

1 **Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting**

2
3 Date: September 10, 2008
4 Time: 7:00 PM
5 Location: Saucon Valley School District
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8 A. **Call to Order:** Ed Inghrim
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10 B. **Roll Call:** Present: Ed Inghrim, Priscilla deLeon, Tom Maxfield, Mayor Fluck, Susan Baxter,
11 Jennie McKenna, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar. Guests: Carolyn Yagle (by telephone), Margie
12 Segaline, Joe Pampanin. Terry Boos

13 C.

14 C. **Council of Governments**

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16 1. Minutes of the August 13, 2008 were approved on a motion by Susan, seconded by
17 Mayor Fluck.
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19 2. Treasurer’s Report - Jack said in the Treasurer’s Report, the fund balance as of August 31,
20 2008 is \$8,063.53. During August, we made payments for advertising for the June public
21 meeting in the Valley Voice and the Saucon Valley News, also to the Township
22 Transcriptionist to do the minutes. For the checking account, the fund balance as of
23 August 31, 2008 is \$30,111.41, and we made one payment to Environmental Planning &
24 Design in August for \$4,204.68. Motion for approval of the Treasurers Report by
25 Priscilla, second by Susan, all in favor.
26

27 3. Approval to pay bills - Jack said we have three bills to pay. The first is for
28 Environmental Planning Design for July 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008, in the amount of
29 \$1,539.43. He reviewed it and it’s in order and he recommends approval. Motion by
30 Susan for approval to pay EPD in the amount of \$1,539.43, second by Priscilla, all in
31 favor.
32

33 Jack said there is another bill for Fed Ex charges to send some materials back to EPD in
34 the amount of \$41.80. Motion by Tom for approval to pay the Fed Ex charges in the
35 amount of \$41.80, second by Susan, all in favor.
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37 Jack said the third bill is for Diane Palik, Transcription Services for August 2008 in the
38 amount of \$60.00. Motion by Priscilla for approval to pay Diane Palik in the amount of
39 \$60.00 for August 2008, second by Susan, all in favor.
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41 D. **Citizens Commenting on Agenda Items:** None

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43 E. **Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items:** None
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45 F. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**

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47 1. **Draft Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**

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49 Carolyn said they would like to discuss two topics in preparation of moving forward
50 to what our next step is, which next Thursday is the Joint Planning Commission

1 Meeting. The first part of the evening, number one is to highlight and go over, with
2 you, the action plan items. We took a look at them and will propose to all of you that
3 they are a little bit more specific. There's a handout you all have to look over and I is
4 the "Action Plan Refinement", and on page 2, II is the "Action Plan". The II Action
5 Plan is everything that is currently in the draft document minus what we pulled out in
6 I. We have a proposal for six refinements in the Action Plan under I. The current
7 text as it appears in the document, No. 2, is "Evaluate the Feasibility Performing the
8 Recreation, etc.", and underneath that in the italics is a proposal for refining the
9 above current statement. The reason we chose those six were based upon comments
10 which were received over the last couple of months and solidified by comments we
11 received from Hellertown Planning Commission to see if there were certain items we
12 may want to have more specificity on. As you can see from the original 38, you see
13 we did not do all of them. We believe many of them are specific, but we selected the
14 six which we put in front of you for board discussion.

15
16 Jack asked Carolyn to go over No. 29. Carolyn said in terms of No. 29, if there are
17 going to be any kind of public safety needs that we are going to expand, population
18 growth or areas that are going to be having additional people in them, we wanted to
19 make sure there was adequate response time and personnel to follow through with
20 them. We were suggesting, rather than exploring the feasibility of expansion of
21 services, be a little bit more specific and analyze if there were places that were
22 appropriate and the mechanism for having public safety services for the population.
23 So A and B are existing statements in the Action Plan. The one about traffic is
24 looking at traffic safety, potential signalization, things like that. Shared access is
25 looking at the safety of ingress and egress. B, we've added, in terms of looking
26 specifically at the response time and their adequacies, and how things are going well
27 or not. If there is something that needs approval working together to identify how
28 those improvements could occur. That would be the public service group and the
29 Partnership working through or identifying problems or opportunities. We were
30 focusing on the generalization where we had explored the feasibility to expand these
31 services and being more specific and analyze and determine what the appropriate
32 mechanism were. That is also based on some of the comments received from the
33 public service groups about what a specific item should be worked on together to
34 keep moving forward.

35
36 Priscilla said what about public safety services, what does that mean? Carolyn said it
37 would be fire police and emergency. Priscilla said when you say expand? Carolyn
38 said the old term was expand. The new one is evaluating when the population is
39 growing, what their services are and if anything needs to change or come in line and
40 show what the level of service will be. Priscilla said she's not sure what it means.
41 Carolyn said that would fall under C as well in terms of if there were any efficiency
42 and this needed to be addressed because of the amount of personnel or the service
43 areas in which each group would be serving, or some of the discussions they are
44 going through right now or have been going through right now about the particular
45 places that they served in. Priscilla said what is PSG. Carolyn said Public Services
46 Group. Priscilla said what is MA. Carolyn said Municipal Authority.

47
48 Charlie said Carolyn mentioned response time and it's much more than response time,
49 it's the quality of response as well. Carolyn said what they are thinking about in 29,
50 where it talks about appropriate and responsive mechanism, providing adequate
51 quality, public safety services or providing quality and public safety services.

1 Charlie said with the fire companies, usually one person responds or two people
2 respond as they don't have the people, so it's a quality issue. That's more than the
3 response time, but it's an extension of what you already said. Carolyn said we may
4 be able to incorporate that into the main statement providing quality, public safety
5 services. Tom said can you address the thinking behind 29B a little bit more? He's
6 not sure what that entails. Carolyn said what we're recognizing, as part of some of
7 the other transportation, is a detailed traffic study may come into play or the things
8 that will be studied as part of that would be the accident report and there were
9 opportunities in certain areas to consolidate access point A and access point B, like
10 each park having its own driveway and there were multiple access in one particular
11 area or another that may be a public safety issue, so the community would be able to
12 do is in their ordinances, encourage the consolidation of access points because it's a
13 public safety related item and we were trying to tie those two together. Tom said are
14 you talking about public or private access points? Carolyn said in terms of driveways?
15 Tom said driveways would be private. Are you talking about public access of a road
16 or parcels to a subdivision? Carolyn said if there were three non-residential
17 properties, side by side, and each of them has their own driveway and they access the
18 main road, then if that were determined looking at previous accident reports, or
19 reports that the road over time has been problematic, by putting into an ordinance (A.
20 Encouraging) or (B. Requiring), a certain spacing for access points on certain roads
21 because those previous accidents or patterns, and it would be an access from a main
22 public driveway to a private property. Tom said when you said non-residential, that
23 makes more sense. In the township, we've had history of where there are shared
24 driveways, it may reduce the accidents, but it opens up a whole new list of problems
25 and we had a lot of those in the past. He can see that for non-residential, but for
26 residential, it might cause problems of different kinds. Carolyn said if we said it was
27 intended for non-residential type of activity, would that be better? Tom said yes,
28 right now by our ordinance, we discourage multiple lots accessing single private
29 driveways. Carolyn said then if you want to develop other types of provisions, and
30 even if the Borough was going back to the comprehensive plan, it's a public safety
31 type of issue. Priscilla said that would give us another notch if anything is ever
32 challenged. Carolyn said correct, the communities are trying to optimize public
33 safety because they recognize the history of your accidents or incidents or site
34 visibility. Priscilla said when she thinks of response for the fire companies for public
35 safety response, she thinks of an area is like in Wassergass. She's very nervous when
36 we approve subdivision, we don't have language right now to require the developer
37 to put in underground water tanks, so we're going to have that municipal boundary
38 line for public water and sewer, and they are going to be a services in the eastern part
39 of the township, depending on if its rain or drought. When the fire trucks go out
40 there, they have X number of gallons when they go out there, then they have to go
41 somewhere else to refill. She is thinking of public safety concerns and you are
42 saying to expand public safety services, how do you do that in Wassergass? Jack
43 said the Township is currently rewriting the SALDO ordinance and that will be under
44 water service and there will be requirements for developers to provide water supply
45 for fire protection up to a certain number of units which will be exempt, but then they
46 will have to come up for some provision for water service. Priscilla said that's for
47 new development, what about people living there now that aren't going to be able to
48 get water. Carolyn said there are two things going on. The first part is the statement
49 29 in the plain text would go away and be replaced by the italics text. We weren't
50 going to have the language expand about the safety services anymore. The concern
51 about the availability of water in certain locations where there is already existing

1 development? Priscilla said we always have the right to change approved language
2 in an ordinances, but still how do you fix what is already there. You are asking for
3 our input and that came to her head. Carolyn said if you are looking at the ordinance
4 revision process, it indicates would there be any future phases of those future
5 developments? Priscilla said they are pretty much built out. She said thank you for
6 listening, you are not going to solve it tonight. Carolyn said let her think about that a
7 little bit. She wanted to let you know why they changed some of the topics and if
8 there are items that are on the other action plan, that we haven't addressed that are
9 appropriate, please let them know and they can take a shot at those.

10
11 Carolyn said the first one was the specific example that Hellertown Planning
12 Commission had identified which was rather than just evaluating the feasibility,
13 actually forming it. What we stated here, was to address the opportunities through
14 the formation of the Recreation Authority or comparable public entity. The key
15 being there that A is Authority, and they'll have one sort power or decision making
16 structure. It's something that needs to be comparable or acceptable so that both
17 communities, as well as the private sector can be involved. There's a little flexibility
18 there if the Authority structure isn't the structure that is pursued, but something
19 where you are forming that type of entity. It's a combination of several different
20 comments that we've heard from.

21
22 Ed said it seems to him that the school district would also be a stakeholder in this
23 Authority since we share a lot of facilities, ball fields, etc. Carolyn said she thinks
24 that would be very appropriate. Ed said he spoke to the Superintendent about joining
25 such an Authority and she seemed to be very receptive as there's a lot of interaction
26 currently. Carolyn said we can add the school district to the primary stakeholder
27 column. That would be great. That statement also gives flexibility to address the
28 different aspects of Parks and Recreation and administration. One entity may be a
29 strong leader of one aspect than the other. No. 3 is establishing additional joint
30 services because you are well under way with many projects and continuing on with
31 them. No. 10 isn't a big, big change, but what they wanted to do was highlight some
32 of the strategic planning that the school district is doing and also fold into
33 consideration population and land use. It's a little bit of rewording there. No. 19, is
34 actually looking at adjusting the fees, and that could be either up or down, it doesn't
35 say increasing or decreasing them, but adjusting them so that you are able to leverage
36 either development infill, adaptive reuse, and redevelopment and they've identified,
37 largely based on the comment they received from the Township Planning
38 Commission meetings, that there are appropriate areas in the comprehensive plan
39 called out for certain land uses to happen or to tie the fees and how you can leverage
40 these different things in context of the land use recommendations of the
41 Comprehensive Plan. It does not mean putting development in areas that aren't
42 appropriate. You will all want to explore this with the municipal authority when
43 development happens or conservation happens in certain areas. Priscilla said
44 currently with the Lower Saucon Authority (LSA), Council has the authority to make
45 certain decisions, do we have that for water also, or is that the Authority's sole
46 decision? She knows Act 537. Tom said that's for anything, because Council had to
47 approve their purchase of the property in Leithsville for the water tank. Priscilla said
48 back when you had an empty lot, you would have had to pay to have a lateral put in,
49 if you ever wanted to develop it, you would pay the 1987 rates, not the 2008 rates. Is
50 that what you are talking about, but not all areas of the townships? Carolyn said over
51 time, the communities and authorities began maintaining this discussion about what

1 projects are happening, what projects could happen within the service area and what
2 is appropriate in terms of the fees for the end of the scale of development. We're
3 going to try to be a little more specific on that one. Priscilla said when you talk about
4 fill ins, those fees have already been kind of determined already when the original
5 line went in and then after the line went in, today if someone wanted to fill it in,
6 would that amount have already been approved if it's in a certain range or time years.
7 Tom said for lateral hookup? Priscilla said yes, and that's with tapping fees as it
8 would be from the house to the curb, then the lateral to the curb to the main. Carolyn
9 said are you saying for a lot that doesn't have a connection to the main? Priscilla said
10 yes, not all empty lots are hooked up to sewers or water. Carolyn said right, if you
11 can work together and the 1987 rates aren't appropriate anymore, if there's an
12 adjustment, whether it's less or greater, it's the format. Priscilla said we would do
13 that anyway. Carolyn said this would give you the ability to pursue that, not that it
14 couldn't do that already, but you are in context of the municipal services boundary
15 and you can work together. Carolyn asked if that made sense? Priscilla said yes, she
16 thinks we are already doing that, are you saying the language doesn't exist anyplace
17 else? Carolyn said not in the comprehensive plan. We are trying to tie this to the
18 municipal service boundary concept also because things may or may not be different
19 with the boundary defined. Priscilla said when is the Authority going to find out
20 about this? Jack said this came from one of their recommendations from the public
21 meeting. Priscilla said which Authority? Charlie said he thinks the Borough
22 Authority was talking to them. Carolyn said it's one that emerged at the public
23 meeting from a couple of the Authority representatives and they came up to us and
24 gave their opinion after the meeting. She thinks it was Township, but will have to go
25 back and remember the face and put a name with it.

26
27 Priscilla said municipal services boundary line; she's trying to visualize where this
28 line is. Is there a lot of undeveloped land in the Borough that the Borough Authority
29 would have this discussion? Carolyn said no. Priscilla said when we talk about
30 public service or water in the boundary, or wherever that line is, we're really talking
31 about the Lower Saucon Authority having that control. Carolyn said you are talking
32 about the township, and it's very applicable to the Borough if there's redevelopment
33 occurring as well. There may be certain areas that may have a low intensity type of
34 use or there may be one type of land use now and it's going to change and there's
35 going to be an additional tap in to that service. Priscilla said if they increase their
36 capacity, then they would have to pay a higher amount? Carolyn said right, if there
37 are additional homes going in and there was higher density along a certain road or
38 corridor, or if there was redevelopment, and that could be one example where it
39 would be very applicable. Tom said a lot of those areas would be applicable to
40 extending Borough lines into Lower Saucon, like Silver Creek and places like that.
41 Jennie said there is water from the Borough Authority to the Township residents now.
42 Tom said yes, at some places. Jennie said maybe it's good to say the Planning
43 Commissions are meeting and making sure if the Borough Authority as well as the
44 Township Authority digested this and can give us their comments back. Maybe we
45 should make it a point to get their comments. Carolyn said we can have Jack or
46 Charlie call them next week and get the appropriate materials out beyond what we
47 heard today.

48
49 Carolyn said the last one, No. 30, the Authority, when are they assessing if the plan is
50 appropriate, looking at their multi municipal effort with Upper Saucon Township in
51 the past, but in conjunction with forming the joint body, or having joint opportunities

1 for recreation, administration, maintenance, etc., looking really at a multi-municipal
2 comprehensive plan, parks and recreation and open space between Hellertown and
3 Lower Saucon and actually having the school district being a participant in that
4 planning effort...going towards grant efforts to fund that kind of study. One thing we
5 have touched on in the past, DCNR, they are favoring areas that incorporate their
6 goals of the school district in their comprehensive plan and open space plan. It
7 definitely would fold the school district into the multi municipal effort, especially
8 with the involvement with the Authority or the entity. Those are the ones that we
9 pulled out, so do you have any additional comments? No one raised their hand.

10
11 Jennie said Carolyn handled the first three very well and wrote them well and got
12 what they were saying at the Borough Planning Commission. Carolyn said there are
13 two others, on page 7, G33, there used to be one additional items in that listing and
14 we removed it. The wording of G and H did not change.

15
16 Priscilla said No. 3 on page 7, and under A it says organize and facilitate, and then it
17 has 1, where is 2? Carolyn said they can write out the word "one".

18
19 Jack said Tom brought up a question; these are refinements to the Action Plan. You
20 are also going to make changes to the draft copy based on the recommendations from
21 the two Planning Commissions? Carolyn said correct, and the list we went over?
22 Jack said they are two different documents? He had the summary of Hellertown and
23 Lower Saucon Planning Commission to be addressed in the fall public review draft.
24 Carolyn said yes. Jack said and those we went over at the last Partnership meeting on
25 August 13. Carolyn said yes, and we removed some that the Partnership did not
26 agree on. Jack said so what Tom Maxfield was saying, in the Action Plan we have
27 tonight, on page, No. 8 under land use and housing, we talked about a designation for
28 Wassergass and let it organically grow. Carolyn said we can reword it. The action
29 itself wants to stay in, but we can reword it to emphasis that. Tom said okay. He
30 thought what the recommendation the Planning Committee made was to prepare
31 specific plans, that's a little bit too specific the way they felt that area should
32 continue on. They saw it as a destination, but not that we wanted to control it, other
33 than what it's controlled by current zoning. It wouldn't be converted to village
34 center, it would all stay residential. Carolyn said what we need to do is emphasize
35 this one, the pedestrian access.

36
37 Carolyn said she and AJ are coming are for the Joint Planning Commission meeting
38 next week.

39
40 Carolyn said are there any others we need to discuss? The other aspect we wanted to
41 consider in preparation of next week was the Executive Summary. We had talked
42 about there are different manners in which an Executive Summary can be presented.
43 She said she would like to review the Mechanicsburg handout. The other one for
44 purposes of discussion is the Tri Borough Comprehensive Plan. There were four
45 examples of the Executive Summary. The one of Tri Borough, there are statistics,
46 paragraphs, and summaries, from the overall text document. It's been abbreviated,
47 but it gives us a sense of an overview about the community. It gets into the issues
48 they are facing and their challenges and opportunities related to various topics. It's
49 definitely more of a reading overview with the 11x17 graphic of their overall
50 comprehensive plan. The objectives are recommended in this document as well as
51 their key recommendations. This is something that Planning Commission members

1 take with them to meeting so that they may not be carrying around with them their
2 entire comprehensive plan all the time, but these are the key statements that are in an
3 abbreviated form. This is one type of presentation. The second type of presentation,
4 they've included two examples on them. One is Mechanicsburg and it looks like a
5 pamphlet. It highlights some critical issues and also just talks about some general
6 ways, the comprehensive plan, with a statement about the comprehensive plan and
7 the zoning, and then real snapshots type of statement. The purpose of this document
8 and the Allegheny Greenway document is this is something that can be duplicated in
9 color or black and white and this is handed out to new residents or at the Borough or
10 Township main desk to give everybody an idea of what the comprehensive plan is
11 about. Another example is from Moon Township and the reason Jack only made one
12 copy is because it's over 40 pages. This Comprehensive Plan was about 250 pages in
13 its entirety and that community decided they wanted to give their officials a mini-
14 book Comprehensive Plan. It's a non-traditional Executive Summary and is not
15 distributed to the public unless they are requesting it. It may be something that the
16 community officials would be interested in. These are a couple of examples. What
17 they would do is prepare, accordingly, the Executive Summary, for you, based on
18 your interest. Charlie said the Hellertown Planning Commission comments were
19 much like Mechanicsburg comments, and it's all on one piece of paper they can all
20 look at, and a couple made that comment from Hellertown. Tom said when he first
21 saw it, it reminded him of a Chamber of Commerce document and it might be good
22 for downtown Hellertown. Priscilla said do we each have our own? Carolyn said it
23 would be a joint multi-municipal plan. Building on the comments of the appeal of
24 this, if this type of handout or presentation wanted to be something that establishes
25 that family of documents, where there could be multiple pages, maybe Hellertown or
26 Lower Saucon builds on this down the road for non-residential types of development
27 or corridors that you could definitely yet something up like that. Priscilla said it's
28 very confusing for a resident coming into this area because depending where they
29 live, they have a different post office zip code and a lot of people think they are part
30 of Bethlehem. It's just confusing for people. Ed said they liked the Mechanicsburg
31 layout, but maybe we should have a little bit more of a historical background as to
32 where the communities came from. At one time, we were one community, so some
33 historical contacts could be helpful.

34
35 Jennie said she's a little bit confused on what we are being asked. Did you say in
36 order to understand what kind of paper we want it, would help you write the
37 Executive Summary? She thought we would get a nice book that contained the maps
38 you put together, the action plan and the draft plan and then something like
39 Mechanicsburg has is lovely, but are you thinking of doing both? Jack said they are
40 still going to be delivering the comp plan and going to get the full blown version with
41 everything in it. The Executive Summary will be part of it. Ed said you could have
42 the Executive Summary as a different handout; it's the first thing you read. Jennie
43 said we need language that summarizes everything we have done and have a Mission
44 Statement to put on top of the plan so everyone knows where we are going and then
45 something like the placemat things are wonderful to do, but what we are missing is
46 the Mission Statement. Carolyn said that came up in the list. Jennie said what the
47 Planning Commission wanted is a summary statement for the whole plan. How it
48 looks and how small it is, to her, that's a separate conversation. Jack said that's a
49 whole new section that has to be written. These contain parts of the Comp Plan, but
50 we'd add to this other piece we are talking about. Carolyn said it can be integrated
51 into a presentation similar to the Mechanicsburg so it becomes one. Jennie said the

1 meeting on Thursday will help to draft that. Carolyn said they'd like to work on the
2 Mission Statement and present it. From the beginning, we've come a long way and
3 putting it in the Planning Commission's hands; they've taken some ownership of it.
4

5 Jack asked Carolyn if she was looking at any direction on these choices tonight or do
6 you want everyone to just think about them? Carolyn said if we have direction, that
7 would be great, but if we have to think about it over the next week or so, and you can
8 get back to us, then we can prepare it accordingly. Charlie said is this one, the
9 Mechanicsburg, or whatever one was chosen, capable of being produced for next
10 Thursday's meeting for the Planning Commission? Carolyn said what AJ and she
11 talked about if it was not in a pretty graphic format, but a layout format and the text
12 itself. If it's in a rectangular box, it may or may not be in the presentation, but all of
13 the text that would go in the August summary would be part of the discussion. Jack
14 said we'll make copies of the Mechanicsburg one. Carolyn said yes.
15

16 Priscilla said she thinks this colored brochure is a nice thing to give to residents, but
17 she just can't imagine reading all this text and thinking that it's going to be
18 comprehensive enough. If I go to the comp plan, it's going to be wordy and the text
19 in the Executive Summary should be the text that's in the plan. She can't imagine all
20 this information fitting in this. She's to understand we are going to have two...one
21 will be the simplified version and then they will have one with the text. Carolyn said
22 the intention of the action plan, the 7th page is something every official or member of
23 a committee wants to have in their notebook at the meeting, that matrix. That
24 summarizes what the actions are, who's involved, the principal, the general people
25 and the timeframe. Those several pages are the component that leaders in the
26 community want to have with them. The Executive Summary is not going to have
27 that seven page action plan in it. Jack said correct. Carolyn said there is going to be
28 a discussion on what the Action Plan is and the importance of it and what are they
29 key topics addressed in the Action Plan. Ed said there should also be the goals of the
30 Commission. Carolyn said yes, that should be the first part.
31

32 Susan said on page 3, No. 9, something about 378 and the old Philadelphia Corridor;
33 she'd think we'd want that section under Economic Development. That's another
34 section that should not be developed.
35

36 Carolyn said they will look forward to seeing everyone next week at the Planning
37 Commission meeting.
38

39 **G. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

40 **1. Casino Impacts Funding – update**

41 Jennie said we have some bad news that there is a court case out in Erie County.
42 Jack said it was Summit Township who sued Erie County. Jennie said the court case
43 has gone through and there's determination that the Judge was supposed to make a
44 decision on how to split up the money with the County. Summit's position was they
45 should have their own Authority to distribute the funding. They used a different term
46 that we are using locally in our legislation. The County came around and said no, we
47 want to set up our own Authority to distribute the funds, and then they were saying
48 whatever was available, they could use for their own purposes, one of which was the
49 Erie County Airport Expansion and it's a very big project. The County interpreted
50
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1 the law and it was very confusing the way it was written as far as the key thing was
2 who could establish the authority – was it the County or did it reside with the
3 Township. Jennie said she misunderstood that because the language she thought, in
4 this case, was really where the modifiers were and the one sentence talked about the
5 impacts and it said health and safety based upon casino operations, and we were
6 interpreting that being one separate thing, but the court case said that was for
7 everything. We are going to have to really prove the connection for all of our
8 projects that directly relate to the Casino. Priscilla said she remembers meeting in
9 Lisa Boscola’s office. Jack said we never ran away from having to justify the
10 impacts. We all knew that we were going to have them. It comes out to what degree
11 and how difficult is it going to be to document them. That’s where the problem is
12 going to be. You can say there are going to be impacts, but you may not feel that for
13 a couple of years, and in the meantime, who is the money going to go to? Is it just
14 going to sit in the bank or what? Charlie said that money, according to one of the
15 sub-sections of the law, would go back to the County and then Bob Pfenning the
16 Chair of the County Casino Impacts Group pointed out and said there will be money
17 left over. Jennie said the current plan we have where we split it is not going to be all
18 we can do because we are going to have to prove that we need it based upon the
19 relationship with the casino. We were talking about the bureaucracy and the GPA
20 has accepted the role, but they have not determined yet how they are going to
21 distribute. Tom said the county could be getting into it first. Jack said the way the
22 legislation is written, there’s a firewall between the County funds and the Municipal
23 funds. It says half goes to the County and half goes to the municipalities. It is
24 separated. If the County were to attempt to dip into our half of these funds, we would
25 be in court. Jennie said we really need to prove our need to this Authority and if we
26 don’t prove it, this Authority will give the County any money that is left over at the
27 end of the year. Jack said he thinks it stays in the County, it doesn’t get allocated.
28 They were saying in Erie County, the way they wrote it, that if you don’t use it, it
29 goes back to the County and they can use it for the Erie County Airport. That’s why
30 it went into Court. That was their backdoor way of grabbing the funds. Charlie said
31 Bob Pfenning said it is clear in reading the language and someone from the
32 Bethlehem Press said how it is to be distributed and he went back and tried to
33 determine how it was to be distributed and he said the seven entities are definitely the
34 ones entitled to it, (e.g., the five municipalities, the City of Bethlehem and the
35 County). The City of Bethlehem does not have to prove casinos impacts. They still
36 have freedom of movement in any direction. Priscilla said what messed it up more
37 was when Boscola and Brown came up with the revenue sharing agreement with the
38 City of Allentown and then the County kind of got the short end of the stick. If they
39 wouldn’t have had that agreement, Northampton County would have gotten more
40 money. Jack said the other concern is that even though Mr. Stoffa has his committee
41 and they recommended that the General Purpose Authority to be the county entity to
42 distribute the funds, the County Council said hold on, we may want to establish a
43 whole other authority to distribute the funds, so it’s not over yet. That could be a toss
44 up at the County Council level. Charlie said there also was a presentation by the
45 Sands and they made a beautiful presentation. The Prison Warden was really excited
46 and wanted to make sure the prisoners were put to work. Jennie said the shops in the
47 casino mall were going to be run by the Sands. The parking deck is nearly done and
48 will accommodate 4,700 cars and they do have bus parking. Charlie said they are
49 going to make selective improvements on Route 412. Jennie said their contribution
50 was \$16,000,000 and the State was giving \$70,000,000 for the corridor. EMS
51 representatives were at the meeting, and there was quite a bit of discussion on how

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they were going to handle someone with a gambling problem, and the people who were knowledgeable about this were not happy with the Sands response. Donna Taggart talked about the training programs they were going to give and were also reaching out to clergy for folks with the gambling problem. Jennie said Freemansburg Borough representatives were there with their Solicitor, Larry Fox, and he asked for the traffic study. Jennie handed hers to Mr. Fox and said this was worthless. Jack said a copy of the traffic study is on the PGCB website, but it's very outdated. Priscilla said that's what they needed for their application. We never really saw what they submitted to the City of Bethlehem. We never got it. Charlie said that Mr. Stoffa said they never received anything. Jack said there's a newer traffic study and a police study that was done by the Sands for the City, and Chief Balum was asked to get it, but the City is not going to give that up as it has confidential information in it. If that got out, he's sure the Bethlehem Police Department could use that at the negotiating table. The County Committee has been trying for a year to get a copy of the report. Priscilla said if the Township would have been more involved with the process, wouldn't they have given us the traffic study to review? Jack said he's saying that the Sands said they will only share the traffic and police study with Mayor Callahan. It's confidential information. Tom said how can public information be private information? Their Planning Commission had to ask for these studies. Jack said there was a traffic study on the Gaming Commission's website, but there were holes in it. Jennie said we may want to talk to our County Representatives and tell them this is what is going on. It's not an urgent step, but we want to let them know we're active. Two of the five municipalities were at the meeting. We have to make sure we are there as it sounds like it could become more political. Priscilla said are you suggesting that the Township and Borough should be there? Jennie said are we comfortable with the strategy we are working on or do we have to work on the political angle. Decisions are being made now, and how comfortable are we with it. Do we want to contact our County officials? Tom said is the casino going to have to be open for a while before we see any impacts. Jack said yes. Priscilla said the first amount of revenue from the casino has to go back to repay the lottery where they borrowed the money. Tom said they may want two years of data to prove that that's the criteria. Jack said in the Erie County case the Court was just reviewing the rules that the Gaming Control Board established and that's what the Judge was asked to do. The rules that were established by the Gaming Control Board are in the legislation. It doesn't say anything in there that you have to have a three year traffic study to show impacts; it just says your impacts have to be related to the casino's operation. Tom said the first thing we should do is assemble a baseline of information. It should be in all one place. Jack said we don't have a baseline traffic study for all three communities. He knows what you are saying and they didn't get into that because they hoped they would keep the process simple. He knew if they do get into that, they knew they would have to fall back on documenting the impacts. What if you spend the money and don't come up with anything. If you don't show an increase in crime or don't have a bump up in emergency calls, do we go back and tell them we don't want the money? Priscilla said in order for us to prove anything, we need to go on the City of Bethlehem website and get the minutes. If they went to Planning Commission, they had to present a planning study. Jack said he'll do that. Priscilla said the City of Bethlehem, when they approved this casino, there were minutes from the Planning Commission, and so there must be minutes from that. We can use their words from their minutes to help us.

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2. **Joint COG Projects**

Charlie said the paving, although it didn't start as a COG project, was very beneficial to the school district. Jack said the township has delayed their paving project because the cost of asphalt has skyrocketed and we're waiting until October to see if the price will come back down before we do our paving.

3. **Polk Valley Road/Walnut Street Intersection Enhancements – update**

Charlie said the actual construction for Walnut Street has been done, but we still have to stripe the roads. The pre-emption devices are mounted, but they are not all on the police cars yet. That still has to be done, but the ambulances and the Borough fire trucks are finished. He doesn't know if the township's have that as they wanted to be compatible. Jack said he will check on that. Charlie said they are going to ask PennDOT to do a traffic study and will try to pick a date when the school is active, probably October or November as the left turn arrows were not approved and did meet the warrant in the 2003 traffic study, but he feels now it might because of the additional lanes, we are seeing traffic move through there.

Jack said Polk Valley Road; they did do a couple of updates with the application that is in at PennDOT. They did some recent changes for ADA requirements with curbs and are waiting for PennDOT to approve their application. Charlie said the shopping center will help us with the easements we need for the left turn.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem – update**

Charlie said the City of Bethlehem has still have not responded and has not announced their coordinators, so nothing has changed.

5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center – update**

Charlie said it is doing real well, and the Borough is having curbside pickup next week. They are going to have the contractor grind up the yard waste that has accumulated up there so far when this last pickup gets in. It's about \$3,600 for the grinding.

6. **Tax Reassessment – update**

ED said there is nothing to report, but a lawsuit has been filed in Philadelphia with the Courts and the basis of the lawsuit is to force every county in the State of Pennsylvania to reassess.

7. **Fire Services - update**

No update.

8. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan – update**

No update.

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9. Other Issues

- Priscilla said they have a County COG meeting coming up on Tuesday, September 23, 2008.
- Priscilla said in today’s paper, there was an article about the Walking Purchase and she knows we have part of that in our area and are we addressing that at all? That’s a part of the extension of the Rails to Trails and should not be forgotten as it’s a significant area in our community. How do we follow up on that? Jack said he will look into that and give the information to Carolyn.
- Ed said you probably read about it in the paper, about the school strike, there’s a 99% probability that it will happen. If they go out on strike, they will have to pay for their own health insurance.
- Margie Segaline said this goes back to the casino impact. In the past year and a half, we have seen over a 50% of gasoline costs, so that’s a real concern of hers. Also, there has been a dramatic increase in the use of food banks, etc.
- Jennie mentioned House Bill 1753 which talks about partnerships.

10. Rails-to-Trails

Jack said the contractor starting removing the rails down at the southern end of the rail line by Coopersburg. We haven’t gotten down there yet. We were supposed to have a meeting with SEPTA and the rail contractor to see how they are removing the trees and rails and ties and see if we have any concerns with that. The Township and the Borough notified all of the property owners who have property adjoining the railroad about this upcoming activity. He’s had a couple of people raise some concerns about trees primarily and there hasn’t been any other issues. Charlie said he’s heard none from Hellertown residents. Jack said on the other end of it, the Solicitor is working with the Solicitor from SEPTA on the lease agreement. We haven’t seen any documents at this point and when it comes in, we’ll share it with the Council at that time.

H. Events Calendar

Priscilla said everyone has to submit their events to her. Saturday is the barn tour.

I. Adjournment

Motion by Priscilla, second by Mayor Fluck to adjourn. The time was 8:58 PM.

J. Next meeting is Wednesday, October 8, 2008 – Hellertown Borough and November 12, 2008 at Lower Saucon Township.