

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2011
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

- A. **Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Priscilla deLeon.
- B. **Roll Call** – Priscilla deLeon, Cathy Kichline, John Bate, Leslie Huhn, Ed Inghrim, Glenn Kern.
Guests: Tom Harp, Bob Mateff
- C. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes** – Priscilla said the minutes from the September 14 and October 12 meetings are ready for approval.

Motion by Ed, second by John for approval of the September 14, 2011 minutes. All in favor.

Motion by Glenn, second by Ed for approval of the October 12, 2011 minutes. All in favor.
 2. **Treasurer's Report** – Leslie said the Treasurer's report had no change. The fund balance as of October 31, 2011 is \$15,357.50. The checking account also had no change. It looked like there were some bank fees. The fund balance as of October 31, 2011 is \$3,870.52. Motion by John, second by Glenn for approval of the Treasurer's report. All in favor.

Priscilla asked if there was anything that was going to cost us any money? We don't have a budget for next year or the year after that? Starting next year, we should think about any projects we may want to do and revisit what our initial discussions were. She asked if there was any way they could be found, like in one of the earlier minutes. Leslie said she could check on the minutes. Priscilla said we are paying \$1,000.00 each for our dues. We have an advertisement that will be coming up and the annual dues for the Pennsylvania COG will be coming up.
 3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** – Leslie said there were no bills to pay.
- D. **Special Update – October 29, 2011 Snow Storm** – Priscilla said we have an update of the snowstorm. At the last meeting, she asked the Township, Borough and County for a report and maybe we can talk about better ways to communicate with the residents.

County – Bob Mateff said this storm was the one that caused the most damage and the longest power outages. When he says damage, it was the most obvious damage. Irene we had probably more expensive damage; however, the trees were the issue here. He said it was historic tree damage. It was worse than Lee and Irene. He's seen more trees down in the whole area than he ever has before. We had just gone through two storms that took out all the weaker trees. Imagine if we had not had those two storms, we would have had more trees down. In the County, this area, Hellertown, Lower Saucon and Bethlehem from Center City down, were the highest concentrated power outages. Easton also was there and Upper Mount Bethel. A lot of Hellertown was out of power on Saturday at 11 am. Most of it didn't come back until Monday night, and then Tuesday night, and it kept increasing as it went along. Easton City came back a little bit quicker and earlier. The middle part of the county, it snowed, on Sunday the snow melted and they went about their business. The middle belt, Nazareth Township, Moore, East Allen, Allen, they had some damage. He saw one of the questions in the notes about recovery. They've been working on recovery. It's a snowstorm, and if you remember from last year's snowstorm, it has to be record or near record for FEMA to cover it, and that's 21". We're way, way short on that. It doesn't mean we can't ask for special consideration. Hearing from a lot of the municipalities, this was more expensive for you to clean up than Irene and Lee. Tropical storm Lee we did not receive public assistance nor were added to the declaration. They met with them last Thursday, and you will see that we will be added to the declaration as well, so that

will be good news for the municipalities on that. Someone asked what created the extensive outage time? Just the fact that numerous power lines were down? Bob said this storm in this area, there were some transmission lines that came into our area and went out. Three or four went down and out. The ground was so soft from the rain for the roots and then the leaves were still on the trees.

Ed said being an electrical engineer, he's familiar with transmission lines. Basically what happened was 50 transformers in the Lehigh Valley area blew. Each transformer swerves about ten homes, so that's 7,500 homes because the transformer overheated and blew. When they blow, it puts the strain on the substations. The substations are designed to shut down when they see this tremendous surge, especially when you have lines that are shorted out. They are shorted out, hit the ground, surges go off and the substations go off. They then cascade messages to what they call a NOC, a network operating center which then automatically triggers transmission lines to go off so the people don't get electrocuted. It's a network that has been designed to protect itself. Bob said not only did it shut down; the transmission lines came down because trees fell on them. Ed said you are talking about a 30 kilowatt line. Bob said he doesn't know why they came down, but they came down. Ed said it was the weight of the snow. Bob said maybe it was weak supports. It wasn't a matter of restoring the substation as no power was going to go to the substation. The transmission line was down. It was very complex.

Bob said they activated the Emergency Operations Center on Sunday morning after the storm and coordinated and talked to every municipality. They talked to all 38 and now they are down to their list of our top ten suspects and that was Upper Mount Bethel, Hellertown, Lower Saucon, Bethlehem City and they talked maybe about every four hours for the next five days. Twice a day he had a conference call with PPL and First Energy, so they were able to help them direct their efforts. They helped First Energy get permits from PennDOT, which was tough. It was a bad storm. The good news in our area is they do not see a lot of requests for shelter. John and Bill did a lot of work with the elderly and the high rises. Saucon Manor, 1050 Main Street, really stepped up and alleviated many of their issues as they were able to take people from one location and accept them out there. They had emergency generators. That really helped with the coordination of all those efforts. They had a county-wide shelter and it was actually in South Whitehall. The issue they had in the County was their power outages were so concentrated. They opened up some warming shelters like on the South side and Northampton Community College. The college was a great partner. They had a shelter on East 4th Third Street where people could come in and get warmed up. The Salvation Army Bethlehem also helped out as well as Easton. A church opened up in Easton. They were able to help those that needed to get warmed pretty quickly. The good news is that most of the roadways were opened on Sunday afternoon. Transportation became good. If you had available transportation, you could drive within 15 minutes and get a good hot meal. That's really good. We didn't have to help people that had access to transportation. Public transportation ran on schedule except for some routes that were closed due to downed trees. That's very good as if this had been a February storm, we would have had problems moving people out. It was trying. Anyone who was without power for any extended time, it became very frustrating. No matter how well you prepare for that, by the third or fourth day, people are a little short-fused and a lot of people were very upset.

Bob said the request is how to better get information out. They had a tool and they've had it several years at Northampton County, it's called Notify NC. It's a self subscribing tool. It will send emails, text messages. Priscilla said she's on that list, but didn't get anything. Bob said did you update everything? You go on it, you test it. Did you get the test messages? Priscilla said no. Bob said make sure you are currently signed up with it. What they currently don't have and the question that he was thinking about at the meeting tonight was if the Township reports the road closures, they could put that out there and the residents could choose to subscribe to that service. They could get road closures. What he's struggling with is how finite to break that down. They use five or six areas geographically for emergency services. It would probably be something like that. Zone 1 is down here, it's Hellertown, Bethlehem, Lower Saucon, Bethlehem Township, and that's probably what you'll see. You'd see road closures in Bethlehem Township as well as in Lower Saucon Township. He couldn't do it by municipality, but that way they'd have access to it.

Priscilla said she emailed Ron Young and asked if there was any way they could write on their website and say these are state roads and not municipal roads. People get that list and think all the other roads are open. We know they are state and municipal roads, but does the regular homeowner know that? No. Bob said he thinks both municipalities contract with PennDOT to do their state roads. He knows Hellertown does contract with them. Lower Saucon does not plow PennDOT roads. Some municipalities do plow for PennDOT. The average person, they don't care whose road it is, they want their road plowed. Priscilla said we have to figure out a way. Tom said they did keep a list of municipal and state road closures. Their list would be more comprehensive. Priscilla said you knew what roads in the Township were closed? Tom said not 100%. He doubts that 100% were reported. Priscilla said that's where we are missing out informing the residents, and how do you do that. Bob said in a storm like that, no one knows what roads are closed.

John said Constitution in Hellertown was a major issue. Their roads would open and close, open and close. As trees got cleaned up, that road opened up and they went to the next road. There were a lot of roads that got slammed and were closed for a longer period of time. That list does change as the road departments are out there. Bob said at 10:00 AM the road opens, at 10:05 AM, it's not going to be on their information. Ed said do Hellertown and Lower Saucon road departments know which roads are open under their care and which ones are closed? John said they knew which roads were closed. They worked side-by-side with Tom Henshaw all the time. They knew the whole time which roads were opened and closed. He's sure Lower Saucon did the same thing. Everybody kept pretty close and basically knew what was going on.

Bob said some roads were closed because the utilities were out working. The municipalities were out closing and cleaning up this area and couldn't take the time to know that PPL is working on Main Street. We could create a road closure list that folks could subscribe too. Where we need the help is in advertising. The growth of that program has been very, very slower. It's www.notifync.org. From our perspective, what's very handy about it is it's self-registration. They've gone to where locals will be able to send messages out like that. They won't be able to do the reverse notification part, but they can send some messages out. They did some groups like Easton City, and it's not only the County can push messages out, but the local municipalities can push a message out. A challenge is in a storm like this with power outages, how many people are you really reaching? If you were properly using your cellular devices, you only would be turning it on when you'd need to be using it and then you'd turn it off.

Ed said he has two grandchildren who live in New Jersey and they were impacted by the storm. Their parents had actually several months ago listed he and his wife as an emergency contact. They are constantly getting phone calls. They get phone calls from two segments of the Township. That is they get calls from the school and they get calls from the Township. There's an overlap of information flow. They found it extremely useful in a sense that the Township would call them, give them information about the Township. In some instances, they would provide information that was germane to the school district, and the school district would follow up and give us information that was typically germane to the school district. The nice part about it is they have contact numbers of everybody in the entire community. They have phone numbers, email addresses of every resident and they have the phone number and contact for every resident that has a kid in the school. They have 100% coverage. He's sitting there and saying why don't we have that as a COG? Why doesn't Lower Saucon and Hellertown and the school district have that, and create our own central communications network? We spend money on the system. Lower Saucon spends money on a system. Hellertown spends money on a system. All with the same people. We sent out a message to people saying you could use our facilities if you haven't had a shower in a couple of weeks. We can only send it to people who have kids in school. Why couldn't we send it to everybody in the entire community? Priscilla said Tom Rieger sent her that message and she pasted it and put it on Facebook. Glenn said if the system is already there at the school district, why doesn't Hellertown and Lower Saucon use it. Ed said get together and share the data base. Glenn said it also sends an email. Leslie said years ago they looked at the Connect-CTY, but isn't that web-based and if you don't have access to the internet, you can't use it anyway. Ed said do the best you can. You can send out emails. Priscilla said someone is going to see that and it's going to get the word to that family that doesn't have the internet.

John said Youth Sports used a system where it's a one-call. It will send out an email, a message to your phone, a message to your cell phone. They have it and it's complete. He coaches a team and when he needs to get a message out to the team, he picks up the phone and gets his code and out it goes. The Hellertown Water Authority has the one call in place. They piggy-back with them. It's pay per use. They did use ours. He and Bob were pretty much in communication all day. As the day went on, and it was getting colder, they had a lot of senior citizens. The trees in the golf course were the first ones to go down at about 11 am on Saturday morning and it cut their power on and it just expanded from there. This is going to take time. It's not going to happen overnight. The Saucon Valley Manor really stepped up to the plate. In the beginning, they didn't have power either and weren't expecting this to happen. When it did, they were able to get a hold of a couple of emergency generator emergency systems out of Quakertown and ran some Caterpillar's out of Whitehall which both brought generators down. They were able to get heat, electric and water in their building and operate as a normal facility, except for their new wing which has a separate service. John said they needed to find a place for senior citizens. Saucon Valley Manor said they'd be ready for the senior citizens and to bring as many as they needed to. They said to call them and they will set beds up. In the discussion, they put together special needs of senior citizens or even younger people with special needs. There were the 950 and 650 high risers. The 950's were on battery back-up for six hours. They no longer had any lights in the building and the hallways were pitch black and he got really no help from Valley Housing, the one who rents the apartment for Saucon Manor. He went over to the other one and they had some slight power, some generator, but none of them had heat which was going to become an issue. Going around saying these high rises, we pretty well know what's going on here. There are some people in 950 that needed to get transported over to 1050, as they had special needs. At that point, they sent out a one call asking or telling people to call the EMS building and let us know of any needs. They got responses back. They had one woman who was on a kidney transplant list and had just received a phone call the day before the storm that any minute she'll be able to receive her kidney. She had no power and was in her mid-70's and very concerned. They took her to Saucon Valley Manor and they helped her schedule to go and get her dialysis done. They ran into a couple who were on oxygen. A lot today are on liquid oxygen which is a pump and once the system goes down the pump goes down, they don't have oxygen. They brought them over also. No one was transported by ambulance, it was more moving their SUV and moving people around which worked out quite nicely. The Atityeh's were great. Some people called and said can they go to the Manor, and the answer was no. They had to have a reason to go there. He didn't know how many people and how long. The second day they established they could move some patients to Schoenersville Road which was an option. He talked to Wally the whole time from the school district. Wally is a terrific guy. He called a bus driver and put him on standby as they were going to use a school bus. They didn't need to use emergency vehicles. They just needed a way to get them there. When the roads were opened, for other residents, you could go and get food, you could go in the car and get warm. They targeted the senior citizens. He and Bill didn't communicate very well when it came to the handicapped home. They missed that for some reason and thought they would be under generator and they were not. Priscilla said that's not in the Emergency Management book they have? John said he doesn't know. It's not an issue. He just assumed they were under power as it was the hospice program. They were targeting the senior citizens.

John said working with the power company, from Chattanooga, they were good guys. When the substation was down, they kept it quiet. He kept checking with the supervisor. The supervisor said they are going to hit 7:30 pm, 8:00 pm tonight. They are going to hit that target. The power did come back on that day. They didn't know how many phones were down. He would suggest everyone get it to their cell phones when the phones are down. That was their fear, the senior citizens and special needs. That's when you talk about a warming area. People wanted to come to the fire house. The only thing we could provide them was shelter. They had no heat. Their generators aren't wired. They just all learned they aren't efficient as they thought. His guys were all cold and weren't as prepared as they thought. The golf course had a wedding and stamped their feet. The Dewey had two weddings during the storm. The reason was the churches threw them out and they had nowhere to go to get married. They had electric for the lights and they had stoves, so they had two weddings. They are going to look into getting a bigger generator in the firehouse.

Ed said we as a COG should really get our act together and should look at our systems so we can cover the entire community. With the authorities, they are required to have the reverse 9-1-1. With the Clean Water Act, they have to be able to notify their customers if they have dirty water. John said they piggybacked their system. It's in the budget in the Emergency Management section for reverse 9-1-1. Ed said since we have a recreation committee, why can't we put together a communications group. They would be responsible for getting this in place. John said he's fine with that. They learned a lot from this storm. We Facebook. We twitter, which reaches a certain level of the population. Tom said we shouldn't lose sight of the old methods of going through with speakers bullhorns. John said they were going door-to-door. Ed said the average age of Hellertown, they don't twitter, maybe they do Facebook. John said the ambulances had 38 calls from Saturday through Tuesday. They were extremely busy. He never saw one of his trucks as he was out door to door checking on the high risers. The senior citizens aren't going to Twitter or Facebook. Priscilla said they need to have an old fashioned princess phone that you can plug in with just a dial tone. Ed said a lot of them have that.

Priscilla said the residents in Saucon Valley don't know where to go as no one has thought about this. John said he, Bill Csaszar and Chris, have built the system. Priscilla said do people know about it? You know about it, but there are residents out there that don't know about it. John said we have to get the word out. We have to be proactive on it. We can't wait until someone calls and then say oops, we have to go out and proactively look for these people. That was his thought at this last storm to physically go out and look for people who needed help and couldn't get out. We need to do something. The Emergency Center does its own thing.

Priscilla said a few years back they had a book on what to do if there's an emergency. She did read that book and most of it hasn't changed except for updating of names. Does that meet our needs today? The other thing is she had a crank radio, it had a little antenna and WAEB they were actually broadcasting Channel 69 news on there. Once she knew that, she could listen to that. She called Leslie on Monday which roads were plowed and roads that were closed and people needed to know why their road was closed. They started putting the road closures on their website. Leslie said she did that at home as she had electric. There was no electric at the Township offices. Priscilla said she only had a generator, and we had the discussion with the Smart phone. You clicked on the Township's website, and it said if you are reading this message, you don't have the latest message of Adobe Flash Player. She clicked here and it says Apple doesn't support this. Leslie said they called their webhost and he said it would not work with Adobe, and that's why Apple phone are not able to access it. He said one percent of the population has those phones. There are things we can do. There was an article on the internet right now that Adobe is thinking of revising Flash Player. They've been looking at it because of the web base and the smart phone. Ed said if you sent a pdf out, everyone can look at it, but then you have Adobe, and you can't see a thing. A pdf is a simple file. Leslie said they were posting the roads as they could, but they were changing so fast. Roger would say it's open, then it's closed, then it's open. It's better to let it closed. John said Constitution was better just staying closed. If you saw the trees that were coming down in front of your eyes, you just shook. They were actually using snowplows as tree removers. Priscilla said we did the best we could, but her concern was how to warn the residents about what was going on. Leslie said they were answering the phones, and it was cold, but we were here. Priscilla said Saturday and Sunday you weren't. Leslie said she was there at the Township on Sunday. Priscilla said she wouldn't have thought to call the Township on a Sunday as no one is here to answer the phone.

John said Wally from the school knew what was going on the whole time. He knew from Sandra Fellin what was going on. When the first decision was to close the school on Monday, she was there and was involved with the conversations. The second day Sandra wanted to re-open, but there was still no power. Wally was talking and giving Sandra the messages from PPL. The electric came back on that Tuesday night. The school did work very closely with them. The three entities did a good job communicating including the police department. They need to find a better way to get the communications out to the residents. Ed said we need to reach 100% of the community. Priscilla said we did miss them and she feels bad about them. Cathy said there first time 2,000 calls went out and only 200 received the messages. Priscilla said you have an email, a cell phone, a telephone. John said we got to get it out on the PATCH

and say to our residents, you need to go on this website and input your data. We can't input it. Priscilla said she's signed up for the state notification. John said they need to update themselves. Priscilla said one of the choices should be an outside member of the family. That way, somebody else can know what's going on. John said if you want other phones on that information, you have to input it. We need to get that out. Ed said you put a few advertisements in the newspaper and you say we're trying to build this communications data base. Here are the options for you to provide us with the information. Access this particular website and put in your information. If you don't have access to the internet, pick up a phone and request the form from the Borough, Township and school district.

Priscilla said she got an alert from the County at 8:26 pm. That was the last one she got. Tina said the Borough's email, she got the seven updates. It was very, very helpful. Ed said we have \$15,000.00 in the bank. It's not that expensive. Glenn asked Leslie to have Jack ask Sandra Fellin what exactly is involved and if you could coordinate with the system and Hellertown and the school district. Ed said with the ultimate objective of putting together a database that covers the entire community. Tom said he would recommend policy. Policy is a big thing. Some years ago we had an issue where someone tried to send out an Amber Alert and there is only one entity that sends that out, and that is the Police. Ed said we can send out a broadcast to the elementary school, the high school. Bob said once you combine systems, you don't tread on someone else. Look at different databases and see how you can share the information. Priscilla said we need to coordinate if something should be on the website and a separate thing for emergencies. She found a nice little thing on the State site which was an emergency kit, what to have on hand, things like that. We could put it in our newsletter. Tom said now isn't a bad time to talk to residents about preparedness. We got a little reprieve before winter comes. They can be a part of that, how they link databases and things like that. Cathy said it was nice to get that official statement where the County was.

E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority – update – Priscilla said at the last casino meeting, the Authority looked at the list, applications. Out of the 25 applications, the following is what each municipality received:

1. Hellertown got \$27,719.00 for a police vehicle.
2. Freemansburg Borough got eleven AED's and their grant was awarded for \$12,000.00.
3. Hellertown Borough got police tough book computers and the grant was awarded at \$22,448.00.
4. A joint application from Hellertown-Lower Saucon was the re-chassis of the ambulance and that was awarded at \$107,863.00.
5. Hellertown-Lower Saucon was a joint application, was LifePak 15 defibrillators, which was awarded at \$35,885.50.
6. Lower Saucon came in was awarded \$100,701.11. We were not award \$5,000.00 which was over time and wasn't included. It also lacked documentation for vehicle equipment and computers which totaled \$7,541.00. The award instead of being \$113,242.11, it was awarded at \$100,701.11.
7. Hellertown Borough for police officers, the grant was for \$170,000.00, and was awarded \$0.00.
8. Bethlehem Township applied for Life Stat CPR equipment and their grant was awarded at \$44,135.00.
9. Hellertown Borough radar sign was awarded for \$6,200.00.
10. Freemansburg Borough police vehicles and accessories was awarded at \$78,010.00.
11. Freemansburg Borough police and computers was awarded at \$16,500.00.
12. Bethlehem Township vehicle pre-emption technology was awarded at \$102,150.00.
13. Hellertown Borough Storts Adapters was \$0.00. The vote did not pass. To her, that's part of fighting fires and that was the impact that was proved. She was shocked that it did not pass.

14. Hellertown and Lower Saucon for the Life Line EMS jackets, that grant was awarded at \$17,840.00.
15. Hellertown Borough was awarded at \$4,405.00 for the gas meters.
16. Bethlehem Township, and they got \$90,800.00 for the purchase of two police cars.
17. The City of Bethlehem got money for their EMS re-chassied ambulance at \$121,109.00.

The following all got zero:

1. Hellertown Borough for the cross-walks.
2. Hellertown Borough for the traffic calming project.
3. Freemansburg for road safety improvements.
4. City of Bethlehem for custom pumper
5. Lower Saucon Township for fire EMS ATV
6. Bethlehem Township for rescue truck
7. Bethlehem Township for spark program equipment
8. City of Bethlehem landfill loop shuttle

The total awarded amounted to \$787,765.65. The total available estimated is \$1,599,823.65. If you subtract what was available for the awarded money, we should receive in January to the end of December 31, of \$812,058.04. Because we didn't spend that money, the law says if it's not spent in the year it's received, it has to go into uncommitted money. There was no way she was going to let that go as uncommitted money. She made a motion to re-evaluate that. She suggested the grants that didn't get funded, we have a policy, that there's no reason you can't come back and stress your impact. This round of grant funding is for impact. That is her recommendation. She hopes we can spend some of that money so it doesn't go to uncommitted money. Cathy said will it be on the agenda to re-evaluate the items that were awarded? Priscilla said she's not sure how Alicia will word the agenda. They should be allowed to come and speak about their grants that weren't funded. This was supposed to be based upon impact. Cathy said they certainly have the impact. The missing information has been provided and it's all there. John said the equipment they received in the Township, not talking about the equipment from this round, they did quite well. They showed the need and impact. The last round, they bought the Life Pak's 15 through the funding. Today, just as an example, Bethlehem Township is running with the same automatic defibrillators. A person gets tired after two minutes of CPR and the machine will go forever as long as you have oxygen. The Life Pak 15 is a new tool on the market today, that it is able to give the paramedics a better view of the heart and what's going on, and able to send the information out to the call centers. The one today was we arrived on the scene, recognized the patient was in trouble, the monitor was able to look at this and tell them they had an alert. This was a person that was in real need of critical care need. This person needs not go to the emergency room, but right to the cath room. It's a system that the hospitals are looking into. They took the patient from the house, treated him on scene, to the cath house and the clot was taken within 20 some minutes. The equipment they've asked for and the Township asked for, really benefits the community. The goal fo any medic or any crew is to take their patient and get into the cath lab. By-pass that system in the emergency room where they have to be looked at, and now with the equipment they are carrying and with what they received from the grant, they are able to take it a step further today and go right to the cath lab, twenty minutes later, the doctor looked at the crew and said this was a very sick person and you did great. Your equipment saved this person's life. It made them feel great. They've seen positives with the CPR, but today was the absolute goal, to get the person to the cath lab without stopping anywhere else.

2. Joint COG Projects

- a. Saucon Rail Trail – Leslie said the markers are still being installed. They will have something on their website tomorrow showing the markers and the mileage and how that's

delineated. The trail was not closed during the storm. A couple of trees came down and they were removed.

B Peer Recreation Study Committee – Cathy said this group meets on Monday, so there's nothing report there.

3. Roads & Traffic

a. Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application – Leslie said no update.

b. Applebutter Road Closure – Priscilla said the road is open. She said they are still working on the under part, so there is still construction on Shimersville Road, but at least everyone can get in and out.

4. Saucon Valley Compost Center – update – Cathy said they opened the Compost Center during the week, Monday through Friday from 7 am to 3 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm. They let people bring their debris there and they piled it nicely, and they didn't have any problems. Over the weekend, it was manned and opened for extended hours. There were approximately 400 sign-ins. That's only signing in once, it's to multiple times. We will probably have to do some composting before we normally do. It was a nice resource to have available during this storm. Leslie said the residents were very happy about the Compost Center being opened. This is also posted on our website. They also have a clean-up on their website about the wood debris and how they can help the Township in any way. John said they had their road department go and clean the streets, and then ten minutes later, everything would be back on the street. Leslie said they have 70 roads on our website where Public Works is going to go and clean up these roads by priority. Priscilla said is there any way that little box can get a little bigger on the important announcements on the website? Leslie said they are going to be revising that.

5. Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts – update – Ed said there is a meeting tomorrow and within a month and a half the system is going to cut over. Let's hope it works and he would suggest in the near future, we take it off as a line item. Dave Bonenberger is pretty much on top of this. Leslie said they have to adopt one more ordinance which they were waiting for the referendum to pass, which it did. Cathy said they were looked at re-evaluating the weighted averages. Ed said Hellertown and Lower Saucon had the disadvantage in the formula and he mentioned it to them, but they are dealing with a bureaucracy. His idea is the formula should be based on the amount of money that we basically generate in EIT and they got this weighed per capita average. Who cares how many people you have in the Township. It's relevant how much money you are collecting on our behalf. There's nothing we can really do, so let's just take this off the agenda.

6. Fire Services – update – Leslie said no update.

7. Library Task Force – update – Leslie said there is a meeting tomorrow night. Priscilla said last Wednesday it was on the Township Council agenda and for whatever reason, one of our Council members didn't want to vote on it. She made the motion to continue with the City's library at least for next year as we have a legal contract with the library that says we have to inform them by November 15th whether or not we're going to use their services. Out of courtesy, we always have voted on it and sent them a letter so they wouldn't wonder. Her motion failed for lack of a second. It means we are going to continue with the City's library.

8. Regional Police Study – update – Cathy said they have their kick-off meeting with members of Council and the management on November 17th at 10:30 am at Lower Saucon Township.

9. **Other Issues**

- a. **2012 Meeting Dates-** Priscilla said we had three or four meetings in which we had no quorums. We don't normally meet in July because of vacations and in August we didn't have a meeting. We really need to decide what we want to do. Leslie said if you would like, she sends out a meeting request through Outlook about meetings, and you can accept, decline or say tentative. If we don't get a response with a quorum, we could cancel it. We could advertise for the year all our meetings. Priscilla said July and August should not be a meeting month. Cathy said would you consider having a meeting every other month? Priscilla said we thought about that awhile ago. Leslie said we do the same thing if we don't have a Planning Commission meeting or a quorum, we cancel the meeting. Ed moved for approval of the S. V. Partnership meeting dates, to meet ten months, with no meeting in July or August, second by Glenn. All in favor. Leslie will be doing the meeting notifications.

F. **County Report**

1. **Tom Harp Update** – He said the big news was last night. There are a couple of changes with Council. There are some changes. The Council is 5-4, Republican-majority. It was an interesting evening. There was about 19.5% turnout which is somewhat light. There weren't any issues or problems at any of the polling places that he's aware of. One of his new responsibilities is oversight of the voters. They made sure all the bases were covered and tried to anticipate if there were any issues or problems. Next year, the Presidential election, will be a lot of planning. There were some issues in 2008. This one went pretty smoothly.

Tom said the budget process continues. They've already had some public meetings on the tax increase. The one mill or about 9% tax increase is in Mr. Stoffa's budget. There is at least one more budget meeting coming up with Human Resources and Gracedale which should be an interesting one. That might be next Tuesday evening. The Gracedale budget will be brought up. Right now they are thinking \$2.7 million shortfall in the Gracedale budget. There's something that has to be done this year as well as next year in running the nursing home. At that meeting, the Human Resources and the budget meeting, Premiere Health Care, who is the new private administrator out there, will be submitting an outline of what they plan in the next year or so to hopefully turn things around at Gracedale so it is more self-sufficient and able to operate with County subsidy or not as much County subsidy. They've only been there for a little over a month and go in there and look at ways to get some cost-savings to turn the facility around. They will be expecting that report.

Tom said the Wayne Grube Park, they did have the dedication ceremony on October 28th which was really cool. The day before it rained cats and dogs and the day after there was a snowstorm. It was a beautiful sunny day and had a nice turnout in Allen Township for the opening of the new park.

Tom said they talked about recycling. Tom Dittmar is starting to plan all his events for next year. They are looking towards a tire recycling event next year.

Tom said he mentioned about the Historical Society, next year having a program. They have a little prototype with the passport. Priscilla said it's going to be color on the front page and it's going to be 20 historic sites you can tour and get stamped when you visit them. They are looking for sponsors and are looking to the County. They also want to coordinate something if we get the money with a launch possibly in the first two weeks of December. It would be between 1 pm and 3 pm. She will pass the book around. It's to show everybody what Northampton County has to offer. Tom said the first week in December, there's going to be declared the 1861 Courthouse 150th Anniversary Week. Our Historic Courthouse just had a makeover with paint and new windows. It will turn 150 years old. It opened up November 18, 1861 which was the first court session. It's an opportunity to celebrate one of the County's largest historic structures especially since it's been fixed up. They hope to do a re-

enactment of one of the first trials. They are talking to some Civil War re-enactors. It was a big deal at the time. You'll get more information about that.

Tom said the next Joint COG meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. It will be hosted by Hellertown Borough. It starts at 9 am to 11 am. There are a couple of agenda items and issues coming up.

2. **County Bridge #15 (Meadows Road Bridge)** – Priscilla said Andy DeGruchy is speaking over in Seidersville Hall right now. He was disappointed and wished he could have spoken on the three Historical Societies and they could have had a group. She did speak with John Stoffa and he wants to meet with Mr. DeGruchy about the Meadows Road Bridge. They are trying to coordinate a date. Tom brought up the issue about the mortar mix, not using Portland Cement. He's saying he always used lime mix with these historical bridges. The Mason's all say you are supposed to do it, and they had a little bit of a disagreement. He'd like to get those two together. He'd have to talk to Mr. Stoffa about it. The alternative is a mortar that is very hard and further cause separation of the stone. He's saying this is what they use at all of the County bridges. There are three other bridges, one up in Lehigh Township, older than the Meadow's Bridge. It doesn't have the wear and tear like the Meadow's Bridge. He was going to suggest we have a meeting anywhere that is convenient and best suited. Priscilla said when he came to speak with us that night on the bridges, she doesn't remember him saying he used a lime mix. Glenn said the issue came up, but he never said what he was using. Tom said he makes a 4 to 1 ratio. They do not use lime in the mix as it adds no strength. It's best we just sit down with them.

G. **Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items** – None

H. **Events Calendar** – <http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

- Priscilla said we have Hellertown's light up night on Friday, November 25, 2011.
- Priscilla said the Chamber is having a holiday and dinner mixer on Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 5 pm to 8 pm at Sagra's.
- Priscilla said the Heller Homestead is having a holiday gathering on Monday, December 5, 2011 from 6 pm to 9 pm, which is their artist reception also. The public is invited.
- Glenn asked if the Grist Mill and the Old Mill Bridge were going to be on the County's historic tour. Priscilla said who is going to be down there stamping their passport. Glenn said he likes that.

I. **Adjournment** – Motion by John, second by Glenn for adjournment. The time was 8:30 p.m.

J. **Next meeting:** December 14th – Saucon Valley School District