

## SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2009  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Hellertown Borough

- A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by Chair, Glenn Kern, on April 8, 2009 at 7:03 PM at Hellertown Borough.
- B. **Roll Call: Present:** Glenn Kern, Chair; Priscilla deLeon, Jane Balum, Mayor Richard Fluck, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar. **Guest:** John Stoffa and Tom Harp from the County. **Absent:** Ed Inghrim, Susan Baxter
- C. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes of March 2009 Minutes:** No quorum - will be approved next month.
  2. **Treasurer's Report** - Jack said there are copies of the Treasurer's Reports, but we can't approve them either without a quorum.
  3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** - Jack said there was a bill from EPD and we cannot approve payment for that.
- D. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**
1. **Comp Plan Update & Schedule - Discussion**

Jack handed out a copy the revised draft of the comprehensive plan that was done by EPD. There have been some changes made to this. Carolyn has added some new photos, like barns and the Leithsville Hotel. We should now have only pictures of the Saucon Valley. What Carolyn has done here is to address item by item, the memorandum that Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) gave to us. The items that had to be addressed are in the front part of our comprehensive plan. The back part is going to be the appendices that are going to take up some space. In those appendices are going to be many, many reports that have been done by the Borough and the Township covering transportation, recreation, open space, and other natural resources. That's a lot of work that has been done and it is referenced to the front portion of the comp plan. LVPC has asked us to reference this in the front part and they were looking for other data on population trends, transportation and on infrastructure. That has been done and there are about ten to fifteen more pages. He can go down them item by item and let you know briefly what was added to each one.

Jack said the first one is on page 1-4. What was added here was some population numbers that typically are in comprehensive plans. It shows the census figures in Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township from 1900 and it moves all the way up to the 2000 census. There's a 2007 estimate and a forecast for 2010 and 2020 and 2030. That is something they wanted to see in there, and that has been included. Charlie said he doesn't believe some of the numbers are right. Some of the townhouses that have gone in are changing these trends and he thinks the number will be higher. The thing that was raised was you had all worked on coming up with numbers based on the amount of acreage that was going to be developed. Our guess was where it was going was better, although it was not pinned down by years like this. This was an easy fix to give them – just give them their data back. Jack said this is from the LVPC. Glenn said no increases based on LVPC? Charlie said yes. Glenn said didn't we do an extrapolation ourselves, and what did that show? Charlie said the total for the two was like 22,000. He doesn't remember the Hellertown one; maybe it was a hundred or so.

Jack said one of the things we also did was the school district is part of the COG partnership, and they have been working along with us, and this is important to them also as it gives them an idea of where the school population is going to go at the Saucon Valley High School. That whole page, 1-5, it's a build out analysis and the first step is to calculate the mass land and it's indicated on there what can potentially be developed. They have two scenarios that are indicated there. It's existing zoning, and another scenario is an alternative future land use diagram and it gives you the results of the two scenarios. Charlie said the school age population is in there, it's like 3,400 versus 2,500.

Jack said on page 1-7, at the top, the first paragraph, and it says copies of recent planning efforts as completed by the communities and the recommendations associated with various park opportunities can be found on the Comprehensive Plan's Appendix. This is connecting the front part of the plan with the Dimmick Park and Township open space plans that are in the appendices. Priscilla said this is what they wanted us to do. Jack said yes, they wanted us to connect the two, and that's what we did.

Jack said page 1-8, under the Business Community and Economic Development section they added a little verbiage that states that based on the business analysis completed as part of this planning effort a series of questions arose for careful consideration throughout the comp plan discussions and for consideration as for economic strategy development in years to come and then they have the questions underneath that.

Jack said the next change is 1-15, at the bottom. This starts out at 1-15 and continues onto pages 1-16 and 1-17. It adds land use areas for LVPC purposes. These were categorized and we have not spent a lot of time discussing. If someone does have an issue with the way any of them are labeled, Carolyn has indicated we can make a change later on. Charlie said the LVPC was critical of this report when it was issued. Some of these things are very minor changes. Mike Kaiser is very positive on the COG and he helped steer this latest correction to make sure we do the right things, get the plan approved, as it's something he wanted to so, and then we move on. Priscilla said we need to make sure to address what they are concerned about. Charlie said on the next page, there's an issue on housing types that Jennie was talking about. It says we're going to continue to see a variety of housing types. LVPC would like us to address how we will encourage the development of more affordable housing. Jack said one of the things we caught in their latest newsletter was a reference to an exclusionary zoning guide. Priscilla said you can say it all you want and think you are covering it and doing the best you can, and you can say we want to put a smaller house there, so it's more affordable, but it doesn't mean the developer is going to build it. She didn't know how to answer that. Jack said if it's not mandatory and they aren't going to make any money doing it, then they aren't going to do it. Priscilla said who owns the property is the bottom line.

Jack said the top of page 1-18, continues the housing discussion that Charlie had mentioned.

Jack said on page 1-19, there's just a couple of minor word additions in the second paragraph where there are words added - "evaluating the feasibility, and as appropriate". They thought that would enhance that paragraph.

Jack said there's a map on page 1-20, that used to read "Future Land Use", and now it reads "Future Land Use and Housing Plan".

Jack said on page 1-21, at the bottom of the page there is a new paragraph added there as the LVPC wanted us to refer to the natural resource studies that the township had done. There's a whole paragraph there that talks about the work that was done by the township with these studies, including the comprehensive recreational open space plan, the open space action plan, the mini open space plan, and it says that copies of these plans can be found in the comprehensive plans appendix. This continues over to page 1-22.

Jack said on page 1-26, top of the page, they have some information on infrastructure, and this is a whole new paragraph. We were asked to talk some more about the infrastructure and later on

you'll see there's a lot of information that was provided from both the township authority and the borough authority. This is a whole paragraph that talks about the general direction and what the goals are for both of these and having them work with us on future pursuits. Priscilla said if you read about the municipal service boundary, we try to keep all any of our developable land within this border so that no new sewer can be extended unless it was in this area. That doesn't cover private. A developer outside of that border could essentially put a sewer system in outside that boundary. That wasn't what we were talking about all these months. A developer can, if he has the money, do what he wants. Glenn said that's different, it's not a public sewer they are putting in. This addresses the public sewer component. Priscilla said she wasn't hearing that at any of these meetings and no one ever said private/public. It was always the theory of the municipal service boundary and when the words hit the page, it was just public. That doesn't cover the private ones that pop up, which could be built, and that bothered her.

Jack said on page 1-29, at the top of the page, they put one word in that paragraph – “existing” -. The second paragraph is all brand new. It talks about as time, funding and cooperation permits, the communities should explore and complete studies which can provide a more comprehensive level of information regarding existing detailed traffic and transportation information. This gets into some of the items that are on our list to do, but it will cost money if we want to do it and hire consultants to do it. Priscilla said you are talking impact fees? Jack said that it could lead to impact fees, but to get to that point, we'd have to do baseline studies and come up with all the traffic counts and all the engineering data in order to justify adopting an impact fee. Priscilla said that's why we discussed all this back when it first came out and she's guessing 1990. It was going to cost us more money and we wouldn't get the money back. We'd be spending it and it just didn't make sense when they were talking impact fees. Jack said that wasn't a priority of our group, and we didn't spend a lot of time in the comp plan on it and it doesn't take up a lot of room as far as the action plan. Comp plans that LVPC normally review have something in there about action steps concerning transportation, so we put that in there just to address the issue. Charlie said the Borough Council actually did put some money in their 2009 budget for a traffic study for the Act 209 this year, even more than the impact fees. The other thing we'll need it for is the casinos as we'll need that baseline. There's going to be a grant process forming.

Jack said on page 1-38, one of the things we had heard at the Fire Services meeting, some of the issues they are confronting, not only here but state wide, and probably nationwide as well are a lack of volunteers, recruitment, retention, etc. We also have been talking about equipment issues, since the cost for a fire truck is \$600,000 and that is something we are all wrestling with. We've been meeting with them and one of the things we didn't get around to doing was to put some action items down for future work with them. We are working on these issues parallel to the comp plan. We have contacted DCED and they have agreed to assign a facilitator to our group so we can work through and hopefully get where we want to go with the group. We wanted to put something into plan, so at the bottom half of page 1-38 and top of page 1-39, there are some bulleted items listed that were included for the emergency services group. We did hand this out and discussed at their last meeting on April 2, 2009.

Jack said page 1-42, the first paragraph, they added at the end “in accordance with the communities defined planning strategies and the PA Municipalities Planning Code, the Comprehensive Plan, as illustrated on the following page, provides a graphic representation integrating each of the Plan's individual key components”. Hopefully, this will get us a couple of more points.

Jack said on page 3-15 to 3-28, regarding the transportation and the infrastructure, this is all new. We had asked the authorities to give us information about their respective systems and operations and what they are responsible for maintaining and they each gave us a lot of background data. Its interesting reading and is in there so the LVPC can see it. Charlie said there's a lot of information on the authorities.

Jack said that's basically it. At the end, there are some transportation and level of service projections which start on page 3-22. This is the data they wanted to see in our report. It doesn't

do anything for us, but that's what they like to see. Charlie said Hellertown had twelve traffic studies.

Jack said the LVPC will now review this revised draft. We dropped it off at their office today and the forty-five days will run until May 25. We will also be sending copies out to the surrounding municipalities and the school districts. We probably won't get any comments from any of them as we didn't get any comments from the first go around. The City of Bethlehem will get another copy. They did give us some comments and maybe they'll do the same again. By May 25, we hope to get the letter back from the LVPC and then we will look forward to June 10<sup>th</sup> Partnership meeting which is at the school district for the big joint meeting where Carolyn and AJ will be there. We'll put all of this up on the screen and will do a run through for everyone, answer any questions. If that goes well and everybody is satisfied, then it moves to the Councils in Hellertown and in Lower Saucon and to the school board. We thought it might be a good idea to get the Planning Commission's together, so next week on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the township there will be a joint planning commission meeting with the borough and the township representatives. We will be reviewing some of this information with them and they also have a couple of joint topics they want to discuss. It's an open meeting, and has been advertised. It's at 7:00 PM. There's a lot of good feeling out of the last meeting and things they can do to work together. Charlie said all of the information was basically there.

## **E. Brief Report and Discussion Items**

- 1. Casino Impacts Funding - update** - Jack said a quick update, as of now, all of the five municipalities have given John Stoffa recommendations and endorsements. The nominated representatives are: Bethlehem Township – Tom Nolan, Commissioner; Freemansburg – Mayor Yob; Lower Saucon Township – Priscilla deLeon, Council member; Hanover Township – Jay Finnegan, Township Manager; and for Hellertown Borough it is Stephanie Kovacs. This has been passed on to John Stoffa. Mr. Stoffa said he passed it on to County Council. Tom Harp said there's going to be some consternation about the geographic representation. Priscilla said this committee that is going to meet and give a recommendation to the Council, have other people from other municipalities applied? Mr. Stoffa said yes and he steered them back to you folks. He said go through your municipalities. The municipalities are giving him the recommendations. From what he's been hearing throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the money is pouring in. Pouring out of Atlantic City and pouring in here. They are not traveling to New Jersey anymore; they are staying closer to here. They have every machine set up in such way that they know how much action there was on a daily basis. It's really remarkable technology. We found out we would get paid every month, our share, whatever the money would be. It would be quarterly as to what the county is going to get. Stay tuned, it's going to be interesting.

Jack asked Mr. Stoffa to talk about the gaming revenue authority that has been formed, how do you think that's going to operate. Mr. Stoffa said it's called the Gaming and Redevelopment Authority. It cites an act, the Economic Development Financing Law, and we already have a General Purpose Authority and an Industrial Development Authority on the county level. The Solicitor for the Industrial Development Authority just sent a letter out stating that that's the law we operate under – this economic development financing law. He doesn't know how it's going to get settled as there are so many differences of opinions. Glenn said they think there's no need for a gaming committee because they think it would come under them? John said they think they could do it because they do economic development and the gaming thing was either for an economic development or redevelopment authority. They are in the process of setting up this new gaming and redevelopment authority. It may have given them powers that they had already given to someone else. Glenn said that has to be worked out. Jack said if someone went to court and they could claim that the new gaming authority has no authority as it's already vested in the other pre-existing county authorities. Priscilla said are you talking about the gaming one? Jack said they could say the gaming authority has no legal standing because the authority that they are claiming already rests with the general purpose authority or the industrial authority, and that could be interesting. Mr. Stoffa said he hopes it doesn't hold up your money and from the beginning they wanted to make it as simple as possible and non-political. When we made that

suggestion about 60% of the money going to the municipalities, there was another 40% that was competitive. At least if you knew what kind of money was coming in, you could buy a police car, it just makes sense. Priscilla said that's the consensus. She is representing us because she believes in that. Mr. Stoffa said the gaming law was twisted to satisfy the Lehigh Valley and when it was twisted, there wasn't enough thought given to it. Priscilla said they hurt both counties with the revenue sharing deal than if they would have followed the law. Luckily we got the word "contiguous" in as it wasn't going to be in the language. We said that's ridiculous, we're going to get the impact, so that got thrown in there at the last minute. Mr. Stoffa said he always has trouble with people seeing the logic. Like people coming into Hellertown on 378, you can't tell me Hellertown isn't going to be affected but are they going to come through Bangor? Priscilla said we had a meeting at the Dewey Fire Company that was a couple of months before the casino hearings. We looked at the ridiculous document they had on line. If the average person, like herself, could find holes in it, and the experts we had, there were pages and pages of deficiencies which still weren't addressed. Where are these other municipalities? We were the ones that went to the hearings. Mr. Stoffa said if you don't watch what your government does, it could eventually hurt you and work against what you are trying to do. It's going to be interesting. We sent your resume over today and they should all be discussed next Wednesday in terms of what they are going to do. He's not going to contact the City of Bethlehem. Everybody who was submitted by the municipalities is over there with the exception of Bethlehem. The term for the appointment was undetermined and he didn't want to fool with that as he didn't want to appoint you to one year, two years, three years – let Council decide that. He didn't set those responsibilities. Someone said what would those responsibilities be if you are a designated representative? John said you can oversee up to \$2 million per year or more. Jack said it's up to the authority to come up with that and establish the rules. Mr. Stoffa said they have this in the county already because of the hotel tax. We have a process in place for that. There's no staffing for this new authority, no solicitor. We did set up in our budget, four different line items and one, we are taking five percent off the top per municipality because you are going to have to hire somebody and you are going to need an attorney, someone will have to do minutes. Even for the first meeting, he doesn't know who is going to call it, who is going to take minutes. Our solicitor's office can loan a solicitor for that first meeting. Priscilla said the expenditures for this authority, will come out of the gaming money or county money? John said it would come out of the 5% off the top of whatever the percentage we are getting from the gaming money. Maybe it's too high, but we wanted to do it right before it started rather than six months down the road. Maybe 3% would be enough, but we did 5% just to get it in our budget. Priscilla said she knows how successful this partnership is because we have Jack and Charlie here. They do the minutes. We all wear many different hats and she thinks the success of this is because we have paid staff during the day to do this. Mr. Stoffa said as Tom can tell you, to have some kind of formula for success, someone has to be doing the work. Priscilla said any volunteer organizations she's with, it's hard to keep up with. You just can't do it. Jack said after the authority is organized, how are you going to disburse the money? He assumes that they will look to the solicitor and ask him to look at the gaming law. The solicitor who attended Mr. Stoffa's County Gaming Impacts Committee meetings reported back that there is no formula in the gaming laws governing the county's disbursement of the gaming revenues. Priscilla said is there a legal opinion on that? Jack said the solicitor, Jill Mancini, reported that there is nothing in the law that says this is the way it has to be disbursed to the municipalities other than giving us priority for the funding. Therefore, our 60%/40% proposal is ready to be considered by this authority. Priscilla said he's supporting what the four of us know. Jack said what he is saying is there is nothing in the law that says this is how the money has to be divvied up. Glenn said down the road, the 60/40 may end up being something different. Jack said there is a formula and its 60%/40% and the 40% is 20%/20% if you look at the fine print. Glenn said 60% for contiguous, then there's 40% left. Priscilla said the 60% gets split five ways. Glenn said of the 40%, we can apply for additional monies through a grant. Mr. Stoffa said the City of Bethlehem may apply, so there may be six. Jack said the second thing you can look at is how do the municipalities apply for these grants? What is the grant application? That was also brought up at Mr. Stoffa's committee and the solicitor said there is no definition in the gaming law describing the grant application. We submitted a recommendation for a grant application. It was simple. It basically said that the money was going to be used for impacts from the casino. It's not a full blown grant process. We don't have to hire anybody to do it. The five way split - we submit an application, spread it out five ways and you get it every year. Glenn said from the county perspective, they don't

have to hire anyone to analyze anything. Mr. Stoffa said what he didn't want was to open it up to backdoor politics. You support this, I'll support that.

Mayor Fluck asked who was on the committee from Freemansburg? Charlie said Mayor Yob. He's not on it yet, but plans to be on it. On our committee would be Mayor Fluck, Priscilla deLeon, Stephanie Kovacs, Jay Finnegan from Hanover Township, and Tom Nolan the Commissioner from Bethlehem Township. Mr. Stoffa is on there, the County Controller and Ann McHale, the County Council President. Priscilla said they say it's not balanced right. If each of the people that represent somebody, we are all together and you can't change geography. Mr. Stoffa said he lives in Allen Township and a bunch of those folks live in Bethlehem. There's a lot to work out and he hopes it can all be worked out without fighting, annoyance, etc.

Jack said the other thing about our five municipalities, is there has a lot mentioned that the four agree but the fifth one doesn't. Actually all five of us agree on the 60%. Bethlehem Township agrees on the 60/40 split, but what they don't agree on is what we do with the 60%. There's been a lot of press saying we are fighting, but we really are not. Priscilla said at the previous meetings, the impact statements on the website, talked about the way it's coming in and the percentages. That was all spelled out in those reports and when the city approved that plan, they should have taken into consideration access points, and the percentage of things, so those should already have been spelled out somewhere. So, Bethlehem Township to come in and say they want it based on population, that isn't how any of the impact statements were done. It wasn't done by the City of Bethlehem based on population, it was done based on the impacts to roads and services based on the number of people using the casino, not the population in the communities. Charlie said at the last manager's meeting in Freemansburg, Tom Nolan relented a bit and said he didn't really have a problem with signing an agreement for a limited period of time. When you saw the intergovernmental agreement come through, it was for a two year term, and then it would be reopened again. It sounded like he was perfectly fine with it. Priscilla said we talked about all these different scenarios when we met earlier. We tried to cover all the bases. Mr. Stoffa said stick to your guns. Jack said do you think it would be a good idea to have a meeting of our group with the representatives? Mr. Stoffa said absolutely. You would need five or more for a quorum. Jack said originally the manager's might want to get together and then have the representatives also attend, but that's a problem because they are not appointed yet. Charlie said there was a general consensus at the last meeting that two years was okay. Jack said on the other hand, we don't want to get into something that gets upset after two years, and then we are at square one again. Charlie said it may work out. Priscilla said all the traffic that is going to the casino is diluted. You can be going to other places too. Mr. Stoffa said right now we don't know what the impacts will be. Nobody knows for sure. Certainly you know there are going to be a lot more people coming. Priscilla said this other part of the money that the County will get in addition to the 60/40 stuff, it's other money you get, then that will help with the other county services for impacts, prisons, whatever? Mr. Stoffa said from our gaming committee, he has learned a lot of things – that 3% to 4% of all the people who gamble will be coming and travel 50 miles. Gambling is doing well despite the economy – not everybody is poor. A lot of people like to gamble. Priscilla said when you talked to the different elected officials, were you asking them to change the state law and the contract between the City of Bethlehem and Allentown? Mr. Stoffa said he had talked to Kurt Derr at Senator Boscola's office, and he wanted them to reconsider that they didn't address third class counties from what we could charge – where would we get the money to fund that? We did it with first and second class counties, but for some reason, they left out third class counties, which we are. He asked if they could reopen that bill so we could do what first and second class counties could do and they said no, they wouldn't do that. It was a struggle. How do we set this up? How do we get staff? How do we get a solicitor? Where are we going to store the files? Are we going to have an address? Are we going to have a post office box? Where's the mail going to go to? Who is going to have the email? There are a lot of things that have to be settled. Who is going to do the audit? Does that fall into the County's Auditor or is that different? There are so many questions that need to be answered. Priscilla said its Brown and Boscola that came up with the agreement – it will be interesting.

The representatives thanked Mr. Stoffa for stopping by. He said he likes COGs. They are just going to get stronger and stronger and some day he can see a county fire company, a county ambulance.

2. **Joint COG Projects** - Charlie said Roger and Tom are getting together on paving for this season. Jack said we usually talk about the rails to trails. We had a meeting of all four communities. The SEPTA line runs north and south, and Hellertown, Upper Saucon, Lower Saucon and Coopersburg, and about a year ago, SEPTA agreed to talk to us about a lease. At that time, they discovered they could make money by selling the rails, so they've been willing to discuss with us a thirty year lease with the trail. We've been meeting with them and been talking to their legal department trying to get a lease agreement that we can bring back to the Council's. That will take a little bit of time as there are a lot of structures on the rail, old bridges, culverts, things like that as the last train that ran through there was in 1981. Most of the bridges were from 1917 and he doesn't think they were maintained much after that. We were concerned that we would be responsible for these structures, but we worked it out that SEPTA is responsible for those structures. We are going to maintain the surface for people to walk, bike, cross country ski on in the winter time. We are hoping to get a response back from the meeting we had. If we can get it back some time in May, we'd like to bring it before the Councils so we can all sign the lease. Then we have to scramble to get everything in place because people are already discovering the trail. People are down there with ATV's, etc. Glenn said some kids went down there and threw railroad ties into the creek. It looked like pickup sticks in the creek. We had to get them out immediately. Priscilla said we need to get some signs that are appropriate. Jack said they are in the process of removing some of the hazardous equipment. The trail will stop up at Bachman Street in Hellertown, and then there's a part that's not open as it belongs to Norfolk Southern and is leased to the concrete company. We are going to see if we can make that connection. Charlie said the city has mentioned in their comprehensive plan that they would like to see if they can get it open. There's a bridge on High Street that's an old, one lane wooden bridge. We've met with the city as the bridge is actually in the city. One of the solutions that Norfolk Southern is suggesting is to fill in the gorge to about 12 inches of grade and then let Bethlehem build a bridge. That would cut off the trail.
3. **Traffic - Polk Valley Road/Walnut Street Intersections; Speed Limits on Apple, Skibo & Friedensville Roads; School Zones** - Jack said they sent an application into PennDOT and haven't heard anything back. We sent in all the updates on the ADA ramps that were requested. We are waiting approval from PennDOT for that signal at Polk Valley Road. Someone said McDonald's isn't an issue anymore? Jack said we had invited them in with the other business that was on the westside of the street. The Springhill Shopping Center has been working with us and the other two dropped out and said they are not interested, so whatever impacts it creates with the traffic light and the turning lane, it's between McDonalds and PennDOT. Charlie said McIntyre from McDonald's called him because he wanted to know what was going on. They are aware of this going on and they are concerned what it might do to their business. They might cooperate or they are going to decide to litigate. Charlie thinks it's to their advantage with Polk Valley Park and all those kids up there. Jack said it is his understanding that left turns out of McDonald's were not permitted by the Borough ZHB. Priscilla said what are they going to do? Mayor Fluck said he thinks they will come on board right at the end. They are going to have to. Charlie said Walnut Street; we are having problems with the handicapped ramps. We've now today, gotten a meeting commitment with Tom Walters. They are going to be here on April 21 to talk to us about the problems. We are trying to tell PennDOT we can't necessarily put the ramps in like they have done at Polk Valley Road, because we don't have the real estate to do it. There is resurfacing on 412 and the arch is going to be torn down this weekend. They are going to resurface 412 from now, slightly north of Cherry Lane to Herbert Street, which is in the township. It's a \$4.3 million project. They are going to give the start notice on June 15 and will probably begin near the end of July. PennDOT will not share their design. PennDOT is now starting to look at pedestrian safety signs. There are some good things. It's in a real rush. The Borough Authority is trying to fix eleven water valves before PennDOT resurfaces it. The work will be done at night, so there may be an issue with our noise ordinances? We have general nuisance ordinances, but he gathers when Jim Sigworth was here, they had decibel readers and tried to abandon it as there was nobody qualified to do it. He sent this to them. We are going to have to bring it back to Council if they are going to be grinding and rumbling at night. Doing it at night is about the only way to do it. They can't block driveways for more than 20 minutes without notifying. Someone said did we ever get a firm amount of parking spaces we are going to lose up at the north end of town? Charlie said they did not settle yet on what this is going to look like. They settled on 3, then it

went to 22, and then back to 12, and then it went to limbo somewhere. There's also going to be a modification on the corner of Cherry Lane where they are going to have to take a sidewalk away. The other thing that is going to happen with resurfacing going back to Walnut Street - we can sit and do nothing on the ramps because PennDOT is going to come back and resurface and put doorknocker notices on people's residences and say your handicap ramp is no longer legal because it's the old design. If you agree, sign on the dotted line, as we only need to get on your property. PennDOT is going to fix all those curbs. They get about 5% of people who don't sign. They are going to write them a letter and tell them if you don't do it, you are going to have liability for everything that happens with that ramp. Theoretically, with Walnut Street, we could just sit and wait, but we don't want to do that. We want to try to resolve that. The project is supposed to be done October 30<sup>th</sup>. They are going to mill it 2" and then resurface it 2". They have to work all around the traffic. They will start the end of July, beginning of August. Once they pick a contractor, there are going to be meetings down here. He had a resident come by and thanked the township and the borough for working on the speed limits on Apple Street. He was very, very happy with it. Glenn said he notices one of the first streets to be paved in the City of Bethlehem was Hayes Street which goes up to Mountain Drive, which is the one we were trying to discourage traffic on. Someone else must be trying to encourage traffic to come down there. Jack said the rest of Mountain Drive is in pretty bad shape. Charlie said one other thing - the school zones - we did submit jointly a plan for the school district for school safety zones. Wally Zimpfer from the school district did traffic counts and we consolidated that and took it to Joe Rauscher and we should be seeing what we have to do there for school safety.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem - update** - Charlie said we haven't heard anything from the city. They are still trying to name their Director and as soon as we hear anything from that, we'll give an update.
5. **Hellertown - Lower Saucon Compost Center - update** - Jack said the Compost Center opens April 17. We're in our third season. We had a meeting of the Yard Waste Recycling Committee and Charlie reported the numbers are up and growing steadily. There are more people using it. We want to make the compost available to the public, so we discussed some procedures for the residents. We are looking into considering whether we want to load it with the heavy equipment like they do in the City of Bethlehem. He and Charlie are concerned about safety. If you've ever been at the City's center, it's chaos in there. We want to look at the safety procedures. Mr. Stoffa said did you have any compost left over? Jack said they are trying to get something out to let people know there is compost available. Once people know that, we'll probably have a big demand. We probably could make more mulch, but we don't have the equipment up there now. We're looking into acquiring it, but we came to the conclusion to not buy a grinder as it's a big expense and it would sit there probably 80% to 90% of the time. We spoke to Tom Dittmar about that and said if the County could own it and maintain it, it would be great. DEP, they literally give that equipment to you by paying 90% of the cost, and he thinks if the County owned it, stored it and maintained it and then it can be taken around to all the various sites which are all popping up. Each municipality has space and the economical use of it would be better if it was shared. Lehigh County does that. They have equipment like that; it's a truck and is on wheels. They take it to various places and then it moves on. We are doing mulch now, but it's not the quality that Bethlehem does. There's a whole formula you can follow. It's not the garden compost you can buy. It's a good quality and people like it. It has also been reported that fencing is going to be put up. Charlie said it has to be totally enclosed. Jack said there is a bigger sign going up there.
6. **Tax Reassessment - update** - Jack said this is something on Act 32 which is coming soon. Charlie said Cathy Gorman and Tina Krasnansky attended a seminar at Lafayette College and were introduced to the Act 32 and the consolidation of the taxing authorities ending up with 69 of them in the state. Jack said 560 to 69. Charlie said Tina summarized a couple of things they heard there and mentioned collaborative efforts. There's also other information he will hand out on Northampton County tax collection districts and who is all in them; information on EIT. Charlie said what Tina and Cathy have come up with is it's going to be based pretty much on population. This is another thing the township and borough will come together on. Instead of having a population of 11,000 or 5,000, we'd have a population of about 16,000. Maybe there's an inter-municipal agreement that can be formed. He thinks

that is what the two of them were kicking around. There's another handout with FAQ's. Jack said July 1<sup>st</sup> we will start forming up a committee. Charlie said by that time, we'd like to have a better understanding. Jack said by November 15<sup>th</sup>, we have to name the representatives to the tax collection committee. Charlie said it's going to take awhile to do that and we should think about it. Priscilla said who do the other counties use? Charlie said some are independent. Berkheimer has a lot of clients. Priscilla said why does this say Saucon Valley and includes the City of Bethlehem, Lower Saucon and Hellertown? Charlie said a portion of Bethlehem is included in the Saucon Valley School District. Jack said when they talked about the PURTA site, isn't that the old Bethlehem Steel land that is now the Majestic site which is in the City of Bethlehem, but it's in the Saucon Valley School District. Priscilla said the school district had to vote on that to exempt them from the taxes. Charlie said yes, they got a tax break. We need to read some of the details on this and come back at the next meeting. Priscilla said the EIT we raised for open space, but if you are exempt from paying it because you make less than \$12,000, you still have to pay your \$5.00 to the school district and some people don't realize that, so there's a revenue loss there because people think they are exempt. The original tax was \$10.00 and it was split. The other part still exists. Priscilla said yes. She always forgets to remind Ed about that.

7. **Fire Services - update - Jack** said we have some good things going on with it. We are meeting with the Borough and Township emergency services. We contacted DCED and had a representative at the meeting and he went back to Harrisburg and reported to us that they are going to provide facilitators to work with our group and work toward looking at regional opportunities for fire services – whatever they may be. These facilitators are peer facilitators and people with a lot of fire service experience and they are going to guide the group. The group is going to have elected officials, residents, business representatives from the borough and the township and it will be a working group on any fire service issue. He and Charlie have to do some work to get some documents to these people. They haven't been named yet, but as soon as they are, we have to get it to them. They normally do evaluation studies and they are trying to expedite that. It sometimes takes up to a year for them to do a study and they are trying to come up with a system to get that done more rapidly. They are talking about trying something over a weekend, and he doesn't know if that will be possible. Priscilla said she was not happy about the meeting on a weekend. Glenn said if it gets done faster, you might have to market it to the volunteers.
8. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan - update - Jack** said the Lower Saucon Authority (LSA) has put together a response to the list of issues and concerns from the Borough. Charlie said he thinks it has arrived today. Jack said the Borough will take a look at that and see what their options are. There are a couple of different options.

9. **Other Issues – None.**

- H. **County Report** - Tom Harp was present. He said he has information about multiple recycling events that they have coming up at the County. The first one is the E-Cycling. The dates are May 9<sup>th</sup> at Easton Area High School from 9 AM to 2 PM. That's probably the closest one to you here. The next one is May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to Noon at Washington Township school parking lot, which is in the Bangor area. The third one is October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Nazareth Middle School parking lot on Tatamy Road. Last meeting he passed out some information on these events, and they've been updated. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, they are going to do a household hazardous waste event from 9:30 AM to 2 PM at Northampton County Community College. One of the things they did was surveys in the parking lot to find out how people heard about it so they would know the best way to advertise it. Jack said the minutes for the Northampton County COG meeting were handed out. Tom said our last meeting on March 10, 2009 was a pretty good meeting. One of the highlights was a demonstration of the GIS systems and their hardware that they are making available to any municipality in the county because they have enough licenses. Joe Laky did the demonstration and he will be doing a presentation at the Nazareth COG at the end of the month, so if you would like him to come out, it's a show and tell thing, but a picture is worth a thousand words. This would be useful for your EMS responders. There are many other applications that Joe had shared with the group. Priscilla said maybe we can do this in the fall at the Township. Jack said they had already contacted Joe. All the township has to do is get a little more memory to use the Pictometry system. As soon as we have it,

Chris is going to load it up. Jack said the first time he saw a picture, you won't believe how clear it is. Priscilla asked about the nc.pub website. Jack said Joe is working on this and it will be a lot better. Tom said Holly Edinger from LVEDC did a presentation on land recycling and some of the services they provide there. One of the discussion items was the Champion factory and what they could do there, and they talked about grants for pre-consultation for environmental studies. Bob Mateff did an EMS update. The county is now going through the Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government planning. Bob said he mentioned all the enhancements they were making with their volunteer core within the County under the mutual aid agreement and now Act 93, what the impact of that is. One of the things we had to look at was the workers comp coverage for EMS volunteers. We contacted our third party administrator just to see if they had the names of those individuals covered. Right now it's close to 200 volunteers, and next year it will be close to 250. A lot of the municipalities are taking a look at the Act 93 and what they might need to do too in terms of at least the workers comp issues, but there is going to be some way of assessing cost between the municipalities and counties in terms of providing aid at the site. You may want to look at Act 93. The next meeting for the COG is June 9<sup>th</sup> at Palmer Township Community Center at the Chrin Center. He will be getting an agenda out and there will be open topics. If you want have a topic or a speaker you want them to get in there or information training, just let them know and they will facilitate that. The prescription drug discount program in place since last July, 6,000 prescriptions have been filled using the discount card and at an average savings of 27% or \$13.50 per prescription. They are averaging about 250 users a month. They'd like to see more than that. They are trying to get it publicized in the two newspapers. They are trying to encourage folks who don't have any kind of drug insurance or coverage to have it even if it's their children. They talked about EMS, and are increasing EMS Training sessions. Regarding EMS training session, last year they schedule six sessions and there are four required courses that the EMS volunteers have to take. This has increased to nine sessions this year so they can accommodate more and more. Bob had mentioned he has a staff member, Angel Gillette, Hazard Mitigation /Disaster Recovery Coordinator and she's done quite a bit of grant writing. If you have a situation along a flood zone, or any hazard situation, and you want to be able to prevent or mitigate that in any way, she talked about twenty homes that are in the flood zone near Bushkill. They have been raised up so if there is a flood again, it can reduce some of the losses. That's available and if you need to do a grant in your township or borough, you might want to contact her. Mr. Stoffa said they had that tanker accident on Route 33 and they combined 911 with their emergency services. He did an interview on RCN with the superintendent of the school and they had almost 300 people there, including pets, people with disabilities, vans that had to transport people with disabilities and not one person was hurt. With the reverse 911 system they can call and alert 2,000 people in ten minutes, tell them to stay in their home, tell them to get out, tell them to get their children out of school. Priscilla said the county system that does the reverse calling, is it something the municipalities can join in with? Didn't we budget something for that? Jack said we considered a private vendor, CTY Connect, but then we went to Bob Mateff and asked him what the county had to offer. Bob came back and basically when we looked at the two systems side by side, we saw that the county already has most of this. The biggest feature on this system is how many phone numbers can you pull in. The County pulls in the same amount of phone numbers, even unlisted phone numbers, and no one has cell phone numbers unless they volunteer to give them to you. The County has all these people on their system. Bob had done some enhancements on their system and it has been used on several incidents in our Township. There was a tree down on one of the roads where the road was blocked, and EMS contacted 911 and a call went out to the residents who lived on that street through the GIS. It's a good system and our emergency service people are trying to see if we can assist the County with the collection of phone numbers as that's the biggest problem. We are trying to work on that so the system can work better. Tom said the PACOG Conference is in September. Jack said he has some information on that to hand out. Priscilla asked if they could put some upcoming events on their website. Tom said they could. He said the COG web page, we will be having a web page on the Northampton County Public site of COGs. Right now we are building content on it. We have a template that has been designed. They have a really nice profile of Saucon Valley Partnership that Jack did. You'll be able to click on a map of Northampton County, the shaded area, where there's a COG and it will bring up a profile about that COG. Some information about it, when it started, projects that they did. We'll have a calendar of events on the website also. They received an announcement of a Webinar on the American Recovery and Stimulus Act. Jack said yes, it's coming out from PSATS. The National County Government week is coming up the first week of May and the theme of that is "green".

**I. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items - None**

- J. Events Calendar - <http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com> - Priscilla said you can click on the link there and see the Google calendar. Coming up they have a Living History Day on April 25, 2009 at the Heller Homestead. They have a community yard and in September they are promoting the barn tour. She is working with a community group and the Saucon Valley School District, and this past Sunday, the Heller Homestead Gallery had the second annual “Young Artist Exhibit”. These students at the high school, the art these kids do – she is so impressed. The kids were so excited and she asked them to send one or two sentences of their experience, and one of the kids said it was” magical”. They had a working experience with the school district and a community group.**

Mayor Fluck said the Farmer’s Market kicks off again on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and there are up to seventeen vendors for this year. They just received a \$2,500 grant from Secretary Wolfe at the Department of Agriculture. Community Day is on August 22, 2009. Mr. Stoffa said if you want money for your farmer’s market, you have to apply to the County. Easton just received money for their Farmer’s Market. Priscilla said what kind of grants could we look at? Mr. Stoffa said for activities that basically promote tourism. Jack said we will contact Lori Sywensky at the County DCED and get something on that. Someone said what were you saying about vouchers for senior citizens? Tom said the last time you weren’t sure if the seniors were eligible for a voucher for your Farmer’s Market. Mayor Fluck said some of the vendors were accepting them and some weren’t. We hadn’t really talked about that this year, but we do meet every Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM and we go over a lot of things. Tom said our agency, the aging office, does that in coordination with the twelve senior centers. It’s a simple form to fill out and it gets you a \$20 or \$25 voucher. That goes a long way at a Farmer’s Market. They have the information at the senior center. Mayor Fluck said it has to be home grown to be at the market. They pay \$200 to be there the whole season. Springtown has started one up and they are struggling. Priscilla said when the flyers are ready, she’d like to put one at the Homestead. Mayor Fluck said the Lehigh Valley Convention and Visitor’s Bureau has been distributing them for the Borough. Saucon Valley Diner is now the Hellertown Diner. They are still using the menu, but will eventually get their own menu. There is another restaurant opening which is Sagra, right up from the Body Bank.

- K. Adjournment - Adjourned by acclamation. The time was 9:05 PM.**

**L. Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> - Lower Saucon Township**

**Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> -Saucon Valley School District – Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> - Hellertown Borough**