

**I. OPENING**

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

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

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

- A. Public Hearing – Adoption of Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Update – Resolution #65-2021

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Final Adoption of 2022 Budget – Resolution #64-2021
- B. Resolution #62-2021 – Fixing the General Purpose Tax Levy for 2022
- C. Resolution #63-2021 – Fixing EIT, Real Estate Transfer Tax & Local Services Tax for General Purpose
- D. Discussion of Allocation from ARPA Funds to Hellertown Sportsman Club Located in Lower Saucon Township
- E. Ordinance No. 2021-04 – Police Department DROP Program – Authorize Advertisement
- F. Ordinance No. 2021-05 – Sunset Earned Income Open Space Tax – Authorize Advertisement
- G. Lower Saucon Fire Rescue Update on Consolidation with Steel City Fire Company
- H. Lower Saucon Fire Rescue Services – Discussion of Funding
- I. Old Mill Road Pedestrian Bridge Report
- J. Discussion of Easton Road Ballfield Improvements
- K. Disposal of Expired Ballistic Vests
- L. Approval to Order Replacement of Police Unit #166

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Approval of October 27, 2021 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of October 2021 Financial Reports

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

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

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Landfill Committee: November 18, 2021 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Planning Commission: November 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: November 22, 2021 @ UST @ 6:00 p.m.
- Zoning Hearing Board: November 22, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Township Council: December 1, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Parks & Recreation: December 6, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Saucon Valley Partnership: December 8, 2021 @ LST @ 6:00 p.m.
- Environmental Advisory Council: December 14, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**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**

- Gordon Gress, 2371 Black River Road, said on the top of the hill on 378 and down into Bethlehem Wyandotte, apparently UGI put in a new gas line. The Township patched up the roads really good. UGI did a patch job, but not really that good. The Township on this side did really well. Going down into Bethlehem which is a highway, he's not sure if Lower Saucon has any jurisdiction over that, but it's terrible. We are all going to need realignments on our cars going up there. Don't they have to redo it back to original condition, isn't there something in the rules about that and is there a time limit on it. Attorney Treadwell said we have that kind of requirement for Township roads, but 378 is PennDOT. Mr. Gress so it's up to PennDOT? Ms. deLeon said it's the City, and who knows if the City has the same codes. Attorney Treadwell said it's still a PennDOT road. Mr. Gress said from the City down, they didn't go down that far, they stopped in Lower Saucon. Attorney Treadwell said if he had to guess, and it's just a guess, he can't imagine PennDOT would allow it to be left like that. Maybe it's just a temporary thing until something else happens. Mr. Gress said it's terrible, isn't it. So whatever happens, happens. Chief Barndt said he just read an article tonight that UGI reported they are not going to complete the gas line work this year and it's going to go into next year. The way it's patched is the way it's patched as they are going to continue to dig it up. Mrs. Yerger said thank you Chief.
- Ms. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, 1682 Woodfield, said she was curious to see if Council could look into an issue that's come up in the Landfill Committee. Over the last two meetings, we've had issues with the agenda for the Landfill Committee meetings being posted until hours before the meeting. In October, it occurred and for tomorrow's meeting there is no agenda posted. The last agenda was from October. She's hopeful Council can look into this. Her understanding is that last time she had asked the question at the Committee meeting for the landfill and the response was it's just historically done by the landfill representatives and whenever they got around to posting it, it was posted, so she's hopeful Council can address that issue. Perhaps place a requirement that the agenda should be prepared x amount of hours before the actual meeting time so people can prepare and review the documents. Mrs. Huhn said we've asked them continually to send it as soon as they receive it. She thinks we received it late this afternoon, so it will be posted. We can ask them to send it in as soon as they have it available but we post it when they send it to us. Ms. deLeon said Tom, you are going to attend the meeting tomorrow can you remind them to be a little bit forthcoming....Mr. Carocci said diligent? Ms. deLeon said or whatever word you want to use. Mr. Carocci said he'll ask them to be more diligent and send it as soon as possible.

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING – ADOPTION OF MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – RESOLUTION #65-2021**

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #65-2021 has been advertised for a public hearing to adopt the 2021 update to the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan between Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown Borough and the Saucon Valley School District.

**General Business & Developer Meeting**  
**November 17, 2021**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to open the hearing.  
**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mrs. Huhn said you have the resolution that's been prepared between the three entities, Hellertown Borough, LST and the Saucon Valley School District. Hellertown Borough reviewed the resolution and held their public hearing this past Monday, and they adopted the Comprehensive Plan. The school district is slated to do it hopefully before the end of the year, we don't know exactly what day they will be reviewing it. This has been before the SVP, it has been through the P/C and before Council several times with our Planning Consultant in attendance explaining the update. If Council has any questions we can certainly answer them.

Mr. Banonis said is the Comprehensive Plan as its drafted effected to address the 412 corridor because when we look at the map we have, the Giant seems to be a commercial use and the red area doesn't seem to encompass that. Attorney Treadwell said he looked at this with Brien Kocher at the last staff meeting as they hadn't seen it before and if you look at the red area on the map, that's all in Hellertown. That black line that goes through the red area and continues out and curves around through Leithsville, that's 412. The Giant is actually in the orange area, and the orange area he thinks on the map is medium density residential or some type of thing like that. This map doesn't actually reflect what's out there now and the zoning of the Giant is GB-1. The Comp. Plan shows it as residential, but yet the zoning was changed years ago to GB-1 because of the Giant.

Mr. Kocher said the red dashed line you see on there represents the Hellertown-Lower Saucon border so the red area which is general commercial stops at the Township line, so it is not even reflective of your zoning today; let alone if you'd want to expand it. Attorney Treadwell said in his and Brien's conversation at the staff meeting, it looks like maybe what we should do is extend that red area along both sides of 412 so that the future land use allows for additional commercial use because you would have to guess that in-between the red area of Hellertown and the Giant, that probably gets filled in with more commercial than it would residential. Mrs. Huhn said you actually have commercial there right now with the thrift store.

Mr. Banonis said there's the thrift store, there's an auto body facility garage and it goes all the way down to Apples Church Road. Attorney Treadwell said he would suggest if we have any thoughts of extending commercial and/or GB-1 or GB-2 zoning, we should probably show that in red. Ms. deLeon said how do we change that after everybody's looked at it and it's gone through all the reviews? Attorney Treadwell said we might have to send it back to the LVPC but he doesn't think the red would conflict what their plan shows for that area as their plan basically shows urban something.

Mr. Kocher said it's even broader brushed than this is. That would be a question we pose to them, do they even want to see such a minor revision. Attorney Treadwell said the other area was the area out by you Sandy. Mrs. Huhn said she doesn't think it's blown up enough. Mr. Kocher said are you talking about the 378. Attorney Treadwell said no, Easton Road. The Easton Road area where there's that sliver of land in-between Mockingbird Hill and Ringhoffer where on this Comp. Plan it shows part of it residential and part of it mixed use. Ms. deLeon said Ringhoffer Road? Mrs. Huhn said we're just looking at the line, the people who lived along Easton Road across from the commercial warehouses.

Attorney Treadwell said that area probably should be, instead of partially residential and partially mixed development use, should be all mixed development. Ms. deLeon said didn't we question that when Mr. Pektor was here and he wanted to change the zoning and we had questions about the truck traffic and all that. Attorney Treadwell said absolutely. Ms. deLeon said then why would you want to do that unless somebody else is asking? Attorney Treadwell said nobody else that he knows is asking, but in the future, he thinks what we heard from a lot of the residents that live there, was they

don't want to live across the street from what's across the street. Mrs. Huhn said it's hard for them to sell. Attorney Treadwell said it is hard to sell, and who wants to live across the street?

Ms. deLeon said she doesn't think you are answering her question, mixed use would be commercial or what you see across the street and what's going to happen if on paper you are saying you can do that but in reality Attorney Treadwell said all we're saying with the Comp. Plan is that there's the potential for that. In order to make it happen, you'd have to change the zoning, which at that point you would get into specific details on what would we want to see there. This is the future land use map, so all mixed use designation would do is to say in the future this might be an area for mixed use. Mrs. Huhn said the way the sliver is depicted halfway in the middle of the sliver are those residents who have mixed use and the other residents have residential so if they look at it and say you are able to have mixed use which might make your property more valuable and we're still residential, they can't look at this whole sliver in the same way, apples to apples.

Ms. deLeon said again, her question is a year and a half ago when we were here on Zoom, why didn't we want to do that then? Mrs. Yerger said to your point, she thinks the idea of truck traffic and Hellertown at that time was struggling with it. Mrs. Huhn said was that in discussion of changing the zoning or the Comp. Plan? Mrs. Yerger said zoning. Mrs. Huhn said this doesn't change zoning. Ms. deLeon said but it opens the door to change zoning. Attorney Treadwell said it opens the door for mixed use type stuff which could be little shops, it doesn't have to be what the proposal at the time was, which was some kind of warehouse. It wouldn't necessarily have to be warehouses, you would handle that by changing your zoning. If you changed it to GB-1 or GB-2 you aren't going to get warehouses, you are going to get strip malls or little individual stores or whatever you can do in GB-1 and GB-2 but not necessarily warehouses.

Mr. Banonis said does he have to make a motion to send this back to the consultant to change the map? Attorney Treadwell said yes, if that's what we want to do with the red area or whether we do the sliver or we don't do the sliver. Mr. Kocher said you may also want the consultant to look at the area right around here, but a quick look that didn't look like what they had identified as a commercial area was necessarily reflected as the way you have it zoned now. You have some village in here you have some limited commercial so if you want them to extend it you may want to ask them to at least make that consistent with the way you have this area.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to ask the consultant overall to first address the 412 corridor to expand the area to Apples Church Road to reflect the red commercial that's depicted in the map for consistency as to what's already existing there; to address the Easton Road portion that is not identified as neighborhood mixed use; and to also change or look at the 378 corridor to make it consistent throughout the commercial use as it is now.

Ms. deLeon asked are there monies to have our consultant look at this? Would it be an expense for LST solely? We're asking them to...Mr. Banonis said it's all within LST. Ms. deLeon said she's just saying, what is the additional cost going to be. Mrs. Huhn said she'd have to ask, she would imagine it would be nominal if we can get the GIS files we can color it ourselves. Ms. deLeon said with red crayons, Crayola provided?

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Ms. deLeon said so where does this put us with the hearing, are we going to continue it? Attorney Treadwell said yes, we just make a motion to continue the public hearing so we can come back at one of the December meetings with these changes.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved to continue the hearing to an upcoming meeting with the proposed changes.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Stauffer

Mr. David Boulin, 2023 Alice Drive, said if he wanted to look at this, in your E-Code or something, where would he find these maps. He noticed the inability here to blow them up and show what you are actually talking about, which would have been exceedingly helpful for the public to understand. Ms. deLeon said we can go on the Council tab page and look...Mrs. Huhn said it's on the website under the Partnership. Ms. deLeon said can Diane do that? Mr. Kocher said that's where he got the map he blew up for this evening, so all those maps are on there. Mr. Boulin said so where does he see the 378 corridor there, he's missing something. Attorney Treadwell said he's going to see if we can pull it up. Ms. deLeon said if you go to the Council tab and on the side, it will say Multi-Municipal Plan. Attorney Treadwell said here you go, the red on the left...Mr. Boulin said can we blow it up please. We actually do see that and it is available, is what he hears? Mrs. Huhn said yes. Attorney Treadwell said the red on the left is the 378 corridor. Mr. Boulin said can you point to that. Attorney Treadwell said that's the 378 corridor. The red on the right-hand side is what we were just talking about, that's 412, the red is in Hellertown. We're talking about extending the red out to 412 on both sides of that black line that you see there. Does this show us Easton Road, no. Ms. deLeon said Jason said it would go down to Apples Church Road. Attorney Treadwell said which is the first road that kind of comes in off of that black line. Ms. deLeon said actually that red would extend...Mr. Boulin said do you have a little laser pointer so when we're looking at this we know what you are talking about. Your expertise is clearly more than his on these things. Attorney Treadwell said she has the pointer on the computer. Mr. Boulin said maybe it should be in your hands, whoever is talking at the time. The other question he had, he heard Mr. Treadwell address some of the issues, but has the P/C looked at this. Attorney Treadwell said yes they have. Mr. Boulin said they looked at this and yet there is some, if he understands from your fellow over here on the right, that there are discrepancies between what is actually in this plan or what is shown here and yet the Planning Board has looked at this and given it their blessing. Attorney Treadwell said they looked at it and actually said that Council, the body that actually makes the decisions, should look at extending some of the commercial areas to promote economic development. Mr. Boulin said the little sliver we were talking about, can we drop back and take a quick look at that and then he'll leave it alone. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't know if we have it on this picture. Mr. Kocher said the other two are just zoning maps. Mr. Boulin said that's fine he'll take a look at it separately, he doesn't want to hold you folks up but you sort of gets the impression for what he's looking for during the Council meeting and he knows you people have looked at this in more detail. Thank you. Mr. Banonis said do we have to make a motion to close the hearing? Attorney Treadwell said no to continue the hearing. Mr. Carocci said when we continue the hearing we'll try to get a better map at our next meeting probably.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. FINAL ADOPTION OF 2022 BUDGET – RESOLUTION #64-2021**

Mrs. Yerger said the 2022 Final Budget has been prepared and advertised for adoption. Resolution #64-2021 has been prepared to adopt the budget document. Mrs. Gorman said a couple of things came to our attention after advertising of the proposed one was that our PSATS handles our employment and they are predicting an increase in unemployment costs for next year due to COVID. We received a confirmation of a decrease of medical insurance and that was applied to all the departments across the board. Auditing she had to increase because of the additional Federal funding that might fall within the single audit per Federal funding requirements although she was told by them that if need be we could even use the COVID money to pay for that. The other is that we increased legal expenses due to negotiations next year are going to be with the non-uniformed contract and we are making a position to use our Solicitor for those services as opposed to going to outside counsel. The budget is still the same amount, \$11,765,557.00 in total. General Fund is \$8,458,757.00; Special Fund is \$1,759,800.00; and Capital Fund is \$1,547,000.00. With the changes, it decreases our expenses by \$31,540.00.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved to adopt Resolution #64-2021 Final Adoption of the 2022 Budget as prepared by Cathy.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. RESOLUTION #62-2021 – FIXING THE GENERAL PURPOSE TAX LEVY FOR 2022**

Mrs. Yerger Resolution #62-2021 has been prepared fixing the real estate tax levy for 2022 at 5.14 mill; this includes the tax rate for fire equipment at .75 mills and the general purpose tax rate at 4.39 mills. Mrs. Gorman said this is a standard resolution you have to do every year and it's the same rate as last year.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to approve Resolution #62-2021 fixing the General Purpose Tax Levy for 2022.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. deLeon  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**C. RESOLUTION #63-2021 – FIXING EIT, REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX & LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR GENERAL PURPOSE**

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #63-2021 has been prepared fixing the EIT, Real Estate Transfer Tax and Local Services Tax for 2022. Attorney Treadwell said the Open Space has been removed from the resolution.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved to approve Resolution #63-2021 fixing the EIT, Real Estate Tax Transfer & Local Services Tax for 2022.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**D. DISCUSSION OF ALLOCATION FROM ARPA FUNDS TO HELLERTOWN SPORTSMAN CLUB LOCATED IN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**

Mr. Carocci, said he would like to discuss providing the Hellertown Sportsman Club, located in Lower Saucon Township, as a 501(c)3 of \$3,000 from the Federal money, as they provided access to their facility for continued firearm training for our Police Department through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Barndt explained the services they provided. For the last several years, eight years or a little longer, they have gotten complimentary memberships to the Sportsman's Club for all of their officers to go there any time to do shooting. They permit us to qualify at their indoor range which is great for us as they can go in the middle of winter, it's temperature controlled, they have lights, low lights for dim-light shooting, they do stress shooting, shooting and moving inside; and they do their ballistic shield shooting in there which is a huge benefit to them as they can knock out a lot of training in cold weather and then use the summer time for warmer temperatures. They can go there anytime. If they hire a new officer next month and its ten degrees, he doesn't have to go to the range or our Firearms Officer doesn't have to go to the range and do it outside in the snow, they can go inside. You just make a reservation with the President and they are very welcoming to them. Mr. Carocci said they stayed open under COVID and all that for officers. Chief Barndt said that is correct, they had some strict guidelines that they followed and disinfected when they were done. They did all their shooting there last year. Mr. Carocci said he knows they had some increased costs because of that of heating with energy prices. They also run a tremendous trout fishing tournament for the Hellertown and LST youth, free of charge. Chief Barndt said they've been doing it for a number of years and they've been doing archery leagues. Mr. Carocci said it's a great trout fishing tournament and free of charge, so he'd like to make a motion.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved to approve allocation from the American Relief Fund to the Hellertown Sportsman Club in the amount of \$3,000 from the Township.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

Mr. Banonis said he'd also like to point out that it's a \$100 membership and we have 20 officers per year times 8 years, that's \$16,000 in complimentary membership they provide for the Police department, so this is a small token of appreciation. They've certainly been generous substantially greater than what we are giving to them. He thinks it's a nice gesture. Mr. Carocci said it's a nominal amount, but it's a nice gesture.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mrs. Stauffer said she thinks it's great to be able to do this for local organizations, for now and in the future. Do we have any more clarity as to how we can continue to spend that money? She feels like last time that came up, the guidelines how it could be allocated were not fully flushed out. Mrs. Huhn said they aren't out yet, we are still waiting for the final decision. Mrs. Stauffer said the things we have offered so far, should be fine. Mrs. Huhn said yes, the criteria as they understand, has been put in place. Mrs. Stauffer said is there any clarification as to when we'll have clarity? Mrs. Huhn said she's hoping by the end of the year.

**E. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04 – POLICE DEPARTMENT DROP PROGRAM – AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT**

Mrs. Yerger said Ordinance No. 2021-04 amends and revises the Code of the Township with certain provisions of the Police Pension Plan or program applicable to the police employees by adding certain deferred retirement option provisions and repeals all other ordinances in conflict with the provisions. A public hearing is required for adoption and staff is requesting authorization to advertise for a public hearing. Mrs. Huhn said this is for the advertisement of the DROP ordinance program which was negotiated during the contract. Attorney Treadwell said this was part of the Police contract negotiations, all we're asking you to do tonight is authorize advertisement, we will then have a public hearing. He sees the President of the organization is here and we will get you a copy, so if you have any questions before the public hearing we can work that out as well.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to authorize advertisement for public hearing for DROP Ordinance No. 2021-04.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**F. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05 – SUNSET EARNED INCOME OPEN SPACE TAX – AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT**

Mrs. Yerger said Ordinance No. 2021-05 has been prepared to ratify the expiration of Ordinance No. 2017-01.

Attorney Treadwell said this is an ordinance that will, although the Open Space Tax expires on its own on December 31, 2021, what this ordinance does is it takes the language that's in the Township's Tax Code that refers to the open space tax and removes that language so that anybody looking at our code from the public or anywhere else won't be confused and say well is it still in, it just takes the language out. If at some point in the future Council votes to reinstate the open space tax, we'll just put it back in. Ms. deLeon said it seems forever that we talked about initiating this, doesn't it?

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to authorize advertisement for Ordinance No. 2021-05 – Sunset EIT Open Space Tax.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

G. **LOWER SAUCON FIRE RESCUE UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION WITH STEEL CITY FIRE COMPANY**

Ty Johnson, Fire Chief of Lower Saucon Fire Rescue (LSFR) would like to discuss with Council an update on the merger with Steel City Fire Company (SCFC).

Mr. Johnson said this operation side and the admin side, so Mr. Krycia can go first. Mr. Krycia said he's President of LSFR. They met with SCFC about two weeks ago and had a couple of discussions since then. They signed the lease with SCFC to rent the pole building out. They revised the lease. They are going to let them store a vehicle. They are basically making a space for them in the pole barn.

Attorney Treadwell said that's the existing SCFC property in Steel City, that's what the lease is for. Mr. Krycia said yes. They are going to let them store one of their trucks at their station and then in return they are going to store one of the trucks at their station. To make it legal, they are charging \$1.00 a month, that's fine. They signed and executed the lease and sent them a check and are paid up for a year. They are just waiting to get together to see what they are going to switch around. They had that meeting and it pretty much moved forward. The other thing is they did accept Chris Snyder, Dave Rockstroh and Scott Nocek in as full members in at LSFR. They were voted in and Chris already has been to training. Scott wanted to come tonight, but he had to work late, he's an EMS and they needed people to fill shifts. That's where they are with that, so they are part of their organization now. On the building itself, he's had a couple of conversations with Scott and they put their lawyer, who is Chris Hoffman in touch with SCFC's lawyer and they are working on writing the paperwork up to basically and for them to donate all their assets to LSFR. That's where we are right now. A little bit of progress, once they got voted in, he feels like the log jam kind of opened and they were really agreeable, they said they are part of the team. Sal is here, he's the President of the Relief Association and they did get a lot of the equipment back and it's been taken care of too. Mr. Carocci said that's the equipment titled in the Relief Association's name and they will cooperatively turn it over. Mr. Krycia said yes. They were fine with it. Scott loaded everything in the car and he and Sal went over and picked it up and brought it all over. That vehicle is secured at their 378 station with the equipment in it. Mr. Carocci said the only thing left to do is get all of the property titled or deeded into LSFR and dissolve SCFC so we only have one 501(c)3 was the goal the whole time so we can all work together. Mr. Krycia said correct. Mr. Carocci said he did talk with Chris Snyder on the phone and he assured him as he was concerned about the identity of the SC Fire House, and he assured him just like Southeastern is still Southeastern and Leithsville is still Leithsville. We are not taking your fire station away. We are improving it and it will always be the Steel City Fire House. He hopes you guys can continue down this path and move forward as one Fire Services Company but also with the Township as a teammate, as a partner.

Mr. Johnson said on the operations side, even though they have a lease there, he's not prepared to put an engine there yet as he only has one guy in that community to be able to drive it. Scott Nocek had talked about turning over their newest truck that they have, pretty pronto, and that they could put that truck in service and would open the door to have a few guys over there that can operate the equipment. It takes time to train guys and the more he thought about it, he doesn't want to pull an engine out of a station that he can get four guys on it to move to a station where he can only get one or two. They have some members in the community that are in training and it's going to take some time to evolve, so that's where they stand. They had a call at Steel City proper last night and the crews were there pretty quick and they were just wrapping up a call on the Interstate, so here again, the coverage is excellent. Mr. Carocci said that's great and whatever you think is best, whatever truck is located where is fine with him. He's just more concerned they are all titled and owned and operated by LSFR. Mr. Johnson said yes, as soon as their latest truck they have, it's a 2006 or 2005 Toyne, as long as it checks out with the NFPA standard when they built the truck, we can start working on putting that truck in service once they title it to us. Until then, we can't do anything with it, like he said, Scottie did say he'd like to see that truck back in service in the community ASAP. It sounded pretty promising when we met with him a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Carocci said he hopes

we can get this stuff done hopefully by the end of the year, if not, then by January so we can move on. There are other issues on fire stations, what they need to be brought up to date, even the location of some of them and equipment really put together with a solid five to ten year plan for fire services in the Township. That really can't be started until all this is taken care of. Hopefully it will be taken care of shortly.

Mr. Banonis said did your attorney give you any sense, and he's not suggesting breaching attorney-client privileges, did she give you any sense when she expects the full merger can be completed. Mr. Krycia said she likes to call it a consolidation, but she said she thinks we will have to still go to the Orphans Court and do that paperwork. Once again, it's going to be really stuck on that process at the Orphans Court. She is pushing to get paper ASAP. He talks to their lawyer every Friday. They have a standing phone call and will be talking on Friday again. He wants to keep the momentum going especially around the holiday. We all kind of laid back on the holiday and not really do anything. He wants to keep pushing through as much as possible as he wants to get it done personally. Mr. Carocci said if he has any questions, can we make Linc available to him? Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Krycia said he has no problem with that. Mr. Carocci said what do you think. Attorney Treadwell said he's known Jill for a real long time, and they have a good relationship. If she has any questions, tell her to call.

Ms. deLeon said she'd also like to see your equipment and the next rotation for replacement and all that stuff so we are all on the same page. Mr. Johnson said once we take on our equipment, we are going to have to re-evaluate things and equipment is going to get shuffled around due to manpower, staffing at any particular station, how many calls are in the zone, what kind of specialty piece we think needs to be in that zone. That's yet to be seen until we make sure that the apparatus is up to standards. Mr. Carocci said we'll schedule a Fire Services meeting early next year to discuss all this and bring to Council a plan when it's ready for them to look at and evaluate.

**H. LOWER SAUCON FIRE RESCUE SERVICES – DISCUSSION OF FUNDING**

At the October 27, 2021 Council meeting, Council member Priscilla deLeon requested this subject be placed on this agenda.

Ms. deLeon said we talked about this at the last meeting and giving LSFR money and we were kind of talking that nobody had any information in front of them, so she thought it would be best to put it on the agenda for tonight so we could at least get some background information but today she called Leslie as nothing was really in the packet. If you open your red folder you will see Township policy on contributions for the purchase of new fire equipment and she also asked Leslie if Cathy could tell us the monies available. If she's reading this correctly, No. 3 says Council may approve grant application funding in one year or multi-year payments. We really didn't commit ourselves to one or the other. Could you tell us Cathy how much money is available?

Mrs. Gorman said currently we have \$908,000.00 and we have paid LSFR \$599,913.35 of the \$1,106,775.00 which was 75% of the original purchase price that Council agreed at that time would be our proportion. Ms. deLeon said the balance is, Mrs. Gorman said \$546,861.65. Ms. deLeon said so we definitely have enough money if we wanted to this evening make a payment to LSFR to pay our 75% which would help them offset the interest that they owe, is she correct in thinking that way? Mrs. Gorman said she would assume so if they are allowed to pay off. Mr. Krycia said they are, yes they are. Ms. deLeon said would that help you guys out if we would give you the \$546,861.65? Mr. Krycia said he would think it would help them out but he honestly thinks, and appreciates what she is trying to do, and appreciates what Council is trying to do, but he thinks we should just wait until we have the Steel City thing locked out so that we don't end up not being able to get a truck over there and have a problem. That's our goal to assume that fire company to assume those assets and provide fire protection over there. He would feel more comfortable, he likes to pay his bills off early, but he would feel more comfortable if they just waited until they actually had everything with SCFC locked down. It's not going to affect us interest-wise. Mr. Johnson said we are looking at a couple

of months. Mr. Krycia said we made our payment for this year and our payment for next year isn't due until October. Ms. deLeon said that was her next question. Mr. Krycia said we have some time here. He's not saying they don't need it but we don't need it right now, he'd love to pay it off in one shot. Ms. deLeon said an early Christmas present. Mr. Johnson said we appreciate that. Mr. Krycia said we appreciate that. Mr. Johnson said like Scott said if for some reason we'd have to build a station there, we're not going to be able to foot the bill for that, so that's where that would come in.

Mr. Carocci said that's his concern also. It's just a lease. Leases are broken. It's only for a year and if there is some delay in all of this, we may still have to build a fire station in Steel City. Until we don't have to build a fire station in Steel City, he's hesitant to release large chunks of that money besides the payments we committed to obviously. The other thing he'd say is he know you are going to have some interest charges, but also we did increase the funding by 12.5% this year which is \$125,000 a year and this year because of the consolidation process getting to where it is, there will be no delay in those funds. When you file the necessary paperwork with Cathy, the \$225,000 check will be written to you guys unlike in the years passed when we had merger consolidation requirements before that check has been written. There's no reason you can't get that in early April at the latest, maybe even earlier. You have that and the other thing he'd like to point out, without this consolidation process this Council wouldn't have done what it did this summer. The discussion would be what it was supposed to be and that was what type of truck are we buying SCFC as they were scheduled to get the next truck. That would be the next discussion about what we are going to do with this money in the Fire Services account. Now it is all with you guys, you have it all, we have to spend it on fire services, that's what the tax was for. That's what we spend it on and it's all of yours so when we get SCFC assets and we sit down at a Fire Services meeting and decide what's next, right, you guys might decide, you know what, we want to use some of this money for something else and just give us the regular payment next year and we'll pay the interest as we'd rather have a chunk of this money for something else that is more important or better to provide better services to the Township. Let's leave it open. Revisit it next year when hopefully all of this is resolved, and move forward from there. He's sorry you have to pay a little bit of interest, he really is, but he thinks it's for the best right now. If we can make the full payment next year and you want the full payment made next year, he would be amendable to that.

Ms. deLeon said so we did reduce the fire tax by one-half this last budget we just approved. Mr. Carocci said we reduced it last year. Ms. deLeon said we kept it the same, so kind of knowing what she's hearing now about the possibility of maybe having to build a new fire truck, we are kind of losing out on that money, you are going to disagree with her, and that's fine. That's how it's going to be, it's her opinion. Mr. Carocci said he's fine with the fires services tax at the level it is. If we again, next year get everything in order and put a five to ten year plan together, if that would call for an increase in fire services tax in the future, then he would be amendable to that too, but at this time, for 2022, he thinks the rate is at an appropriate level and we'll bring in an appropriate amount of revenue until we decide and commit to a five to ten year plan for Fire Services. Ms. deLeon said thank you for putting this on the agenda, and at least we have a better idea of what's going on. A lot of this stuff she's not aware of as she's not on the Fire Committee. Mrs. Yerger said thank you for your fine work. Mr. Carocci said especially with this consolidation process, keep working on it. Ms. deLeon said you will have a lot more spare time with your family. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Krycia said thank you.

**I. OLD MILL ROAD PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE REPORT**

Mrs. Huhn said Hanover Engineering conducted a bridge inspection report on the Old Mill Bridge after Tropical Storm Ida and was to report any damage that was sustained. We are aware it had some damage and the flood waters rose to that level. You can see there are some pictures included and on page 3, there's a steel rod laying in the creek that needs to be repaired and replaced. She's just bringing this to your attention that we did have this inspection conducted. Roger and Public Works has reviewed this inspection report and they feel confident that they can do most of the work and they will work closely with her and Brien Kocher coordinating when they can get in the water as

some of the work will have to be done in the water and there are restrictions at certain times of the year to get into the water. She's bringing this to your attention. Unfortunately when it floods, when we have these types of rain and storms, the flood levels do get to this level and unfortunately cause some damage. She and Brien are also working on a report on all of our bridges in the Township and working with Roger on that and putting together a spreadsheet which they will be bringing to you. They might not have the bridge inspected at that time, but at least they can give you bridges they are aware of. Some are bridges you know you are driving over a bridge when you go across it, some are unnamed tributaries and it might be a culvert or pipe and you are not even aware you are crossing water at that section. She wanted to give you this bridge inspection report if you had any questions. Mrs. Yerger said she appreciates it. Ms. deLeon said her one request is the stone work, the Township should follow PennDOT's method of repairing stone bridges as there is a certain way to do it and the County failed to do it and we lost the Meadows Road Bridge so she doesn't want to see this bridge get lost. Mrs. Huhn said they have that report and they will follow it.

Mr. George Gress, 3703 Old Philadelphia Pike, said it's not necessarily about the bridge, but when you look at the packet on the website, the pictures are only in black and white. It's very difficult to see sometimes especially with the bridge pictures. When you look at them in black and white, it's very hard to decipher some of the things that were noted. He doesn't know if what goes on line can be in color. Mrs. Huhn said sure, we can look at that. Mr. Gress said it's just very difficult to look at and decipher. Mrs. Huhn said we can do that.

Ms. deLeon said the other thing she'd like to see happening, these pictures were taken in September 14, probably right around we had those two big torrential storms we had and the Township needs to be a little bit more proactive going around and seeing what the waters do to our bridges. There are things that can be removed, you know what I'm saying. Mrs. Huhn said she does and PW tries to get to everything, but we actually had a road that just floated away so we had to get the road back into order and prioritize those issues but certainly we can ask them to go out and inspect. Ms. deLeon said the pitting on the metal, how do you avoid that, is there a special paint you put on to avoid the pitting and all that stuff. Mr. Kocher said this bridge? Ms. deLeon said yes. Mr. Kocher said this bridge about 20 years ago, somewhere in that vintage, it was epoxy coated and that's the type of paint you use for this. Ms. deLeon said that was appropriately painted is what you are saying? Mr. Kocher said relatively speaking the Township did a major overhaul on that. Ms. deLeon said she remembers, we spent a lot of money. She also knows that his bridge, the underneath part where the wood sits, it's the only bridge in the country and we had a meeting with PennDOT officials three-four years ago, and they were like really impressed with its uniqueness. We got to do what we got to do to save it.

**J. DISCUSSION OF EASTON ROAD BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

Mrs. Yerger said Hanover Engineering has prepared the attached plan based on feedback from the Parks & Recreation Board and the Saucon Valley Sporting groups for discussion with Council.

Mrs. Huhn said you do have a plan in your packet and Diane is bringing it up on the screen. This is a proposal as Mrs. Yerger said based on feedback from P&R Board and the sporting groups who would like to utilize this field. They are really searching for more fields especially with some night playing which is lacking in the SV area. A lot of the fields that have lights are used. She thinks that's what happened this year with the bad weather, games had to be postponed and rescheduled which is taking them into daylight savings time and it's getting darker earlier so that is another reason if we can see to retrofit this field for more usage. Mrs. Yerger said she sees the fields being used a lot and it's good to see them being used and the young people out there playing. She really appreciates that.

Mrs. Huhn said to Brien, we did get some permitting back a number of years ago when we were looking at improving these fields and we can see if some of that permitting can be renewed. Mr. Kocher said we looked at a couple of different options for this site over the years and this

configuration that you have before you gives you the opportunity to get a larger center field which is what the leagues are asking for. They couldn't do that in the configuration it was. This also allows for a better orientation. The NCAA wants these fields located NNE and this gives them to opportunity to get close to that. They have in the past acquired a permit from PennDOT to construct a driveway out on Easton Road but they would have to get that active again. They also at one time got a permit to cross the wetlands and take a driveway out to Mockingbird Hill, and they can look at reviving that permit if the driveway in that location. This is a concept and they'd like Council's blessing on the concept and permission to go ahead and get all the permitting. They will need an NPDES permit for the earthmoving and we will need to revise the PennDOT permit and possibly DEP as they are looking at a driveway, service type driveway to get back to the home plate area. This does not have a third dimension on it. They haven't done the grading yet but they need a blessing on the concept and we can start to put the engineering behind it to make it possible. Mr. Banonis said he thinks it looks great.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to authorize Hanover Engineering to move forward with the next steps for the improvements to the Easton Road Ballfields, pursue the NPDES permit and renew the DEP and PennDOT permits.
- SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**K. DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED BALLISTIC VESTS**

Chief Barndt is requesting permission to dispose of 32 expired Kevlar ballistic vests and Kevlar trauma packs. The vests will be shipped to Fiber Brokers International, LLC in Brent, AL where each vest will be deconstructed and recycled properly. The Township would only be responsible for shipping charges.

Attorney Treadwell said this was on your agenda last time and the District Court asked if we would consider donating it to them. He looked into it and it is not a good idea so the best option for the Township is to dispose of them in this manner. Ms. deLeon said did someone tell them? Mrs. Huhn said she spoke to the District Justice Mege and he understood. He said it doesn't hurt to task. Ms. deLeon said it's either yes or no.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved to approve disposal of expired ballistic vests.
- SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger
- Mr. David Boulin said why it's not apparent to him that they would not be able to have them. Attorney Treadwell said when the Kevlar and the material that makes up the ballistic vests deteriorates over time, so it's not as functional as it was when it was first purchased so you wouldn't want to give it to somebody and they think they are protected and they are not as protected as they think they are. Mr. Boulin said it makes sense.
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**L. APPROVAL TO ORDER REPLACEMENT OF POLICE UNIT #166**

Chief Barndt is requesting approval from Council to purchase a new patrol unit from the 2021 budget to replace patrol Unit #166 which is a 2017 Ford that currently has approximately 77,000 miles on it. Mrs. Huhn said you do have a memo in your packet from the Chief explaining his request. This was budgeted for 2021 and it's late in the year, but it's very difficult for some of these dealers to keep inventory. Chief Barndt said Koch 31 has put one 2021 on hold for them pending approval this evening. They can't keep them on the lost fast enough. They had two budgeted for 2021 and once again they are able to only purchase one. Mrs. Yerger said the amount is \$50,561.00.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to approve ordering replacement of Police Unit #166 at a cost of \$50,561.00.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2021 COUNCIL MINUTES**

Mr. Banonis said he'd like to draw some attention to some comments that were made on pages 2 to 3 lines 26 through 29. We had received a response from Officer Hantz who is here with us today. He had sent this to all Council on October 28, 2021, the day after our last Council meeting. He just thinks this needs to be put on record for today's meeting so the public is aware of it, and so they understand what took place at the meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

This was a memo that was drafted from Lower Saucon Township Police Officer Association's President Jeremy Hantz to LST Council which is regarding Council meeting on October 27, 2021 which said: "Let me begin by offering a reminder that I am addressing Council as the President of the Lower Saucon Township Police Officers Association. I am not addressing Council as a Lower Saucon Township Police Officer. I may reference my job as a police officer because it coincides with the subject matter at hand.

I attended the Lower Saucon Township Council meeting on 10/27/21, as there were Association matters that Council was going to be discussing and voting on. I was there off duty and as the President of the Association. I was in full police uniform, as I was scheduled to start work at 7pm and didn't want to rush to get ready after our Association matters were completed. While I don't agree with every policy, I respect the policies Lower Saucon has established and respect the fact that while in uniform I could not speak as an Association representative at the public meeting. Therefore, I am addressing what was stated about my Association and myself at the meeting through this written documentation.

The first Association matter on the agenda was the collective bargaining agreement for years 2022-2026. We thank you for coming to an agreement with us and appreciate the vote to ratify the CBA at this meeting. The second Association matter was a bonus for police officers that worked during a Pandemic. We thank you and appreciate that we were given such. Especially since Council believed we should get a little extra above what other employees got, with respect to what our job entailed during the Pandemic. It was at that point that some discussion between Council members picked up. It appeared as if Councilwoman DeLeon was attempting to speak for the Police Association, that somehow we felt hostage to settle our contract to receive a bonus. That is simply untrue.

Its collective bargaining and there were hiccups/frustrations along the way, as their normally is during such a process. There was an item the Association really wanted to bargain over and the Township did not, as they believe such item was an inherent management right. That was going to send this contract to arbitration. However, our Association regrouped and checked facts surrounding such item in other police departments. This caused us to change course in pursuing such and Re-approach the Township with an offer, to which was accepted in early October. So how was the Police Association held hostage to accepting the CBA for a bonus? We could understand not getting such a bonus while negotiations were going on for a multitude of reasons.

Vice President Jason Banonis would have intimate knowledge of the process and everything involved, as he volunteered to sit in as the Council representative for negotiations. It was very much appreciated as we did not have Council representation last contract. That is not to knock anyone, if you can't voluntarily serve, then you can't, we understand. In fact, this was the first time in my career, 5 contracts, that we were able to complete the process and come to terms agreed by all parties before the old contract expired. So on behalf of our entire Association, we were happy to complete the process with all parties agreeing upon the benefits set forth in the CBA and not held hostage to accept the terms for a bonus we were never entitled too through our current CBA.

When these wild accusations about our Association were being thrown out into the public, Councilman Carocci whom I know from serving on the Police Chief Search Committee in 2017 and am aware he knows I am the President of the Police Association, turned to me sitting in the Audience

and asked me a direct question that I could answer for the Association members and myself. He asked if I was happy with the contract. I replied Yes sir. He then asked if I was happy with the bonus. I replied Yes sir. Councilwoman DeLeon then made the statement “Oh well I guess you would say anything when your put on the spot”. Let me remind you, I’m in full uniform depicting myself as a Police Officer for Lower Saucon Township. That statement from Councilwoman DeLeon depicts that I have an issue with integrity and could of possibly lied about my answer to a direct question involving my Association. Not only that, that wild statement made to a 13 year veteran of the police department, whom is also the duly elected president of the Association could have unforeseen issues in the future, as it was made at a public meeting, in front of the citizens I protect, volunteer fire service men and women that I protect and serve with, my Police Chief, and my District Magistrate Judge.

We are both supposed to have the best interest of the Township. For Councilwoman DeLeon to question the integrity of a Police Officer so blatantly in public, could have a direct effect on Lower Saucon Township. Part of my job assignments is to testify on behalf of Lower Saucon Township in criminal matters. Part of the defense attorney’s job is to discredit the police officer to help their client. How is it to look in front of a judge or jury when one of my very own elected officials attempts to discredit me and inappropriately questions my integrity when answering a direct question of another councilman truthfully. Based upon the actions/statements of Councilwoman DeLeon, I am now worried that some type of possible liability has been placed upon the Township in the future. Quite frankly, I am disheartened. I have never been shy to express myself or speak for my Association. While it’s impossible to get 100 percent compliance from every member for every association matter, to which is why we are a majority rule with everyone having their own opinion and vote, I guarantee every single member would take great disgust with said comments and back my impeccable integrity when it comes to representing myself and our Association. I can also tell you as the leader of this great organization, I have the insight to report all of my member’s support the CBA, to which is why it was settled and ratified at this meeting. I understand it’s a political season, but no one speaks for our Association except us involved in the organization. We don’t endorse or represent anyone, we are friendly and listen to all, and ask that our Association stopped being used as a pawn in the process by Councilwoman DeLeon and those that agree we were somehow held hostage.

If this document needs to be released to set the record straight since her comments will be included and published in future meeting minutes, so be it. I respectfully ask that Councilwoman DeLeon issue an apology to me at the next Council meeting and rescind her comments related to my integrity and to my Association for misguided views of our Association. Respectfully submitted, Association President Jeremy Hantz”

Mr. Carocci said he’d like that entered into the meeting minutes for this meeting word for word, the entire memo. Mrs. Yerger said that was a motion. Mr. Carocci said if it needs to be a motion. Attorney Treadwell said it doesn’t have to be a motion, we do everything verbatim. Mr. Carocci said the meeting minutes aren’t verbatim. Mrs. Huhn said they are as much as they can.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Stauffer moved for approval of the October 27, 2021 Council minutes, with corrections if needed.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

Mr. Banonis said there have been no corrections as noted, he was just offering that statement to clarify what took place at that meeting and he thinks it was necessary for the public to understand comments that were made and the Police Associations response to it. Ms. deLeon said in respect and response to Jeremy’s letter, she really appreciates his opinion. She’s allowed her opinion. She versed it that night at the meeting and if you read the minutes, the minutes says that “Ms. deLeon said when you are put on the spot you are going to say the right thing”. Your letter did not say that. She stands by her statements she made at the meeting, and she’s comfortable with what she said. She had no disrespect to him, she didn’t mean any disrespect. It’s her opinion. Linc don’t we have the right, the First Amendment right, to say what our opinions are? Attorney Treadwell said yes. Ms.

deLeon said didn't we all in this room, most of us, take an oath to protect the Constitution and serve it and follow it and doesn't the First Amendment right part of it she can give her opinion. Mr. Carocci said he doesn't think anyone is arguing your right of opinion, you have the right to your opinion, he asked for an apology and if you aren't willing to apologize, that's fine too. That's your right and you have a constitutional right to apologize or not to apologize, and that's fine as well. Ms. deLeon said just so we are clear on that. Mr. Carocci said no one is saying you don't have a right to your opinion. No one has ever said that. Ms. deLeon said her statement was incorrect in this email.

Mr. Jeremy Hantz, Police Association President, said you asked him a question, he wasn't prepared to write it down. What he wrote down in his email was what he...Ms. deLeon said your recollection. Mr. Hantz said yes, that also goes to prove the point. Ms. deLeon said that microphone isn't working, go to the other microphone. Mr. Hantz said this will go to prove his point that what you said and what he heard, it pretty much had the same meaning, so what you're doing is what a defense attorney would do to him on the stand to try and get the case tossed. That's why he kept it the same. Mr. Banonis said when you wrote your notes, your comments to us, you didn't have the benefit of transcribed minutes from that meeting, correct? Mr. Hantz said he did not and he didn't get a chance to listen to the audio of that night as he had wrote that email that night. Mr. Banonis said knowing what you know now based upon the transcribed minutes from that meeting, does that change your position in any way. Mr. Hantz said it does not. Ms. deLeon said are we in the courtroom, it sounds like we're in a courtroom. Mr. Banonis said he's just asking him questions. Mrs. Stauffer said there's a motion on the floor. Mrs. Yerger said she knows. We have a motion and a second.

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the October 2021 Financial reports.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

**A. MANAGER – Mrs. Huhn**

➤ She said on the Lower Saucon Bridge, we have had a slight bit of movement. Cathy and Brien had been working with the grant people and that's part of what the process is because it's with a PennDOT grant. The utility lines are posing a problem in getting them moved to keep the project moving forward. They were able to reach out to both Verizon and Service Electric and you got responses from both that at least they are pushing to move this forward, so we're going to keep the momentum going and keep on them, so hopefully that can get resolved and we can get this finalized. Mrs. Yerger said thank you for keeping this moving along. Mr. Kocher said almost all the delays on this are related to the funding stream and we have to get PennDOT's approval from all the departments in the district in order to bid this, something we wouldn't normally do. The last clearance is the utility unit and he has repeatedly asked if we could bid that while we are waiting for that and PennDOT said no. If we got our clearance plan from PPL to de-energize the lines while we set the bridge, the poles aren't in the way, the lines aren't in the way, but they are in the way of the crane. It's a construction issue, it's not a utility relocation. They are going to de-energize the lines, while the crane comes in and sets the new bridge. Service Electric and Verizon are also on those poles and PennDOT said we have to coordinate that instead of PPL coordinated that. We've reached out to them and they haven't been super responsive but he thinks Cathy lit some fire into them and we actually have a field meeting scheduled with them on Friday. We are hoping they make significant progress. When that's done, Council has already been authorized to bid, and as soon as we get the utility clearance, we will advertise and get it out to bid.

Mr. Ty Johnson said would it be any help for the Fire Department to write a letter, maybe trying to move Verizon along and some of these other departments because it does impact

Emergency Response from that station at Southeastern and it's been a long time. He doesn't know if it would help or not but he thought he would throw it out there as it just constantly seems it's pushed off and pushed off. He's sure the PD also experiences the same types of delays. Mrs. Yerger said she thinks it's a great idea. Mr. Johnson said when the bridge was closed, they took a truck from the Southeastern station and went out to Wassergass Road to Easton Road to see how long it takes them to get to Lower Saucon Road and they went down Williams Church and then they took the detour. It's actually quicker to go into Williams Township and come back around. It was like 45 seconds, but 45 seconds sometimes makes a difference. Ms. deLeon said has anybody thought to contact Bob Freeman and Lisa Boscola to see if they can rush things through. Mr. Kocher said they are beyond that and now down to two utilities that really don't answer to anybody and they have to fill out paperwork to send to PennDOT. Mr. Johnson said he can tell you from working on the road crew and the fire side, you have a problem with a Verizon line or a cable line they will not come out. They've literally had to cut them and coil them up on the side of the road to let traffic through. Chief Barndt said Verizon is probably the most difficult utility you are going to work with. He's had battles with them for years with the trees laying over and they will not respond. Mr. Johnson said let us know what you guys need and we can help out. Mrs. Yerger said that's great.

**B. COUNCIL**

**Jr. Council** – Absent

**Mr. Banonis** – No report

**Mr. Carocci**

- He attended the LSA meeting last night. They may go before the P/C for the Creekside Pump Station in January which is good. Ms. deLeon said will they be expanding that. She always knew there were issues with the pump station. Mr. Carocci said he hasn't seen the final plans yet either. The P/C meeting tomorrow has been cancelled due to lack of business. Tomorrow is the Landfill Committee meeting. EAC had a meeting and are looking at possible dates to have an electronics recycling event during 2022.
- He said they lost a former police officer, Ronald "Coach" Jones who was an officer for 27 years has passed away. Mr. Carocci said it seems like he served the community for 27 years. Chief Barndt said he was the first DUI coordinator for Hellertown-Lower Saucon and Freemansburg. He started the DUI program in the Township which is highly recognized here and throughout the County. Mr. Carocci said he was the SV girls' basketball coach as well. Ms. deLeon said she did not know that.

**Mrs. Stauffer** – No report

**Mrs. Yerger** – No report

**Ms. deLeon**

- She attended the LST Historical Society talk and she forgot the name. Mrs. Stauffer said the Hexenkopf rock. Ms. deLeon said he's such a wonderful man and knows so much. Mrs. Yerger said her dad's in that book. Ms. deLeon said she didn't get a chance to look through it yet. Mrs. Yerger said you'll see a young man sitting on top of the Hexenkopf rock. That's her dad. Ms. deLeon said Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, is Light-up Night at Dimmick Park and they will have tons and tons of things to do. It's a great night to spend with your family. On January 9 – 15, the Chamber will have their winter restaurant week. Today she was contacted by a LS resident and she wants to put together a luminary night for December 12<sup>th</sup> to include the Saucon Valley. They are still working on details. She told her she would announce it this evening and to look for more details.
- She called DEP again last night at 10 p.m. as there was a disgusting landfill gas odor that was on her deck and on Sunday she called DEP again. The 16<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup> she called DEP. You're on the Landfill Committee and next time she smells it, can she call your cell phone and you can come over and smell what it smells like. Mr. Carocci said you can call him, and if he's available, he'll come over. Ms. deLeon said she'd appreciate that. Mr. Carocci said does he get a beer if he comes over? Ms. deLeon said how about a flavored seltzer or she can have a beer. Mr.

Carocci said then he'll be over. Ms. deLeon said since our last meeting, on November 9<sup>th</sup> we got Martin and Martin's response, but she wants to read something she finds very offensive. The DEP had sent them a letter with many deficiencies outlined and Martin and Martin said they would do a response. On page 2, DEP said "BLC states that no adverse air impacts to the surrounding community are anticipated. These are potential impacts of odors and dust. BLC should further evaluate and describe the potential impacts form odors and dust. Then they bold their response to DEP's question "as indicated in the Harms/Benefits analysis, BLC acknowledges odors and dust are known potential harms. However, BLC makes every effort to mitigate these potential harms by washing and watering access roads, installing final and temporary capping and expanding the landfill gas collection and control system as needed. Furthermore homes in the general vicinity of the landfill are predominantly to the west of the landfill including the few homes along Skyline Drive and Applebutter Road, and the more remote Steel City community located on the other side of the ridge and to the southeast along Applebutter Road and Ringhoffer Road. As the prevailing winds are from the west and from the northeast, the potential impacts from odors and dust are limited. The proposed Northern Realignment footprint is even further from Applebutter Road and Ringhoffer Road than the previously approved Southern Realignment. She said they just don't get it she guesses. Today as a result of her calling DEP, she did talk to Amy Faulch and she said they were out there on Tuesday and today. Today they did their formal DEP inspection and she said there were high levels of methane escaping through the surface on the northern end of the landfill, closest to Steel City. She doesn't always smell the landfill. There's a section down by Riverside Drive that smell it. When they smell it, she doesn't. It's depending how the wind is blowing. When she opened up the door to let her dog out she can only explain it by hit in the face with the odor. She let her dog out and closed her screen door and she smelled it inside her house and that is unacceptable. Would you please bring that back to your Landfill Committee tomorrow? Mr. Carocci said sure. Ms. deLeon said she would expect our consultants are reviewing this document. Mrs. Huhn said yes. Ms. deLeon said she thought it was a 36 page document, but it's actually only five or seven pages, the rest are attachments, so it's not as bad as she thought it was.

- C. **SOLICITOR** – No report
- D. **ENGINEER** – No report

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for adjournment. The time was 8:01 p.m.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Submitted by:

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Leslie Huhn  
Township Manager

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Sandra B. Yerger  
Council President