would respectfully ask that Township Council consider that. Attorney Treadwell said Hellertown's Library Board, and Leslie correct him if he's wrong, the joint venture library asked for \$9.66 which is what they are budgeting for which is not a negotiation with Hellertown. The discussions with Hellertown is going to be are we going to pay them \$9.66 or pay them less, but they asked for \$9.66. We are budgeting what they asked for. The previous agreement the per capita was \$8.32, so the per capita number has gone up by \$1.34. So the budget number that the motion was about is the number that was requested. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she was just responding to what she heard HB Council President indicate here this evening, so she hopes we keep a good working relationship with Hellertown in supporting our joint venture in the library. Ms. deLeon said if we needed to change that \$107 number, we could increase it 10%? Mrs. Gorman said the max would be 10%. Attorney Treadwell said the increase could be at least \$10,000 a year. Ms. deLeon said let's tell everybody the timeline for our budget. Tonight we're approving the proposed... Attorney Treadwell said tonight is the Proposed Budget that gets advertised. It's advertised for a 20-day period and gets adopted sometime in December. Ms. deLeon said don't we have a date set aside for that. Mrs. Huhn said December 1st. Mr. Carocci said December 1st there's a meeting and there's a meeting the 15th... Ms. deLeon said the final adoption of our budget has to be the first meeting in December. Attorney Treadwell said you have until the 31st, the end of the year. Ms. deLeon said she knows that. If for some reason, it doesn't work on December 1st and we get snowed out... Ms. deLeon said she gets that, it could be NY's eve. Attorney Treadwell said he was just stating a fact. Ms. deLeon said she hears what Kristen is saying to try to be supportive of the library, but the jump to the next gap, we don't know what's going to happen with LST and HB. She's comfortable knowing we have a 10% leeway in that line item. The other option is in April we can always amend the budget. Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mrs. Stauffer said it's just important to make sure that all these factors are discussed as this is a shared resource between two communities that work closely together. That's all this was, to just talk it through.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Ms. Andrea Wittchen, 1885 Dartford Road said she has a question about Account No. 400-420 Council expenses. In 2020, the actual expenditures in this category was \$908. In 2021, \$4,800 was budgeted and the projected number for 2021 was \$2,000. So \$2,800 less than had been budgeted. The first draft of the budget in 2022... Ms. deLeon said she doesn't know what the line item was. Mrs. Gorman said 01.400.420. She can explain that very easily. Those are Council expenses for their seminars they attend and also going to PSATS. It dropped the last year because of COVID as PSATS didn't have it so they didn't plan on expending that money there. We increased it so there's enough funding for all Council members to attend PSATS for that week period attending any seminars or lectures they might want to do during the course of the year and it's also increased a little bit as we do have some IT issues and security issues that will be put on their laptops or I pads. Every email address is going to have an extra package of security from our IT Company. That's why there's deviation there. She tries to budget for Council members, not all Council members tend to go. Ms. Wittchen said the \$4,800 that had been budgeted for 2021 was actually under budgeted if everyone would have been able to go? Mrs. Gorman said yes. Ms. Wittchen said and we would have been

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over if we had not dealt with COVID. Mrs. Gorman said possibly. Ms. Wittchen said so the \$8,300 covers those IT expenses for the opportunity for all Council members to go to PSATS. Mrs. Gorman said yes.

Ms. deLeon said at the last meeting, didn't we talk about giving those bonuses, is that in the budget. Mr. Carocci said that's the next agenda item. Mr. Carocci said that's not in the budget, it comes from the American Relief fund.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget based upon the other prior motions to amend and advertise for the 20-day public comment period.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

ROLL CALL: 4-1 (Mrs. Stauffer – No). She wants to amend her vote for the library vote and she'd like it to be a "no" vote. Attorney Treadwell said let's do this one first.

Attorney Treadwell said, so Kristen you want to change your vote on the library. Mrs. Stauffer said yes, she'd like to make a motion to amend her vote. Attorney Treadwell said she can just amend her vote and you want to reflect you are going to vote no now on the library allocation. Mrs. Stauffer said yes. Attorney Treadwell said let the record reflect that.

ROLL CALL: 4-1 (Mrs. Stauffer – No) Mrs. Stauffer amended her vote to a no on the library roll call.

B. APPROVAL OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COVID-19 BONUSES FOR STAFF

Mrs. Yerger said at the September 15, 2021 Council meeting, Tom Carocci, Council Member, proposed providing 21 Township employees with \$2,500 and requested the funding be allocated from the American Rescue Plan as the Township staff were present and kept our offices open for the past two years, even when the doors were locked.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved for approval to propose a \$2,500 staff bonus to be paid out of the American Rescue Plan fund, it's over \$1.1 million we receive from the Federal Government for the \$2,500 to the, is it 20 or 21 employees now? Mrs. Huhn said we will fill the position, but for the bonus it would be 20. Mr. Carocci said it would be 20 employees for a total cost of \$50,000.

Ms. deLeon said so the 20 or 21 people includes everyone in the Township, like the Public Works, the Administration, the Police? Mr. Carocci said it doesn't include the Police. It includes our Police Chief and the Admin. It doesn't include the officers yet, we were waiting until we have a signed contract and then we are going to address that then. Ms. deLeon said that's kind of holding, to me, you don't do that, that's unacceptable as holding them hostage to sign a contract. That's what it appears to me. I think that has nothing to do with you giving a bonus to one employee, you give it to all of them. It's not a merit thing, it's a COVID thing. The Police were out there on the front lines putting their lives out there. Mr. Carocci said it's his intention to propose a bonus when there's a signed police contract. Ms. deLeon said that's holding them hostage, she's sorry. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't think it's holding them hostage, he's not getting into contract negotiations here, but when we opened up this meeting tonight, we did so announcing that we were directing the Solicitor to finalize the agreement based upon the terms that have essentially been agreed upon. It's not like this is being used in some way to leverage them. It's just a matter of reducing the terms of that to a formal contract and having it executed. So this in no way is being used as leverage. Ms. deLeon said in her opinion one has nothing to do with the other. You are treating a different...Mr. Banonis said exactly, you are right, they don't. Ms. deLeon said she disagrees with you. Mr. Carocci said well he made a motion.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks to make the position that you haven't placed a COVID bonus over the Police at this point in time, when two weeks ago, she asked the question why the Police were not included in the COVID bonus which isn't even part of the budget, it's funding from the Federal Government, and as Ms. deLeon had indicated, is based upon their hard work and time spent during the pandemic out in the public and being exposed to the pandemic. She doesn't think it's right to treat them differently, which was her point, then the non-union employees in giving them no raise or no bonus this evening despite giving the non-union employees a bonus. That is clear and

she wishes Council would have made a different choice and treated all the employees including our police the same. Ms. deLeon said thank you. Mr. Carocci said he made a motion, we will treat the Police the same after there's a signed contract. So he's made a motion and it's been seconded.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Ms. deLeon & Mrs. Stauffer – No)

Mrs. Stauffer said she wants to thank the staff but this is a little premature, that's why she voted no at this time. Mr. Banonis said he would like to thank the staff as well and acknowledge their efforts in the past two years of this pandemic. Mr. Carocci said well deserved. Ms. deLeon said she should have followed up her no by saying she appreciated all the staff, but you do make a living and that's part of your job, to be here. If you didn't want to be here, you should have left. You were here doing your job like every other business, people doing it facing the hard times, the pandemic, whatever, but there were people out on the street face to face in Police work and she's just taken back, that's all she's going to say. Mr. Carocci said the Police will be taken care of.

C. AUTHORIZATION TO PREPARE AND ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND AND TERMINATE ORDINANCE NO. 2017-01 FOR THE OPEN SPACE TAX

Mrs. Yerger Ordinance No. 2017-01 is due to expire on December 31, 2021. Although the ordinance contains language terminating the imposition of the tax, we are recommending the preparation of an ordinance to remove the language from our on-line codification which the Solicitor will prepare. Attorney Treadwell said the Open Space Tax comes to an end and terminates at the end of this year. What he and Leslie have discussed is just doing a simple ordinance to remove that language from your Code book so a year from now, two years from now, when anybody goes to the Code, it's not in there and it's not confusing.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve and advertise an ordinance to terminate the imposition of the Open Space EIT.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

D. REVIEW OF DRAFT LETTER TO STATE LEGISLATORS REGARDING PA DEVELOPMENT LAWS

Mrs. Yerger said a draft letter has been prepared to our State Senator and Representatives for Council's review, requesting support to revise the Municipality Planning Code (MPC). Mrs. Huhn said several Northampton County municipalities have already sent letters to their respective legislators. PSATS is also being approached to assist with this effort to revise the current MPC law which governs municipalities and leans in favor of developers. This is a draft letter in case Council would like it sent to the Senators. LVPC is also getting involved so we would share the letter with them as well. If you want any changes, let her know.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Stauffer moved to authorize the draft letter be sent to our State Senator and Representatives.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

E. RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND – SEIDERSVILLE HALL WINDOW REPLACEMENT

Mrs. Yerger said the twelve-month maintenance period for the window replacement done in Seidersville Hall expired on September 21, 2021. The Director of Public Works has confirmed there are no outstanding issues or concerns with the windows. Mrs. Huhn said the amount of the maintenance bond is \$12,940.40 and the contractor was Gunton Corp., d/b/a Pella Windows. We feel the windows are very nice and we can release this bond.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve the end of the maintenance for the Seidersville Hall window replacements and release the bond to the contractor.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer

ROLL CALL: 5-0

F. **AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE BID FOR SEIDERSVILLE HALL INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS**

Mrs. Yerger said Staff is requesting authorization to advertise the bid for Seidersville Hall interior improvements. Mrs. Huhn said we are requesting the authorization to advertise the bid for the interior improvements. This includes the wall and ceiling repairs, painting and basement exhaust upgrades that had been recommended by several contractors. We will prepare the bid and have it authorized if you so wish. Mrs. Stauffer said she hopes we get some great bids because the walls need some TLC. Mrs. Gorman said we received a grant for this.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Stauffer moved to authorize the advertisement of the Seidersville Hall interior improvements bid.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

VI. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9 & 15, 2021 COUNCIL MINUTES**

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the September 9, 2021 Council minutes.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the September 15, 2021 Council minutes.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

VII. **COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

A. **MANAGER – Mrs. Huhn**

➤ She met with Chief Barndt, Director of Public Works Roger Rasich and Bryan Evans our EMC to review the impacts of Tropical Storm Ida. We held a planning session to prepare for the storm, which included staging PW equipment on both sides of the Township, which is normally cut in half when the Saucon overflows its banks. PD and Emergency Management also developed a plan and evacuated residents in low lying areas prior to the flooding. This worked out very well and prevented residents and emergency responders from risking their lives to get these people to safety. We also reviewed new areas of concern in the Township and discussed what can be done to improve them going forward. Some thoughts are additional signage would be beneficial for road closures to prevent vehicles from trying to go through these flooded areas and we also discussed setting up a meeting with PennDOT and our State Representatives to see how we can better work with them to help each other. In events such as this, the key thing is manpower and preplanning, so if we can work with them in conjunction with trying to come up with some plans ahead of time, we are hoping we can alleviate some of the effects of the storms which are inevitable. This would also be something we discuss for snow events. Public Works logged 472 hours, 184 of those were spent on Reading Drive alone after the event with the erosion and breakage of the road. Fire and Emergency Services reported about 34 calls for assistance and that included six water rescues. The PD handled 24 calls for service, which included anything from flooding to alarms to motor vehicle accidents, public service among others. Chief had three patrol officers and he himself was out on duty from 5:30 to 7:30 and then he was also out with four officers from 7 to midnight during the storm. They did a great job, everyone worked together and she thanks everyone.

B. **COUNCIL**

Jr. Council – Avia Weber: She said it is a huge week for Saucon. It's actually homecoming week. They started off on Monday with PJ day. Then tomorrow is oversized clothing day. Their events start tomorrow with a community pep rally being held outside and a homecoming football game which is against their rival, Southern Lehigh. The Homecoming Queen will be crowned at the football game and Saturday is the homecoming dance being held outside. Ms. deLeon said everyone be careful and have a great time, but be careful.

Mr. Carocci

- He said regarding some Fire Service issues. There was a piece in the Morning Call which he read, that LSFR put up in Steel City, at the recruitment event. “Reader’s react to LSFR. Recently my husband and I learned that LSFR assumed coverage of our community of Steel City. Not only did LSFR plan for this transition in advance but they did a “Meet and Greet” to introduce themselves and displayed some of their equipment and answered some of our questions. They even provided lunch. Volunteers are sometime hard to come by, so thank you to all of their members for reaching out and serving all of LST. --Colleen and Russ Sutton.” They had a P.S. here saying it would have been more fun with a Bounce House. He said he’s just kidding, he added that, they didn’t say that. It was a great event and well attended. Scott Krycia is here and he’d like him to talk about the Silver Medal the fire company received.

Mr. Krycia thanked Council for helping to have the event at Steel City. They had a wonderful turnout. They had about 45 residents come through. Everybody was really positive and really excited to see what was going on. Everyone was thankful for them and mostly to Council for reaching out to them and not forgetting about them. On behalf of the company, he wants to thank you guys for that. It was a great event. They achieved their Silver Department Award from the State of PA, which means they are fully recognized by the State of PA as having 75% or more of our fire membership which are State certified. They are covering about 89%, but they can never get that 100%, they do try. They are recognized for three years for that process and after three years they will be coming back to Council and getting their input on that and getting recognized again. Thank you for helping them with that. An update on the Relief Association, they have a new President, as Scott Nocek resigned and our new President is Sal Ghazi. Bryan will be remaining Vice-President and George Gress is Treasurer and Ken Janis is their Secretary. They are reorganizing their Relief Association and moving in a new direction.

Mrs. Stauffer said she thinks the exciting thing about this is there can be new volunteers. Have you heard any buzz or had any signups? Mr. Krycia said in the last month and a half they have signed up 7 new members. There are 3 people from Steel City that came on that are working through the process right now. They signed up a bunch of Jr. members and they had two kids from Lehigh come down and sign on. The one gentleman runs with Bushkill Township already and is going to Lehigh and he will run with them while he’s at school and another one came down to fill out an application. He does have three more applications from Steel City members who will be brought up at their meeting in October. Mr. Carocci said the three members from Steel City right now, when Steel City was a fire company, they only had one member who lived in Steel City, so you tripled the amount of members that actually live and can get to the fire station close to their home. Mr. Krycia said once they get those guys trained and hopefully, they acquire the station and everything over there, that will increase the service over there even further. Mr. Carocci said the service has been good. Ty couldn’t make it tonight so he’ll let him speak at the next meeting. He told him that you responded to a couple calls at Steel City with a 6 minute response time total from call to arrival. What a vast improvement that was. In March 2021, there were 14 fire calls made to Steel City and Steel City only responded to three of them, eleven went unresponded to. Ten of those 14 calls were in LST. The three they did respond to, the earliest response time was 40 minutes. One response time was 110 minutes. LSFR is responding in like six minutes now and they’ve turned a dangerous unacceptable situation into exemplary service. Mr. Krycia said last month they had 92 fire calls. It’s the single most fire calls they had in a single month. There were 26 or 27 storm related but the rest was just straight fire calls. They’ve been very busy. Mr. Carocci said thank you and keep up the good work. Mr. Banonis said he said it before, he appreciates all the hard work you do. He speaks on behalf of Council that they would like to do whatever they can and help you get to the Gold status. Mr. Krycia said their open house is October 19th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Leithsville Fire

Station, everyone is welcome. Mr. Carocci said can we put that on the Township website. Mrs. Huhn said sure. Mr. Krycia said yes, throw it up there, the more the merrier.

Mr. Banonis

- He attended the P&R Board meeting on Monday. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to Council revisit the 2012 plans for Easton Road baseball field. There were some modifications and improvements to that field. The baseball organization and SV Diamond Baseball are using that field more regularly. He was out there this afternoon, one is a lower field, which there are only three baseball fields in Saucon Valley, one at Dimmick Park which is used for football during the fall and the other one is the high school which is limited to high school JV and Varsity teams. This field is used quite extensively and they ask we revisit the plan from 2012; and make those improvements. The upper field is not used in any way. It's beautifully mowed. He has pictures and both of the dugouts up there are completely dilapidated and in a terrible state. There are safety hazards and the walls are down, no roofs, and the fencing is in bad shape. We have the open space funds to revisit the plan and do that to make those improvements. They would like to see this happen. They also presented budget estimates to include lighting on that field. It's important for the Spring because of the short days and now we are seeing the days are getting dark by 6:30 p.m. He would ask that Leslie revisit those details from 2012 and some of the approvals put in place with our Township Engineer to make sure what was proposed then remains valid in compliance with construction and ADA requirements so we can try to advance the improvements at that field to make it more usable and also include the details in the budget estimate. Not necessarily the one from the proposed vendor but to look at the details here and it's quite detailed and have a presentation at the next meeting or the meeting after where we can look at the 2012 plan as well as the budget estimate and advance this. It's particularly important to have that field and for the community to have that field and also the residents along Easton Road. They've been highly impacted by warehouses across the street that we have no control over. It would be nice to have an area they could go to without the hustle and bustle of the warehouses. Ms. deLeon said that's great. How did those facilities get dilapidated? Who is watching them? Mrs. Huhn said we just repaired the lower ones that are being used. That field up top is not being used. Ms. deLeon said it doesn't mater, it's a facility and people come there and it gives them an eye sore of LST. Mrs. Huhn said she understands. Mr. Banonis said it's not visible from the road. You have to deliberately go around the fence of the lower field, climb up an embankment to get to that field. The lawn is beautiful but the dugouts are not visible from the road. It's overgrown and the one dugout has a tree growing out of it so it's even more camouflaged. It's not so much an eyesore unless someone purposely goes out and seeks it out. He didn't get the sense that any of the baseball teams or organizations want to use the upper field for playing. Maybe that space can be used for other improvements. He hopes to talk with them and present them with some information from 2012 and hopes it still meets their needs and he will present it at the next Council meeting. In the meantime, he'd like to have the Township Engineer take a look at what was proposed in 2012 along with the budget estimate of the lighting.

Mrs. Stauffer

- The Saucon Valley Conservancy is having their event this weekend, the pumpkin painting and tours. The library will be participating in the Halloween parade and she's looking forward to that.

Mrs. Yerger

- She went to Polk Valley Park on a Saturday morning and as fast as a game was ending, another game was starting and it was packed. It's really nice to see the kids out playing and utilizing the fields and it was amazing how many kids and parents and dogs were there. It was one big busy gigantic area and it was good to see.

Ms. deLeon

- The parade is October 24th. Council will be riding in the parade. The candy donation is October 23rd. Many organizations who throw candy run out half way through. You can drop candy off at the Hellertown Post Office and that will be the refill station. The Hellertown Chamber representatives told you about October 16th at Lost Tavern Brewing. Unfortunately Wednesday, October 13th, the Roundtable, we have a SVP meeting. There's a conflict with that. She wished they would not hold events on nights that municipalities have meetings. October 27th McDonalds is having a fundraiser. October 28th is the Lost Spirits at the Cave.

C. **SOLICITOR** – 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 8:00 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Submitted by:

Leslie Huhn
Township Manager

Sandra B. Yerger
Council President