

1 **SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING**

2
3 Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2011
4 Time: 7:00 PM
5 Location: Saucon Valley School District
6

7 **A. Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Priscilla deLeon.

8
9 **B. Roll Call** – Priscilla deLeon, Mayor Fluck, Lanita Lum, Glenn Kern, Phil Weber, Cathy Kichline, Jack
10 Cahalan and Tom Harp from the County. Guests: Joe Pampanin, Jim McIntyre, Luciano Iaratola,
11 Stephanie Brown.
12

13 **C. Council of Governments**

14 **1. Minutes of the February Meeting** – Motion by Mayor Fluck for approval of the February 9, 2011
15 minutes; second by Glenn. All in favor.
16

17 **2. Treasurer’s Report** – Jack said the checking account balance as of February 28, 2011 was
18 \$3,870.22. There were no receipts or expenses out of that account. The Treasurer’s report balance
19 as of February 28, 2011 was \$14,095.26. It shows receipts of dues from Hellertown Borough and
20 Lower Saucon Township. Expenses were Valley Voice advertising the 2011 meeting schedule and
21 our annual dues payment to the PA Council of Governments for \$200.00. Motion by Glenn for
22 approval of the Treasurers report, second by Lanita. All in favor.
23

24 **3. Approval to pay bills (if any)** – Jack said there were no bills.
25

26 **D. Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**

27
28 **1. Application for Gaming Funds for Zoning Audits – update** – Priscilla said there were about 32
29 applications submitted for the uncommitted funds. One of the applications at the Township and the
30 Borough was for the zoning audits. The Township and Borough were scheduled to present their
31 applications at the February gaming meeting and they were sent an email saying it was being postponed
32 at this time. When the meeting occurred, they received a letter from Hanover Township for a Right to
33 Know Request for the matrix used in determining who those 16 applications were that made it. At the
34 last meeting they determined that no such thing existed yet as they didn’t determine who won anything
35 yet. They were just having interviews. A sub-committee had been appointed to review the
36 applications. That’s how they scheduled the January and February presentations. One of the members,
37 Chris Bodner, resigned and Stephanie Kovacs was appointed to fill in his sub-committee position.
38 They are now going to be looking at all these applications and determining who is going to come to the
39 top of the list. After it was discussed, she wanted to know from Tom Nolan and Mayor Yob how
40 Freemansburg application got presented at the January meeting and that was for strategic planning for
41 the Borough and what was the criteria used that didn’t include our zoning audit. The Mayor said that
42 we already got too much money and at this last meeting, they reiterated that and Tom Nolan said we
43 should withdraw some of our applications as we had too many in. Lanita said is there anything that
44 says you can only have so many applications in? Priscilla said no, the other members of the Authority
45 said that’s not going to happen as there isn’t any limit on how many applications a municipality can
46 present. Glenn said Freemansburg got the most money in the first round and they weren’t asked to
47 withdraw theirs. Priscilla said right now we are waiting for Stephanie, Tom, and Mayor Yob to look at
48 the applications. They are going to present to us their priority list and rate the applications and rank
49 them. They will present that to the Authority and we’ll go from there. Lanita said the sub-committee
50 of three is now going to re-evaluate all 42 - what the other three former members did? Priscilla said
51 that’s how they came up with the 16, now they are going to re-evaluate them and rank them again using
52 the matrix as they didn’t do that before. Lanita said hasn’t that matrix already been established?
53 Priscilla said she wanted some other things included in it and everyone disagreed with her and said it

1 was too late into the process and we're the people reviewing it and they weren't changing any grant
2 applications, we were just asking to expand what complete meant. Let's look at the grant applications
3 and see what the requirements were and have little check boxes because if you want to know what they
4 were, you could see what the comparisons were. Lanita said it looks to her like they are holding it
5 against us because we got a part of the committed funds. Priscilla said she can't answer that. You can
6 come to our own conclusion. She's just presenting the facts. Lanita said but what about the impact of
7 the casino? Priscilla said uncommitted funds applications do not have to show impact. Uncommitted
8 funds are open to all 38 municipalities. Lanita asked if Freemansburg was also part of the committed
9 funds? Priscilla said absolutely. Lanita said how much money did they get out of the committed funds
10 versus us? Priscilla said they got \$825,000.00. Lanita said how much did we get? Jack said we got a
11 total combined of about \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

12
13 Lanita said her question on the committed funds is, when you look at the map, and the casino, exactly
14 how many people are coming through Freemansburg to get to the casino? Priscilla said they had that in
15 their application and that doesn't count now. The uncommitted funds have nothing to do with impact.
16 Lanita said she finds it very hard to believe there is more impact coming from Freemansburg. Jack said
17 what they tried to avoid was any competition between the five contiguous municipalities. We didn't
18 want to say we are getting more traffic coming to our Borough or to 412 and you're not getting as
19 much. What we all said was we were going to be impacted and if we all met the basic level of traffic
20 impacts, then we should all qualify. He thinks we all got grants except Bethlehem Township; and
21 Hanover Township didn't submit anything.

22
23 Lanita said the people who decide this, is there equal representation in each area? Priscilla said yes,
24 there's a nine member board and there's five people representing the contiguous municipalities and
25 there are four people who are considered at-large representatives. Lanita said something doesn't seem
26 right. She doesn't understand what's going on. Do we need more strength in numbers or do we need
27 more people to write letters? Priscilla said she doesn't know what that answer is. She's trying to be
28 fair because that's why she wanted a fair matrix so that it was more fairly looked at. She asked this at
29 the gaming meeting that if there are people who are going to ask questions why they were denied an
30 application; she wants them to know why they were denied that application. She doesn't know what
31 the answer is. Glenn asked if the matrix was the same for the committed funds? Priscilla said no
32 because we've learned and now we kind of revised it a little bit. The biggest stickler, in her opinion,
33 was that she thought it was very important under completeness to make sure that the governing body
34 had approved the applications that the managers submitted because this is part of our process and she
35 just wants to make sure if she's voting to award one of the municipalities, she wants to make sure the
36 governing body approved it, so they needed to have proof and it was probably not worded as best as it
37 could have been, and in parenthesis, it said resolution. Not every governing body provides a resolution.
38 To her, a resolution is a fancy vote. It's a beautiful piece of paper, it's a resolution. You can't pass it
39 unless there's a vote. If a municipality says we vote to authorize the managers sending a, b, c,
40 application, that's just as strong as a resolution. It's a motion. Some of them didn't have fancy
41 resolutions. That didn't mean they couldn't provide a copy of the minutes. Lanita said they all at least
42 have to vote by their boards. Priscilla said no, she went through all of them. Lanita said were any of
43 those Freemansburg? Priscilla said she doesn't want to say right now. They had their resolutions and
44 we had our resolutions.

45
46 Glenn asked if this matrix that is evolving, is it the intent for the matrix to be the same for both
47 committed and uncommitted funds? Priscilla said it talks about public safety, and there were five
48 things. That ranked a certain number. If you thought that met the criteria in your mind, as everything
49 is subjective and everyone has a different idea, and then that got a higher number and we were
50 supposed to add them all up and give them to the administration and they would add them all together.

1 That's what we did for the restricted monies, and whoever came to the top, that's how we rewarded
2 them. Glenn asked if she was happy with the matrix? Priscilla said no, because she wanted the
3 completeness part of it expanded. They disagreed with her. She spent five minutes trying to explain
4 and tell them she wasn't changing anything. She is adding to it. They said she's changing it. She's
5 taking the words out of the application and putting it in the matrix, just like they did for public safety.
6 Glenn said other than that issue, are they following the matrix? Priscilla said the first time the sub-
7 committee met, in her opinion, no. Then they were told to go back and now Stephanie was added,
8 which was a good thing, and they were supposed to relook at that. They deleted applications that were
9 over a certain amount as we didn't have the dollars. That wouldn't work. They also wanted projects
10 that were going to happen within the year. They couldn't be multi-year even though the application
11 stated if it was going to be multi-year, so it gave you the impression that it could have been multi-year.
12 That part of the application, the matrix is okay. She wants to make sure when they submit a grant
13 application, and this was required, that was required, it should be worth something, and it should be on
14 the matrix. That's just her opinion.
15

16 Lanita asked if there was anyone that oversees this board? Jack said it's an independent authority. It's
17 established to administer the county portion of the gaming funds. Priscilla said like the Lower Saucon
18 Authority. We answer to County Council, ultimately, because they approved our positions. There are
19 certain rules we have to follow under Northampton County for financial things as the money is in their
20 pot. There are certain rules for expenditures. Lanita said is Council aware how this is going? Priscilla
21 said Tom Dietrich is the County Council liaison to the Authority. He started in January and has
22 attended the last two meetings. John Conklin, the Director of Administration, attends sometimes
23 depending on his schedule. Jamie Whalen is part of the administration and she's there. Alicia Karner
24 is the administrator.
25

26 Lanita asked if the County Council should start getting involved? Priscilla said she doesn't know what
27 to say. It's reported in the papers. Jack said the Council can't overrule the decision of the authority.
28 They can appoint people to the authority and provide administrative support, but the decision of the
29 authority is final as far as granting the funds. Priscilla said that's why she is upset that we didn't get
30 the money as that's important to us to get the zoning audit done. Strategic planning is important to
31 Freemansburg, and she's not asking that that be taken away from them, but she was just trying to make
32 an example of where's the logic here. Glenn said there's nothing on the matrix that says you already
33 have this money or you have too many applications? Priscilla said no. Glenn said that needs to be
34 stressed publicly. Priscilla said go on the County website and watch the video. Lanita said there's a
35 positive here and it's that they appointed three additional people to review the applications again.
36 Priscilla said it's two of the same people. Stephanie was the addition. After they were reappointed and
37 assigned to do this, she reiterated her questions. She asked them the same questions she asked in
38 January and the Mayor again told us we had gotten too much money and Tom Nolan said we should
39 withdraw some of our applications.
40

41 Lanita asked why isn't the entire committee evaluating the applications? Priscilla said she asked that
42 also. She wanted to interview all the applicants, but 42 was a little overwhelming. That is a lot of
43 applications. The majority of the authority decided that was the best way to do it. Jack said what's sad
44 about the process, even with the committed funds, was that the five municipal contiguous consortium,
45 is not sticking together on these issues and that's too bad. Phil said we have to see how it plays out and
46 see what the options are when it comes down and there's a point where we should talk about our
47 options. It's every man for themselves, and that's what happens when big dollars are involved. The
48 first idea for dividing the money equally was the best one.
49

1 Lanita said Mayor Yob is the Mayor of Freemansburg and he's sitting on the committee and he's the
2 one saying Lower Saucon already got too much money although he's gotten three times the amount?
3 Priscilla said correct. She resigned her position at the Right to Know officer as it's best to have
4 someone who's there day to day do it. It's not a conflict for her.
5

6 Cathy said she received a phone call out of the blue today from Holly Edinger from the LVEDC, and
7 she informed her that Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township have been awarded an EPA grant for
8 our zoning audit. It seems that although we did not make any formal application, the EPA's Regional
9 Director recommended this and we are one of twelve projects nationwide to receive this funding.
10 There's a sustainable communities program that the EPA has. She gave her a name of Lauren
11 Rosenberg, who Cathy needs to talk to tomorrow. This just happened at 4:30 PM this afternoon. She
12 and Jack are actually going to have a conference call. Glenn asked what's the grant for? Cathy said
13 it's for the zoning audit. Glenn said what exactly is a zoning audit? Jack said it's a side-by-side
14 comparison of Hellertown and Lower Saucon zoning ordinances. One of the things they wanted to do
15 after they adopted the multi-municipal plan was move towards a joint planning. To do that, they need
16 to look at both ordinances to see if there are any inconsistencies or anything that we need to correct or
17 add or revise before we move toward the decision. If you want to go to a Joint Planning Commission,
18 we need both of them to be compatible. Glenn asked what the dollar amount was associated with that?
19 Jack said we got a figure from EPD, who did the multi-municipal plan, and it was about \$12,000.00 to
20 \$15,000.00 and then we upped it a little bit by the time we put in for the gaming. Cathy said we'd have
21 to use EPA's consultant which would be between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00 and that depends on how
22 many meetings we'd want and those types of things. She did indicate they would want to hold those
23 stakeholder meetings at the municipalities, Planning Commission and things like that. She will have
24 more information tomorrow when they have the conference call with Warner. Priscilla said that's good
25 news. Someone said if we accept that and they go through with their consultants, is the decision
26 binding then? Cathy said she doesn't think so. She thinks it's recommendations. Jack said it would
27 come back for recommendation to the Planning Commission and then you would make the
28 recommendation to the Council. Someone said the money sounds nice or is this more an
29 encouragement to do something they want us to do that we might not want to? Jack said local zoning
30 ordinances don't seem to be under EPA's area of concern. Priscilla said if you go back to our multi-
31 municipal plan, it gave a list of future endeavors and this was part of it. This was the next step to see if
32 we wanted to go together on the zoning.
33

34 Someone asked if Hellertown is already doing the zoning? Jack said the Borough received funding to
35 update their zoning ordinance. Phil said what they are going to do it look at Lower Saucon's zoning
36 and see the needs and then look at Hellertown and say, okay, Hellertown should have these types of
37 zoning and Lower Saucon should have these types so we're not complicating them. Jack said speaking
38 for his Council, they would want to look at who the consultant is also. If there are any changes to the
39 zoning ordinance, that's a sensitive issue in the Township. Cathy said she doesn't think they are the
40 ones to do any content changes, per se. It's more of a study and recommendations that we would take
41 back to our respective governing boards to make a decision and move forward. Glenn said it would be
42 interesting to research how we got on the radar and the story behind that. Jack said he thinks Charlie
43 may have been in touch with them. We've been talking about it at every meeting. Cathy said in the
44 email from Lauren Rosenberg saying they heard about the Lower Saucon-Hellertown joint venture and
45 did they think it was something that should be researched.
46

- 47 2. **Joint Meeting of Planning Commissions – April 12, 2011** – Jack said this will be the fifth or
48 sixth meeting of the joint planning commissions. It will be at Hellertown Borough. It's very good
49 as we do some updates on some significant changes that have happened. The Managers usually
50 give an update on some of the things that have happened. Both groups talk about issues that have a

1 regional impact. There have been a couple of those over the last year or so. It's a very good
2 meeting.

3
4 **E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

5
6 **1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority- update** – Priscilla said we already talked
7 about the casino.

8
9 Jack said it's coming up to the time of the year, when we did the traffic counts for the casino. The
10 previous time all five municipalities did it. The casino had opened, and it was just before the table
11 games came in last July. We included that data with our restricted funds applications last August.
12 We felt that it showed there was impact to all of us from the traffic from the casino. The question
13 is do we want to continue to do this? He doesn't know if it is something that is still significant. He
14 knows the other applicants did not do any traffic studies. Phil asked what the cost was? Jack said
15 for Hellertown, they did Cherry Lane and 412, and it was \$3,000.00 or under. The Township did
16 Route 378 and Puggy Lane, and Hickory Hill and Bingen, but they also added Creek Road and one
17 other road. Their price was a little bit higher. Freemansburg did two or three intersections. The
18 three of us did it the last time. Hanover Engineering did the counts. Phil said his personal opinion
19 is its good for Hellertown to keep track of what's going on. Whether we make it public or not, no
20 one needs to know that. It's our thing, but we need to show every year what's going on. The very
21 first study, the casino was not technically opened, and they were running those practice games.
22 There was a day or two that was packed with traffic that normally wouldn't have been there. It
23 should have happened totally before anything happened. Everyone told him it was a mess in town
24 that day. His personal opinion is that we need to keep track of those numbers year to year whether
25 we use them or not. Priscilla said as a Council person, she agrees with him. As an authority
26 member, no one is going to change the requirement for approving impact, and to her, transportation
27 is a big one, especially since the initial study for the casino they had a traffic study and they do talk
28 about us and Hellertown and the roads that people are going to take to the casino. She doesn't
29 know how you would document the fact that you have impacts, so if anyone questions the
30 application, the information is in there. Mayor Fluck said if we do a study again, we should do
31 Cherry Lane again. Phil said we should do it because every year we get the same data, the same
32 week, the same timeframe. If you keep changing it, you aren't going to have any idea. It makes the
33 most sense to do the same streets we did before. If you want to add one, he doesn't have a problem
34 with it. Priscilla said they said everyone is going to be coming to the casinos either through
35 Bethlehem Township or Freemansburg or I-78. That's not true as she tried to say if they are
36 coming from Philadelphia, how do you get to I-78? That runs east and west, so you are going to
37 have to come in through 412 or 378. Jack said maybe you can talk to the Borough Engineer and he
38 can make some recommendations. He will bring it to his Council and Cathy can bring it to her
39 Council.

40
41 Lanita asked who the Solicitor was for the gaming authority? Priscilla said Scott Alison from
42 Tallman Hudders, and Graham Simmons. Lanita asked who the Solicitor for Freemansburg was?
43 Priscilla said Larry Fox.

44
45 **2. Joint COG Projects (Saucon Rail Trail; Joint Recreation Study Committee) – update**

46
47 **Saucon Rail Trail** – Jack said in the Lower Saucon Township portion the fencing is up as well as
48 the gates and bollards. Public Works was out grading and rolling our section. We are lined up to
49 do two of our crossings and we are coordinating with Hellertown on the surface. Cathy said for
50 Hellertown's end of it, the kiosk done by the Boy Scout was presented and accepted. He's got

1 some staining to do and put a lock on it. He said it would be done in about two weeks at which
2 point they can put a map up and some additional information regarding the rail trail. The two
3 crossings at Water and Walnut Street will start on March 21, weather-permitting. They are still
4 waiting for the bid to move the guardrail and some fencing. Tom should probably have that by
5 tomorrow. They are doing some prep work right now. The Girl Scouts are also getting the garden
6 ready. Jack said the good news is that Upper Saucon Township did give us a draft copy of the
7 inter-governmental agreement. They've been working on it for quite some time. That is being
8 looked at by the Solicitors in the Township and the Borough and we hope to have that concluded so
9 we can have a signed agreement between all four municipalities by the time the trail opens up.
10 Glenn asked about the surface? Jack said they have another recommendation that Roger and Tom
11 are working on which would not employ any of the slag material and they are going to put down a
12 test patch around the Grist Mill so everyone can take a look at it. If we go with that, it's a crush
13 crete variety and it will even be cheaper. The slag is very little cost and we are going to put
14 screenings on top of that, which would have had a cost on it. This product, the way they grade it
15 and rolled the stones, they said it's so firm that you don't really need 5" of material. They can put
16 down 2" or 3" and you can have a really nice surface. They are going to experiment with that and
17 have everyone take a look at it. They can literally put this one down in a week and do Hellertown
18 and Lower Saucon and once that is down, if everything else is in place, it can be opened. The other
19 news is that Upper Saucon is planning a ribbon cutting on May 14th and we told them we would try
20 to coordinate something with them. Mayor Fluck said the market opens up on May 1st and they are
21 looking forward to the trail as they think it's going to give them more access to the people walking
22 the trail, right next to the market. Hopefully, some portion of Hellertown's is open by that time.

23
24 **Joint Recreation Study Committee** – Jack said this is kicking off this month. At our last meeting,
25 Samantha Holbert, the Peer Consultant, was introduced to everyone. The DCNR assigned her and
26 we did get a grant to pay for her services for about two to three years. She can work with us and
27 the committee that's been appointed. The first meeting is next Monday, March 14th at the school
28 district in the Audion room. She'll be laying it all out to us at the first meeting. Phil said he said
29 something to the baseball and soccer people and they may attend the meeting. Jack said
30 Hellertown-Lower Saucon Little League and soccer were invited to the meeting and they have been
31 invited at least five or six times. They had very little turnout. Gail Nolf made some calls to get
32 people come out. There's a standing invitation to every sport. Cathy said she did give Samantha
33 the contact information for everybody, soccer, baseball, football, etc. Phil said if the sports teams
34 want something from Hellertown, they are going to have to come to the meetings. We are doing it
35 for them. Every time they come and ask for something, they need to come to these meetings.
36 Priscilla said that's how we're doing it. Lanita said in addition to Bob Frey, Charlie Bartolet and
37 Mike Karabin are going to start attending, and possibly Sandra Miller. Jack said is that official?
38 Cathy said let's just say it's in an email she saw today. Priscilla said that's good, because at the
39 last meeting Samantha was questioning who had the authority for the school.

40
41 3. **Road & Traffic (Route 78 Median Barriers; Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP**
42 **application – update:**

43
44 **Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP application** – Jack said he reported at the last meeting,
45 that Jim Milot from Hanover Engineering did go to PennDOT and expressed some of the concerns,
46 particularly about the stopped traffic in front of McDonald's, that Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Iaratola
47 had brought up at a previous meeting. He asked them if they could move the stop bar back and
48 PennDOT said no. What they did suggest is he could move the pedestrian crossing forward. That
49 will allow him to move the stop bar 8' forward from where it was on the plan. That will mean that
50 those two or three cars that would have been stopped in front of the entrance will be 8' forward and

1 that should relieve the problem of the blocked entrance and exit. There will also be a sign that will
2 say "Do Not Block Exits or Entrances" that will be placed along the road. To address Mr.
3 Iaratola's concerns, Jim went back and redid the radius of the curb and came up with five
4 additional feet which he feels will address your concerns about maneuvering on your property. He
5 had the measurements for your rollback and said that will allow him to get in and out of the fenced
6 area. He met with the Borough Solicitor, Mike Corriere who was going to check on the right-of-
7 way on the shopping center side. They are ready to do another resubmission with those changes
8 incorporated in there. Mr. Iaratola said he can't park his cars there anymore if they do that.
9 Priscilla said she thought his concern was the fence? Jack said that was addressed. The owner said
10 right in front of the fence, he parks cars right now. It's the only spot he can unload the cars. Jack
11 said the plans aren't drawn up yet, but when he does have them drawn up, they will share that with
12 everyone. Hopefully, this will take care of everything. These are just minor changes.

- 13
- 14 4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem – update** – Jack said they have to check on this.
15 There was no update as far as he knows.
- 16
- 17 5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center – update** – Jack said its shut down now and due to open April
18 29th. All of the grinding has been done. Phil said it was opened the weekend before and it's all
19 cleaned up. They have new crushed stone down. Cathy said it's open on March 26th. She has an
20 email from Charlie that the total tonnage for 2010, combined it was 202 tons that was mulched and
21 available. Jack said Charlie has a drawing that he left for both of us on how to measure it. Jack
22 said we opened on several Saturdays in the winter. The weather was a lot better two years ago and
23 people were still raking and wanted to get a head start. They opened it in January for the Christmas
24 trees and they extended it. The mulch is there and the staff will be operating. If someone wants to
25 take a truckload of mulch and load it themselves, that is fine. Phil said he believes the backhoe
26 goes out later on. Mayor Fluck said this was discussed before. If he doesn't have a truck and he
27 hires someone like Andy's Flower Shop, and he's a resident. He can't go out there with that truck?
28 Jack said they did discuss that at the last yard waste committee and that's something they have to
29 go back to. Phil said he thought they decided that if a resident went with them, it was okay. Mayor
30 Fluck said he personally drove the truck and he wasn't allowed to dump. Phil said there were a lot
31 of commercial people who dumped there, and that's not what it was intended for. Cathy said is it
32 specifically dumping we have to work on? Jack said what we need to do is let the staff know.
33
- 34 6. **Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts – update** – Jack said he doesn't have any updates. Cathy
35 said there is a meeting with the elected officials and the Managers. She will email it out tomorrow.
36
- 37 7. **Fire Services – update** – Jack said the Chiefs are continuing to meet on operational issues with the
38 merger/consolidation and the administrative staff: presidents and treasurers continue to meet. What
39 they decided at the last meeting based on what they were voicing to us was the fire companies said
40 they wanted to see a plan on how this merger/consolidation is going to look in two years, five
41 years, and ten years. They are working on putting together a draft of that plan that they hope they
42 can give to the fire companies this summer and they can take it back to the memberships and take a
43 vote on whether they want to proceed with the merger/consolidation or not. Than that plan,
44 hopefully by the end of this year, will be shared with the Borough and Township Councils to let
45 you know what the plan is and see if you want to support it or if you have some concerns with it.
46 There are a lot of things out there that are being worked on by the Chiefs and also by the
47 administrative side and they are going to try to pull some of this together so people have something
48 they can look at and decide whether they like it or not. The next meeting is March 23rd. Priscilla
49 said she was asked by a resident, and didn't know how to answer the question, when Se-Wy-Co
50 took over Leithsville, we found out about it after the fact, as a Lower Saucon Township Council. Is

1 that something they should have brought to us before it happened so we would have known? Jack
2 said they weren't required to and he found out about it the morning after the meeting. They did
3 come in and they alerted everyone that they had made the decision. He has heard at several of the
4 meetings that there has been some criticism that no one knew about it before hand. The other fire
5 companies were a little bit put out because they were not told about it. They felt they were
6 working as a group and then they found this out. The guys from Leithsville came to these meetings
7 and explained very honestly why they made this decision, why they had to make the decision and
8 they explained the timing issue. Phil said everyone is having a problem because of how they did it.
9 Nothing is changing and all of a sudden their fire trucks are 18 now instead of 61. Jack said he also
10 heard rumors that people thought that the trucks were moved up to Se-Wy-Co. Phil said he can tell
11 you they are no longer being dispatched as Leithsville, but being dispatched as Se-Wy-Co. That
12 was never discussed at the Chief's meeting. What they said was everything was going to remain
13 the same, and they were just taking over the administrative part of Leithsville. Priscilla said now
14 they are spending money to put on new decals. Phil said he knows County is dispatching it instead
15 of 61, 41, or 1831. Jack said he heard at a meeting they were going to be talking to the County
16 about call numbers. Phil said he thinks everyone understands Leithsville needed some help. That's
17 not an issue. It's just the way information flows and they say one thing and turn around and do
18 another thing. Priscilla said this is our way of looking at them as a team building and that probably
19 wasn't team building. This is a prelude on how they are going to operate as a team when they are
20 merged. Jack said the fire companies have been very sensitive all along about not discussing their
21 problems in public. They don't want to talk about the fact that they are down people and may not
22 have enough people to respond to a fire call. They want to be seen by the public as an effective fire
23 unit. Leithsville was apparently reluctant to talk about the fact that they had 8 guys who were
24 doing everything for the fire company. They were responding to fires. The secretary was also
25 acting as the treasurer. They were strapped. They talked about where they called everyone they
26 could think of who was a member and pleaded with them to fill these administrative position and
27 they said that's it. That made the decision very abruptly and that may have been due to the guys in
28 charge of the company. They hit the wall and said that's it and they made the phone call to Se-Wy-
29 Co. Could they have done it better? Probably, but that's how they did it. Priscilla said she didn't
30 quite know how to answer the resident. She knows over the years, and she's not positive about
31 this, but there might be a resolution that we may be required to adopt by the code. She doesn't
32 know if we passed a new resolution. Jack said right now they formed a partnership and he hasn't
33 gotten any documents from them. They came to Council to give you an update. Priscilla said if
34 County is dispatching and we didn't do something on our end like passing a resolution to make it
35 official, and they are being dispatched. Phil said you don't know if it's true or not. Jack said he
36 can check into that. Priscilla said make sure what we are required to have as a municipal body.
37 Lanita said doesn't the Township contribute to each of the fire companies? Priscilla said yes,
38 \$50,000.00 to each of them a year. Lanita said how much, roughly, does that make up of their
39 budget? Jack said they have budgets they submit to the Township. It wasn't a financial issue in
40 Leithsville that caused this. Lanita said her point is if the Township and the taxpayers have a
41 vested interest in these different fire companies, at the very least, our elected officials should be
42 given a heads up when things are going to change like this. Jack said he agrees. It should have
43 been done and it wasn't done. Leithsville is going to maintain the fire house. The trucks are going
44 to be there and they will be responding from that fire house. Phil said as far as the operational part
45 of this, it works like a clock. Lanita said the regionalization efforts, if they can get them together,
46 it's going to be great. As a municipality, the Council and elected officials, they really should have
47 the courtesy to let you know. Priscilla said the \$50,000.00 is supposed to cover their insurance and
48 things like that. Glenn said another perspective on the issue is that we've been supporting
49 consolidation as a Council, and they went ahead and did it. Communication would be good, but in
50 perspective, these guys are volunteers and they are busting their humps and are not schooled in

1 public relations. Maybe they will now from this point on to have better communication. That's not
2 what they are in the business of. They are in the business of fighting fires. They didn't
3 communicate well on this, but that's not what they do. Lanita said they are still getting money
4 from the Township and there's still an amount of accountability and at least let them know what
5 they are doing. Priscilla said when Se-Wy-Co disbanded their ambulance, they came to Council
6 and told them they were having problems.
7

8 **8. Library Task Force – update** – Jack said the Task Force started meeting. They had members
9 from the Township and the Borough and Hellertown Library. They have a really good group. They
10 had two meetings so far and are meeting on the second Thursday of the month. They meet
11 tomorrow night at Lower Saucon Township. They broke into several committees who are looking
12 at various aspects of library operations, finance, building, technology, demographics and starting to
13 pull some good data together. The meetings are attracting some members of the public. They set
14 up on the web page of the Township all the information about the Task Force, the minutes of the
15 meeting and they also set up an email link that the public can email the Township and tell us what
16 they think of the consolidation of library services. Joe said he is part of the building committee and
17 they had their sub-committee meeting and have already started collecting data on what a new
18 building or addition would look like on the combination.

19 **9. Leithsville Act 537 Plan – update** – Jack said no update from the Lower Saucon Authority. The
20 next plan is going to be a new route and they are still working on it.
21

22 **10. Other Issues** –
23

- 24 • Priscilla said she talked about Phoebe the last time and the Planning Commission voted no
25 to not recommend the zoning amendment. It hasn't come before Council yet. It hasn't
26 been put on the agenda. Jack said the information that has been given to us has been
27 posted on the Township website.
28

29 **G. County Report – Tom Harp**

- 30 • Tom said earlier this morning, County EMS issued a warning about the potential for flooding, both
31 late tomorrow and into Friday. They expect between 2" and 3" of rain to hit the area and already
32 the tributaries are pretty swollen. They are going to get hit first and then downstream.
- 33 • Tom said the Gracedale saga continues. The next round is the County Executive is appealing a
34 judgment by Judge Baratta as far as the Home Rule Charter and whether or not the petition for the
35 referendum is fixed within what is allowed and what is in the Charter. That is going to go to an
36 appellate court out in Harrisburg and we'll be hearing about the decision there whether or not it
37 goes on the ballot. That's the latest there. There are petitions with Bernie O'Hare and Ron Angle.
38 Priscilla said if it does pass the next Court, what ballot would it be on? Tom said in May. The
39 deadline has already passed and the Elections Commission has already approved the ballot, so it
40 will be on the ballot unless the appellate court rules that it's not a referendum issue. Lanita said if
41 you are a registered independent, you can't vote on that? Tom said he doesn't know how that
42 works. He never even thought about that. The Patch reporter said yes, you can if it's a
43 referendum.
- 44 • Tom said Jack was at their joint meeting of the COGs and municipalities at Forks Township. It
45 was a lengthy meeting, but very informative. Jack said Mr. Lysak mentioned the economic
46 conditions and the green movement and said people are starting to bury their loved ones in their
47 backyards. You are allowed to do it as long as you report the death to the proper authorities. He
48 wanted to make sure we checked our zoning ordinances. Tom said he knows some of the points
49 Mr. Lysak made. He's been the County Coroner for 20 years and when he first started, his office
50 got about 300 calls a year. Now they average about 2,000 calls a year. The crime scene

1 investigations have become so technical and the average is six to eight hours to investigate the
2 crime scene for an unexpected death. He said one out of four of these cases goes to an attorney.
3 The threshold has been raised so high, just to do gun powder analysis, \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 for
4 each one. He did mention they have some new equipment which is \$175,000.00. It's a new 3D
5 laser scanner which he talked about. It's used regionally. They basically bring this into a room
6 and set it up and in 20 minutes it will scan an entire room and get all the dimensions and 3D
7 pictures. That's been very helpful to be as accurate as possible. He did say it has the CSI affect
8 and how it makes it more difficult as they only have an hour or so in court to do a case. It's very
9 slow and tedious. He talked about the municipalities that they take over a crime scene and family
10 members want to get into their loved one, but you can't contaminate the scene. It's a tough
11 situation. He maintained somewhat of a sense of a humor and it's a tough job. It was quite
12 interesting for everyone who was there.

- 13 • Tom said they talked about the census data that's just come out. They showed Philadelphia's
14 population went up .6%. They showed Allentown's population and it went up 10.7% in the census.
15 Cathy said Hellertown's went up 22 people. The final participation in the census was 81% which
16 is compared to 77% for Pennsylvania and 74% nationally. Pennsylvania did quite well. We were
17 the fifth highest in the participation rate. At least, we got out there and tried to get a good count.
- 18 • Tom said there is a Pictometry class being offered by our GIS division in the County. He's not
19 sure if Hellertown or Lower Saucon has it. Hopefully, you are able to use it. Cathy said they just
20 got theirs yesterday. Tom said if there are any problems with it, contact Joe Laky from their GIS
21 division and that should be fine. Cathy said they need the program yet.
- 22 • Tom said next month, April, is National County Government month. This year's theme is serving
23 our veterans, armed forces and their families. They are going to be highlighting all the services in
24 the County for the veterans and our members of the Armed Services. The kick-off is Friday, April
25 1st. At 10:00 AM, they will be having a press conference. The Veterans Administration will be on
26 site at the Courthouse and you will be able to find out about their services.
- 27 • Tom said he mentioned last time about the Miracle League which is a new league we are forming
28 in Northampton County for kids with disabilities. They are building a field at Palmer Township at
29 the Chrin Fields and hope to have it opened by next May. It's probably going to be at least a
30 \$100,000.00 to build the fields and have all the necessary amenities. They will be starting their
31 capital campaign soon and fundraising. If you have friends or family with children with disabilities,
32 they may want to join this effort and get involved. Lanita said there's another one in Lehigh
33 County, was it privately funded? Tom said yes, and this one will be also. They are not using tax
34 dollars to do this. It's all through fundraising. They are going to be after some big donors. The
35 field Lehigh County built is all the way up in Weisenberg Township. For parents of kids in
36 Northampton, that's a 30-mile drive. They thought for years and felt they really needed to have a
37 field in this county. It's going to be a beautiful facility. They will get support from Majestic
38 Apparel, the Philadelphia Phillies and the Iron Pigs. It has a synthetic surface so kids with
39 wheelchairs can go on the fields. It's a really nice thing for the County to have.
- 40 • Priscilla said the County Solid Waste Plan that Tom Dittmar was working on, has that been
41 approved yet? Tom said the DEP is looking it over and reviewing it in its entirety. Jack said they
42 asked for a 30-day extension. Jack said that Tom D. said there will be another meeting of the
43 committee.
- 44 • Tom said he gave the Township all the information for the recycling events. Tom D. mentioned
45 that the Easton one, which is in May, they are going to be able to take refrigerators, air
46 conditioners, as they will have the ability to handle those units.

48 H. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items

- 49 • Stephanie Brown said the last Lower Saucon Township meeting, an issue came up regarding the
50 Township's student council program. Mr. Maxfield has some ideas for changing it. Back in the

1 1991 school year, she did the same thing as the school board and sat as a student rep which she
2 doesn't think the school board does anymore. Lanita said they are starting that up again. Stephanie
3 said she's glad to hear that. She doesn't think the Borough has any type of program. Jack said
4 they do have the same Junior Council Member program as the Township has. He told Stephanie
5 they are not changing the program. What Mr. Maxfield was talking about is giving more
6 opportunities to the Jr. Council Members in addition to them attending meetings. He has to
7 identify those opportunities like additional training and other types of opportunities for them. That
8 would be in addition to what they are doing now. Stephanie said somebody has experience in that
9 type of position, she'd like to see positive changes for the whole program and she's hoping that
10 maybe we could have one of your student reps come to these meetings. Nobody comes to these
11 meetings. There are a lot of positive changes that can be made. She remembers sitting on the
12 school board, and she felt lost in that position. She sat through five years of Township meetings
13 and she is seeing different students come and go in these junior council positions. She sees some
14 really great kids come through and sees some just sit there. She sees kids that don't stay through
15 the whole meeting. She didn't know Hellertown had a program and with the school district
16 bringing it back on board, maybe as a partnership, this could come back to the partnership. Jack
17 said Council will make the decision about making any changes to the Jr. Council member program.
18 All he is doing is coming back with some recommendations for additional opportunities for the Jr.
19 Council person. Priscilla said coming and attending the Partnership meetings, we only get so many
20 applicants and we usually match them up with their choice. Cathy said she thinks that's great, we
21 need students like that. Priscilla said this is more. This is students in action as we are all
22 partnering together, where you don't get that at a Council meeting. Glenn said it could be another
23 opportunity to get a liaison for the SVP. Jack said we have a list with Planning Commission, EAC,
24 Parks and Recreation, Council and we could add the SVP. He has a description for the Jr. Council
25 members and it outlines what the duties are. Stephanie said she was thinking once you select their
26 Jr. Council members, ask them to come to one SVP meeting. There are just so many possibilities
27 with this program. The biggest she sees is lack of leadership and mentors for the students.
28 Priscilla said she's been here 24 years and she doesn't think we've had two Council meetings the
29 same as there are new issues and new things. She would be supportive of putting the SVP as
30 another group in which students could apply. We'd have to wait for Jack's report to see what other
31 opportunities are available and go with that.

- Stephanie Brown asked if Tom Harp got to speak to someone about the Meadows Road Bridge?
Tom said he spoke to Tom Kohler about it and there were no plans on doing any major renovations
at this time. Stephanie said she thought there was a need for a drainage system on the bridge. Tom
said they said they put in a 2-1/2 inch pipe last October. He will give Stephanie a call. Jack said
the County has bigger problems with the Seidersville Road bridge that they had to close. Priscilla
said she heard some city residents were complaining about it.

39 **I. Events Calendar**

40 <http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

- Priscilla said April 8th; the Hellertown-Lower Chamber of Commerce will be honoring Charlie
Luthar at 5:30 PM at Se-Wy-Co. The tickets are \$50.00 a person. There are three choices for
dinner. Jack said Mary Himmelberger from the Chamber said there would be something coming
out about the dinner.
- Priscilla said May 7th is Saucon Valley History Day. The three historical organizations will be
having History Day from 9 AM to 1 PM.

49 **J. Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn Glenn. Second by Lanita. All in favor. The time was 8:40 PM.

- 1 K. **Next meeting: April 13th @ Hellertown Borough; May 11th at Lower Saucon Township**