

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 10, 2010
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by Priscilla deLeon on November 10, 2010 at 7:01 PM at Hellertown Borough.

B. **Roll Call: Present:** Priscilla deLeon; Glenn Kern; Ed Inghrim, Mayor Fluck; Jack Cahalan; Charlie Luthar. Guest: Stephanie Brown

C. **Council of Governments**

1. **Minutes of the October meeting** – Motion by Ed, second by Mayor Fluck to accept the October minutes. All in favor.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Jack said the checking account balance as of October 31, 2010 was \$3,870.42. He did ask about the bank service charge of \$2.00 that was reflected on the previous report. Cathy Gorman advised him that Tina handles the SVP account at Wachovia and she has been fighting with Wachovia to get this removed. She had some other issues with Wachovia. Priscilla said the official statement from the bank is better than printing it out. Charlie said Tina is having difficulty with Wachovia, and we had a meeting with three people at the bank recently to push for some improvements. Jack said the Treasurer's account balance as of October 31, 2010 was \$12,520.26. There were no receipts or expenses out of that account. Motion by Ed, second by Mayor Fluck for approval of the Treasurer's report.

3. **Approval of 2011 Meeting Schedule** – Jack said we just continued the rotating schedule and skipped the month of July. Priscilla said are we anticipating any other special meetings like the goals of the partnership? Jack said looking at our agenda, the different groups that are listed here are holding separate meetings. Fire Services is meeting separately. The Library Task Force will probably kick off meetings in January. The Joint Recreation Study Committee will be meeting separately. They are not advertised meetings. Priscilla said she was thinking about things we might want to do with the multi-municipal comprehensive plan. Jack said we need funding to continue working on any action items. If we do get funding, the idea was to have this group be the Steering Committee to work with EPD on the zoning audits. Charlie said the other thing that we have happening is the Joint Meeting of the two Planning Commissions. Jack said we either do those at Hellertown or Lower Saucon and they are advertised. Motion by Mayor Fluck, second by Glenn for approval of the 2011 meeting schedule. All in favor.

4. **Approval to pay bills (if any):** Jack said there were no bills to pay.

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

1. **Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistant Grant Application** – Update - Jack said we had a meeting at the school district with the representatives from DCNR, Mark Palerino and Lorne Possinger, and they basically told us that we would be eligible for the peer-to-peer technical assistance grant funding. We had to submit the grant application, which we have done. Joe Hoffman was nice enough to help us with that. It was submitted the beginning of October. At that meeting when Mark and Lorne were there, they talked about giving us some recommendations for candidates for the peer consultants. The idea was to get about three of them and we'd bring them to a meeting, interview them, and make our recommendations to DCNR. Mark has been in touch with Charlie, and he indicated that due to the scheduling of his peer consultants, he was only able to come up with one (1) recommendation. Jack handed out the resume of Samantha Holbert and said that Mark

feels that she very well qualified and experienced. Her schedule would fit our schedule and she would be available to work with us if we're satisfied with her. Jack said that one of the things that jumped out on him was that is she is currently working with the Slate Belt COG and doing basically the same thing – working with them to develop a regional recreation board. She's also worked with other groups consisting of several municipalities and a school district. She is also currently working with the West End Region, and has completed several other regional recreational projects. She does have a solid experience and educational background and her work experience looks pretty impressive. She has a background as a Zoning Officer and as a Recreation Director. She's moved around. Priscilla asked if the Slate Belt COG has their school districts as members? Jack said he didn't know if they were members, he'd have to check that out. Charlie said he thinks they are like an associate member like the county is and are not part of it. We can easily find that out. Jack said they may have gotten together just for the recreational aspect of it. What they are telling us is she's the only one available right now if we want to move forward on this. If we say no, we probably will have to wait until there are other candidates available. Priscilla said it would be nice to have a comparison. Jack said he doesn't know if we're going to get that. If we want to move forward within the next month or two and get going on this, get the grant approved, she looks like she's the one we can do that with. He sent it out to the members of the Joint Recreation Study Committee which includes Glenn, John Bate, Gail Nolf, John Landis and Dave Spirk and told them to take a look at it and let him know if they have any comments. He has not received any. He just wanted to run it past this group. Glenn said she looks qualified. Priscilla said it looks pretty impressive. Mayor Fluck said what he took away from that meeting was that we shouldn't wait, we should keep going forward, so he would think we should keep the process going. She seems well qualified and we should get her as fast as we can. Priscilla said having the background that she has is kind of what we want to happen here too. She also has experience with Rails-to-Trails. Jack said if you are okay with her, he and Charlie will check again with the other members of the joint study committee and if they are satisfied, Charlie will get back to Mark Palerino and advise him that we are okay with Amanda as the peer consultant. Priscilla said we can't make independent decisions, the Councils have to. Jack said the Councils did approve submitting the grant. As far as she is concerned, she's sent to us from the State. Once the grant is approved, DCNR basically will be employing her and will be contracting with her for this assignment. We are just setting the whole thing up. It's basically if we are satisfied with her as the peer consultant, we let DCNR know. Charlie said we are going to approve the grant documents when we get them back and they will go back to the Councils. No action is required on this.

Jack said Bob Frey has contacted him and they set up a meeting for later this week to talk about scheduling the fields. Ed said he and Lanita met with Bob and Sandy and they had a conversation and suggested what he really needed to do was to separate from the DCNR process the work that you have been doing in terms of this joint recreation activities, so Ed thinks Bob got the message. Jack said he told him to bring his schedules in. Charlie is going to join us. Jack said he told Bob to let us know what his needs are and we'll look at the scheduling. Ed said he'd like to move that forward as there are people on the board now that are looking at \$3 million we have in the capital reserve fund and they want to spend it. Part of that is to do work on the facilities. If we can avoid that, he'd really like to if possible. We're talking about spending about \$500,000.00 for rearranging dirt on the football field. From his perspective, he thinks there's an opportunity to use the facilities we have in the Borough and the Township to alleviate the need for that. Jack said the school is a priority organization like the youth sports groups and we would look at what their needs are and then see what arrangements would have to be made with all of the parties in order to see if we can address what you are looking for. Glenn said he thinks there is pressure because the girl's soccer is switching to the fall. He thinks what is going to happen is that Bob is going to be asking for usage of Polk Valley Park for soccer fields, and it will be pretty intense usage in addition to the SV Youth soccer. It's going to be high school soccer using the fields. Priscilla said what impacts it that going to be? Glenn said it could be substantial. Jack said it could be as far as scheduling. Maintenance also comes into play. Ed said Polk Valley Park will provide a lot of relief for the school. For example, Bob said most of the fields up at Polk Valley Park aren't up to PIAA

standards and Ed told him, let's make them standard. Between the school, the Township and the Borough, we have the choice of spending \$500,000.00 to move dirt around or make them standard. Priscilla said she wouldn't want to see taking away the fields from the groups using them. Jack said we are looking at all of the fields and will see what will work. They are not only used for games, they are used for practice. Games were always a priority, so if its games, they will have to talk about it. Jack said youth soccer uses the fields at the Grist Mill for practice. Charlie said soccer just invested in lighting at the Grist Mill. Mayor Fluck asked about Southeastern Park? Jack said that's only used for baseball. There are plenty of fields for baseball. Jack said there are enough practice fields down at the Grist Mill. Mayor Fluck said soccer is coming on really big, and we may not have enough fields. Jack said he believes that there's no conflict on the weekends as there are no high school games. Most of the games are in the afternoons on weekdays and that's when those games could start bumping up against the practices that usually start after school. Ed said also because of budgetary issues for the school, they may cut some of the athletic programs which would reduce some of the demand for the fields. Priscilla said the fields at the Grist Mill, do they have to be recovered after so much usage? Charlie said he does not have enough knowledge or background to know that answer. He would assume they are as they are heavily used. They get a break during the winter time. Priscilla said if the fields are in that condition, we don't let them use it. Jack said that the Township fields are closed in inclement weather. Jack said our multi-purpose fields at Polk Valley Park are primarily used in spring and in fall. In the summertime, there really isn't a lot of activity. Charlie said that's how the Grist Mill is. Jack said we'll talk about it and then come back and see what's going on.

2. **DCED LUPTAP Grant Application** – Update – Charlie said we were turned down for this grant, but we are applying to the County Gaming Authority for funding for the zoning audits.

E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

1. **Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority** – Update – Jack distributed a handout and said the first one is a report on how they did on the first round of the casino gaming funds applications. This was the committed round and Hellertown and Lower Saucon submitted 70% of the applications. Hellertown and Lower Saucon submitted single applications and also submitted several joint applications. These were the winners after the gaming authority on October 25th went through 17 applications and graded them and then they had them ranked and spent that night going over the final ones and awarding the money to them. Glenn said what was Lower Saucon's total amount submitted? Jack said he doesn't know if he has them broken out. The joint applications totaled over \$1 million. Charlie said the fire truck and the Polk Valley Road light were joint ones. Priscilla said there were 17 grants submitted and the Authority looked at certain criteria when they went through the applications and rated them according to the points. They added them up and basically Freemansburg was the winner. Jack said they eliminated some of the applications as they didn't qualify by following the criteria or by failing to submit the required information. When they eliminated those eight applications that left nine applications to be considered. For those applications, the Authority did the math and realized that the money they had available was enough to cover all nine applications, so all nine of them if they were deemed worthy could receive the full amount including Freemansburg who had the major one. They came back from a recess and that's what they decided to do. The Township and Hellertown both got money. For the joint applications they receive funding got the preemptive devices for the traffic signals which was \$128,000.00. They were awarded \$25,000.00 for one year for the Dewey Ambulance equipment request. Hellertown got the safety crosswalk markings and signage and LST got the police officer and Freemansburg got their secure and process holding facility. Ed said did Freemansburg have any hard data as to how many people they arrested that had gone to the holding room and they were sitting in the police station? Jack said no, they just stated that they didn't have a facility to process people they were arresting. Ed said did they tell you how many people they arrested? Jack said they provided that information. Mayor Fluck said he understands that Freemansburg really came prepared. Jack said we said from the beginning that we didn't want this to turn into a beauty contest

and do all kinds of bells and whistles. We just did a straight presentation and spoke about what was in their application. Hellertown brought the Police Chief, we had our Police Chief. Hellertown brought their Finance Director, we brought our Finance Director. They just spoke about what was in the application. Freemansburg set up easels, had drawings. They spent money on architectural consultants to draw up plans for the site and basically ran through what you would do for a Council meeting. They showed the plan and Attorney Fox spoke about the need for it. He doesn't know what was in their application. His understanding was that we were supposed to stick with what was presented in the application. Priscilla said they talked about what was in the application. They talked about their study. The three of us did the traffic study together and Priscilla told them that if the Authority gave credence to their traffic study, you have to say ours was good also. Jack said there's a list of six areas that we can be funded under. Since theirs was both police and emergency related, it probably scored the highest of all the applications. Priscilla said it came in second. The preemptive devices came in first. Jack said no one disputes that they didn't need this facility and they did meet the criteria. Now that that's been awarded, it shows the Gaming Authority is granting money for those types of projects and if Hellertown or one of the other contiguous municipalities has a similar need, they can submit an application and their chances should be just as good. Priscilla said she can't understand why they didn't put any credence to our fire equipment request. That was part of the list that they were supposed to use. There are nine people up there and we had nine different versions of what an impact was. She and Stephanie tried to be advocates, but a lot were zeroing in on the distance that the project was from the casino and Freemansburg made a good plea that they were the closest. She was trying to pull for Polk Valley Road traffic signal and they told her that was already planned before the casino was built. She said Freemansburg's facility was also planned before that. They were trying to fix something. They said that already existed. Jack said the Authority and Priscilla did a good job. These awards established precedents that will be good for us going forward. The biggest one was they handed out all the money that was on the table to the contiguous municipalities. That's a real important step that was established. The other thing is that we made it past the impacts threshold. We tried out best and submitted the data and the Authority accepted what we submitted. We didn't have to jump through all kinds of hoops. Those things are good going forward when we submit more applications. Priscilla said after the first two hearings and then the third meeting is when they made their decision. She called Lisa Boscola's office and told her she really had issues with the definition of the word impact. It worked out. The best thing we could have done in advance was to rate the projects so they didn't have to sit there and debate it back and forth. The numbers were the numbers. They spent a lot of time on this document and a lot of time on this document on how to rate the projects. The bottom line was eligibility and a determination that the key requirements were met. If the answer was yes, proceed to ranking, if the ranking phase is no, then stop there. There were some applications that the big word was empirical data. Then it was the resolution from the governing body. Northampton County submitted an application and they didn't have a resolution. They didn't have any empirical data on impacts either. She said we are going to get a reputation that you really don't have to follow the rules. Now for the uncommitted funds, there are about 54 applications that have been submitted. They said most of them didn't have included a resolution from the governing body and she said, then eliminate them. They said they couldn't do that, and maybe they weren't clear enough in the directions. She said she didn't know how that could have happened; it says this information must be attached. She's a stickler for following the rules and the thing she is going to ask when she gets to the meeting is how do we know that this project is backed by the governing body? Wouldn't you want to know what your administration was doing when they applied for these grants? Glenn said what happened with Bethlehem Township? Priscilla said nobody wanted to give them money. Jack said when they did their presentation the Assistant Manager said he didn't have any data on casino impacts. They put in an application for a traffic light on Freemansburg Avenue and one of the Authority members asked do you have a traffic studies that back that up? He said he didn't have any. They didn't have anything there to back up that it was casino related. Someone on the Authority said then you should go to the uncommitted round. It's the second round where you don't have to show those things. Priscilla said out of the 17 applications, our Flint Hill Road application came in last. She didn't even bother to make a motion. Jack said it's actually a flood control issue on 412. Priscilla said if

you are in Philadelphia or down south and you needed to come to the casino, you do a MapQuest search and you are going to be coming in via 412, 212, and 611. They were saying it's all I-78, and she said it was running the other way. Bethlehem Township came in 15th and 16th for the purchase of two police cars and the traffic light at Washington and Freemansburg, but their purchase of the ambulance did come in at 12th. That was before our 412 project. Jack said that also got shot down at the end because the representative from Bethlehem Township had said to every one of the applicants isn't this something that should be in your capital plan and they said that's right. When the time came for Mr. Nolan to make a plea at the end for the extra money, one of the Authority members said to Mr. Nolan, isn't this something that's supposed to be in your capital budget. Mr. Nolan said yes, it is. Jack said that's it for the report on the first round. Priscilla said there was money from November and December and her biggest fear is that's going to become uncommitted money as it wasn't spent in the first year just like the \$800,000.00 that is uncommitted was supposed to be spent the first year but the County didn't inform us that year. That's a whole other story. She said we should have another round of grants, unfortunately though for you. It's supposed to be an agenda for the next meeting and hopefully it will get passed. Charlie said he and Tina called Alicia because of the handling of the grant monies that were given out to Hellertown. The contract itself said they were going to submit 75% of the funding and then the 25% follows later. Alicia told us it was because of the 4th quarter money and until they know for sure what they have. It sounds like they already agreed that the 4th quarter money was going to be part of this restrictive funding. She also said it was proportional and if they expected \$100,000.00 and it's only \$50,000.00, then every one of the grants is going to be proportionally based on how much money it is. It sounded like we were going to get it. The biggest thing on all these grants is the effort that went into it with everyone. He knows the work that went on between Cathy and Tina and the other input from everybody else. It's just an enormous amount of work and making sure those resolutions were attached. The rules are what they are for the grants, but what a shame we have to go through this. Mayor Fluck said Jack and Charlie really did a lot of work on these things also. They worked together very well. Jack said the contiguous municipalities are all looking out for each other. It's our money, so let's just give it out. Priscilla said they had issues about the fire truck. Tom Barndt, the Se-Wy-Co Chief said that he would go to fight a fire at the casino and he needed a ladder truck. They didn't like that. It's hard because the law says if there is a fire emergency none of the surrounding municipalities go into the City of Bethlehem to fight the fire. She thought of something and you may want to tell Cathy for the next round, if there's a car fire, who puts the fire out? Jack distributed another handout and said this is for the second round of uncommitted funds. That application period opened up as the first round closed on October 16th. These are the applications they submitted along with the applications from the first round that didn't get funded. There is another grouping of applications from Dewey Ambulance for equipment and staff; Dewey Fire Company for life pack upgrades; for the fire departments, actually for Se-Wy-Co, but will be used for the consolidated fire company for the Fire Police vehicle and then the big ladder truck which is the aerial platform. The one that Charlie was mentioning that was submitted was for the multi-municipal zoning ordinance audits. That was something we were looking for funding from LUPTAP and there was no funding from the State so we resubmitted it here and hope we are awarded some funding so we can get EPD to come in and start working on because it's been over a year since we adopted the multi-municipal plan and this is something that we want to keep going. The Public Works vehicles are the Township's. The traffic signal is big. We hope that gets some attention. Priscilla pointed out that it's not right on the border of I-78 and Bethlehem, but it's on Route 412 which is a main corridor to the casino. The compost center we do need some equipment and a pole barn to store it. For the Saucon Rail Trail we put in the cost for development that we are going to spend out of our municipal budgets. Charlie said the Public Works vehicles are actually shared. Jack said that will actually fall under our Public Works area with the COG, we're actually going in together on joint purchasing and use. Charlie said the same thing with the sweeper, there's a bigger need in the Township, but the Borough also has problems. Charlie said the Borough, in addition, filed ten grant applications individually and Lower Saucon had four or five. We submitted 25 out of 53. It's a pain to put all of these together, but it's a useful pain as the first round gave us some money. Priscilla said the thing that is a little upsetting to her is that none of these have to

show impact which she disagrees with. Jack said their applications all show impact. He said 25 out of 53 show impact. Priscilla said the ambulance only got \$25,000 of the \$50,000 it asked for because it was a multi-year and it was budgeted for next year and they didn't like that. She tried arguing if you didn't like multi-year grants, then why did you put that in the grant criteria? She doesn't like spinning wheels so we'll see what happens. Jack said after the awards, we got a copy of the contract which he gave to Linc, our Solicitor. He's not too happy with it. He doesn't know where it came from. Priscilla said probably from Mr. Alison or the other Authority. Jack said Linc did try to reach Mr. Alison and he talked to Alicia this morning and she kind of stopped him in his tracks. There are some articles and some issues in there that if it was up to him, he'd advise us not to sign it. We don't want to lose the money, and it's not going to come down to us sending the money back, but he's trying to communicate with Mr. Alison or somebody to say this thing is putting liabilities onto the municipalities that should not be there. He'll have a list of those and he'll be discussing it with our Council next Wednesday. We have ten days to sign it. If we don't send it back in ten days, we don't get the money. It's kind of putting the gun to our head. Jack said for the financial end of the grants, they want us to set up separate bank accounts for each of these awards which Cathy and Tina have to contend with. We're not sure how the policeman gets paid every two weeks out of that separate account and we're going to have to work that out. There's some other language in there that Linc said he would not advise his clients to sign something like that. We are going to have to work that out. Priscilla said the Solicitor came up with that and we had a draft copy in our packet, but it wasn't brought to our board to approve. Jack said he wishes they had more lead time, but they just got it the other day, and they have to send it back signed in ten days.

2. **Joint COG Projects (Rail-to-Trail; Joint Recreation Study Committee)**

Saucon Rail Trail – Jack said in the Township end, the contractor will be out putting the fences up at the end of this month on the Old Mill and Meadows bridges over the Saucon Creek. We are also going to look to that contractor to put up the gates and the bollards at the Old Mill and Meadows crossing. We hope to have that done by early in December. We will be putting up the stop signs at Meadows Road which was the result of a traffic study that was done by our Engineer and there will be road markings and other things up there to make it a safe crossing for people on the rail trail. The surface material is the last thing we need to work on with Hellertown and that's held up pending an analysis of the slag. Charlie said they are supposed to give us an answer this month. Jack said that might delay us a little bit. It is moving ahead in bits and pieces. Charlie said they got an open space grant for the crossings in Hellertown. He checked today and the County Council still has to have their sub-committee approve it. Maria Bentzoni indicated they will probably know by January, so they will not have bollards on their end until after that, even though they could put up Jersey barriers temporarily. Jack said we will definitely have it done in the springtime if we don't meet our goal of this year. He said the winter time would be an ideal time for the Public Works people to do this. Priscilla said if we open it in December and it snows, nobody is going to plow it? Jack said no, they were going to leave it for cross country skiing.

Joint Recreation Study Committee – Covered earlier

Crossing Guard Wage Increase – Update - Charlie said in their budget discussion, it was brought up that the crossing guards have not seen any kind of increase, and perhaps a 25 cent increase to their salaries up to \$10.25 an hour would be advisable. The Borough did not have any problem with it. Jack said at their budget hearing, Council didn't have any problems with it either. Charlie said it amounts to about \$200.00. Jack said since that was a COG related issue, we'd like a vote so we can go back to the Councils. Motion by Ed, second by Mayor Fluck to give the crossing guards a 25 cent increase. All in favor. Mayor Fluck said they'd like to get one or two more crossing guards, so if anyone knows someone who would like to do that. There may be someone out there interested in doing it.

Jack said the water feature at the swimming pool is something that was also brought up and they discussed it at their Township budget meeting and the Council was in favor of providing \$10,000.00 to the Borough towards the cost. Charlie said they did submit a grant and that was part of the open space grant for \$22,000.00. It would be a flat surface, 20'x30' roughly with sprays built in. It's kind of like what the Silver Creek Country Club has. The kids like this as it shoots water up and they try to guess where the water is coming up. It's a nice feature. Whenever we do a special event at the pool like Dip and Dance, the pool attendance goes to the moon and it's very popular.

3. **Roads & Traffic – (Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application)** – Jack said no update. He's trying to get a hold of Jim Milot at Hanover Engineering and there is no update. We haven't heard anything from PennDOT. As far as he knows, everything has been submitted and Jim Milot said that PennDOT would approve it this fall. Priscilla said what about the people around that intersection. Have we heard anything from them? Jack said we have to deal with the property owners in the Township and also at the shopping center. Charlie has been in touch with the newest owner of the shopping center and he's more cooperative than the last one. They seem fine with it. Priscilla said what about McDonalds? Jack said they haven't heard anything in awhile. Priscilla said are they being kept updated? Jack said there is no new information to provide them. They are in touch through their engineer. Once the permit gets awarded, the Solicitor from the Borough and the Township will be in touch with the property owners on the other side. Priscilla said PennDOT makes this decision, not us? Jack said correct. We don't have to deal with McDonalds regarding the HOP. It's just the two property owners on the east side of the intersection. Charlie said McDonalds has seen the drawings and they are fully aware of it. The design is pretty much the same as it's been.

Jack said regarding the school zone speed limit signs at the school, Roger reported someone up by Reservoir clipped a couple of those and damaged them and they need to be replaced. Under our intergovernmental agreement that we signed to put them up, the school district is responsible for paying for the signs if they are damaged or missing. The Township will install them. They talked to Wally and he's okay with that.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** – Update – Charlie said he talked to Rebecca over at the City and they are now trying to set up the revolving loan program, so they are looking at their internal enterprise zone. They haven't done anything about an amendment or other activity. There was supposed to be a meeting with her boss today to talk about it further. He doesn't sense they are worried about their other communities right now. They are just looking internally as how they are going to set the enterprise zone.
5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center** – Update – Charlie said the compost center has been doing fantastic. He handed some information out and said he has the four years they've been operating and so far this year through this past weekend, there's been 5701 individual sign-ins. There's five more days left in the season and the percentage of Lower Saucon and Hellertown is pretty stable and they've improved over the prior years with a lot more Lower Saucon folks going there. It looks like we'll have about 6200 sign ups by the end of the year. It's just fantastic. This is a proposed closing notice they put in the paper every year to tell people about the facility closing. It says it will close on the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Black Friday is a holiday for everyone. There will be the four Saturdays in January that it will be open except for New Years Day for yard waste or Christmas trees. There was a request that came up with our Yard Waste Committee to have the facility open at least one Saturday during February and March. The best Saturday it appears would be February 26th and March 26th. The season for 2011 looks like it will have to start late in April as Easter is very late and rather than trying to skip over closing for Easter and then going back again, it's probably better to start the 29th and 30th of April. If we do these two Saturdays in February and March, hopefully that will help the residents get rid of some of the

material. It's still an open issue. They have to talk about it, but that's where they are planning on going.

6. **Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts** – Update – Ed said Keystone has been selected to collect the EIT taxes. There was some discussion at the last meeting he attended about whether or not communities that had Berkheimer might want to switch early and move over to Keystone next year, which is a year in advance. He doesn't know if the Borough or Township is. He knows the school is sticking with Berkheimer. You will receive a bill soon for your fair share. Jack said they've budgeted money in 2011. Ed said Keystone got Northampton County.

7. **Fire Services** - Update – Jack said fire services are moving ahead with the two groups. The Chiefs have been meeting on a regular basis for the past year or so. They are looking ahead to a point probably in 2011 when they can come to the Councils and say they'd like to merge or consolidate on paper. That means they would join together, have one charter, one set of operating procedures but they'd all still be in their own fire houses. That would be the first step. They've been working operationally on that and they really are far ahead. They are almost operating as one first company right now. They are reporting to the nearest fire house when the alarm goes off. They use each other's equipment. They are training together. They also reported that during the daytime, a year or two ago, they had a problem getting people out to respond to a fire, now they have a real good complement of people as there is a Borough and Township policy on releasing the Public Works employees who are firemen. The Lower Saucon Authority also has two members. They have an adequate amount of people during the day and they are well covered in the evenings and on weekends. He and Charlie now go to two meetings as they've split off the administrative services and that's the Presidents and Treasurers of each of the fire companies and Cathy and Tina are crunching all the numbers from their budgets and putting them into a combined budget. They are almost close to getting the combined budget from 2009 done. It's a little difficult as they all have their own way of doing their budgets. They are trying to get everyone on the same page. That will show the Township and Borough how much money is available for this merger/consolidation. At first glance it appears that there are adequate funds from what they've seen. They are going to try to look at some of the funding sources and see if they can come up with some small savings, maybe in insurance or things like that. The real savings won't be until they really consolidate physically, where they either go into one building or two buildings and they decrease the amount of equipment they have. It will be less money for that and less money to maintain the fire houses and all the equipment. They are working on by-laws and charters and hope to move ahead on a parallel path and at some point in 2011 get together with the Chiefs and everyone will say they are ready and they will come to the Councils and tell them they are ready to consolidate. Mayor Fluck said when the consolidation takes place, will there still be one Chief or five Chiefs? Jack said they are working on a command structure. There would one Chief and sub-officers. Charlie said there would be an assistant Chief for each of the locations initially. Priscilla said would that be a paid position? Jack said in the beginning they are not saying that, but down the road, that might be something they want to look at. There is no paid staff. Charlie said Dewey does pay a stipend to the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. It's like \$1,200.00 for Rick Delmore and \$1,000.00 for Matt. Jack said for the hours they put in, it probably comes to 17 cents an hour. Charlie said it was interesting to see all the Presidents and Treasurers sit around the table and talk about their expenses and line items. Jack said we're actually converting them to a standardized bookkeeping system. Charlie said the questions are excellent and they are really getting into it. Jack said there's another funding stream and it's called the Relief Associations. That's funding that comes in from the State. That comes into a relief fund in the Township and Borough and it is used for firemen's relief activities which can range from health and wellness to if a member dies or is sick. Charlie said they can also buy equipment with it. Dewey bought air packs with it and turnout gear. Jack said we are combining those also. The idea would be is when they merge or consolidate there would be one Relief Association budget, not two. That's something they are working on to pull it together. It's going very well and the firemen are good at batting down any rumors that they have a real honest way of dealing with it if anything comes up. They say let's get the air cleared and they get

down to business. Mayor Fluck said do we pay an engineer for the Dewey? Charlie said he hasn't been getting a stipend, but that's going to come up at the next Council meeting as he's resigning. It has been a paid position for the Engineer, and it was about \$75.00 a month.

8. **Library Services** – Update – Jack said they had recommended that a Task Force be set up with membership from the Hellertown Area Library, Hellertown Borough and the Township. The library and Borough has named their representatives to the Task Force. Jack has two candidates and he has to make a recommendation to the Township Council at the next meeting and the Task Force should be fully formed and ready to go probably in December. They are looking at the beginning of January to get everyone together and start working on coming up with some answers regarding the feasibility and consolidation of library services at the Hellertown library. Charlie said Gail Nolf and Rev. Lamar Handwerk will be the Hellertown representatives along with Joe Pampinin. Priscilla said we had Lynn Koehler come to our meeting last week as the representative to the Bethlehem Area Public Library and she reported that the library was waiting for the City to come up with the budget, and today it was in the paper that 50 employees were going to lose their jobs.
9. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan** – Update – Jack said no update beyond what they reported at the last meeting and that was they did test borings and they said they found a lot of wet soil. The Township Authority went back to the drawing board to look for alternate routes or alternate delivery systems which may not be gravity. It may entail pumping stations and other methods of delivery. They are still working on that and doing some engineering. He doesn't know if they reported back to the Authority. They said that once they do that, they'll come to a Borough and Council meeting and update everyone on what their alternate plan is.
10. **Other Issues**
 - Priscilla said the Narrows is now open as of November 3rd. They were very happy to know that PennDOT took us seriously and did repairs to the road.
 - Priscilla said because it's going to affect a lot of people, there's a development before the Township. Phoebe Ministries is coming before us for a zoning amendment.
 - Priscilla said they found out at the last Township meeting that the Township isn't receiving DEP funds because we don't have a proper burning ordinance. Jack said we are not complying with Act 101 because we don't do the curbside pickup of yard waste. Priscilla said that means the Township isn't getting money and it occurred to her that we put things in the Abitibi bins and we used to report that for recycling, but now we're not getting money and she's putting her recycling in Hellertown. Charlie said they have plenty of bins. Jack said it also benefits the Lower Saucon Township Historical Society.
 - Priscilla said she doesn't know if we took action at the last meeting, but Linda Costas from the State sent us a letter asking for our opinion about the COG's. Jack said he just emailed that out to everybody. It was about the 2011 PACOG conference. Priscilla said she thinks she should just have some kind of response. Could you just tell her you circulated it?
 - Mayor Fluck said do we want to bring up about the new website called Patch? Josh who used to work for the SV News is now working for a website called Patch. Charlie said if there are any events that you want to put onto this website, you can notify Shelly Goldberg. Josh will be doing all the political things. It's just a way of getting advertisements out there. Jack came back with the emails from Linda Costa and said he doesn't see anything about money. One was about a newsletter and the other one was about the conference. Priscilla said didn't she send an email saying if you want to stay at this hotel, was the price more expensive? Jack said she was looking to coordinate the 2011 PACOG conference with the September 11, 2011 memorial at Schwenksville. They wanted to work with the people who were holding the memorial and interface with that ceremony. Charlie said the way it would impact us is she typically gives us a discount offer if you wanted to send someone. Priscilla said are we going to respond to her? Priscilla said she can't go as that's

the Barn Tour weekend. Jack said he distributed it to the SVP and individual COG members can respond.

- Mayor Fluck said tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. at the cemetery there is a Veterans Day service there. It's 11-11-11 – eleventh month, eleventh day and eleventh hour. They will fire the rifles by 11:00 a.m. It's all within the cemetery.

F. County Report – Tom Harp – Absent

G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items

- Stephanie Brown said she grew up in the Township, went to high school here. She wants to bring up that she was at the LST Council meeting last week and brought it up with them. She's a walker in the Township and so are all her friends. Apparently Lee Weidner was hit by a car in Hellertown at the Front Street intersection. From what Lee tells her, he didn't call the police. He called your investigator, but there wasn't a formal report. A couple of weeks earlier, he yelled at a lady who went through a stop sign and she called the police and filed a report and they came and questioned him about it. As someone who has walked through the Township for the last 20 years, it upsets her what goes on. What bothers her is that at the intersection of Walnut and Front streets, there is no crosswalk there and no line for the stop sign. It's something that is very important as it's heavily traveled. It will be a major access for when the Rail Trail goes in there. She walks different times of the day and you do have pedestrian traffic coming from the school district campus. When she went to Saucon Valley High School, she took the bus at the corner of Meadows and Skibo and she used to have to walk. The busses now come down to the development behind her, but she does see kids walk from the school campus. She's a little worried about that. She's been saying for six months now, that she'd like to see a pedestrian safety campaign mounted by Hellertown, Lower Saucon and the school district. The Rail Trail is designed for the use by the community. It's not designed for people to be coming outside the community even though some people will. When you have a Rail Trail like that, she would walk or bike down to the Rail Trail as there's no parking for it. She would like to bring that up again and see Hellertown put in a crosswalk. Charlie said it would be east-west. Jack said what kind of pedestrian safety campaign are you talking about? Stephanie said she sent you and Charlie some websites that had pedestrian safety campaigns on them. Jack said that would have to be in conjunction with the police chiefs. Stephanie said she will send them to Jack and Charlie again. She knows that we went down to Souderton and talked to the Police Chief about their stop sign campaign. She had emailed the article she found on line about it to Jack and Glenn. She doesn't know enough about doing a pedestrian safety campaign, but it would tie in real well with the opening of the Rail Trail. She can go look at the websites again. You are going to have people walking and it's something she would like to see. One of her concerns when she walks down by McDonalds is there is no stop sign there. People are in a hurry. She knows what it is like and people don't stop for stop signs, so she doesn't know how those stop signs are going to work at the Rail Trail. Ed said the school's policy is they will provide bus transportation for all kids who live in Hellertown on the other side of 412 as they don't want them crossing 412. Legally, they don't have to do that but Wally thinks that's important and the board agrees with him. Stephanie said one day she was on the Rite Aid side and saw kids crossing over on the other side of 412 and a very impatient gentleman was turning and almost hit them as he was too much in a hurry. She yelled at the guy as that upset her. It goes on a lot. She sees a lot of kids walk home from school. Ed said they offer them the bus service, and they don't take it. Stephanie said she understands. Mayor Fluck said they are doing their best for safety with crosswalks. They are trying to work on it.

H. Events Calendar

<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

- Priscilla said Light-up Night is the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 26th at 6:00 pm at Borough Hall.

- Priscilla said Friday night, December 3rd, the Hellertown Historical Society is having their Christmas party open house.
- Priscilla said on Friday night, December 3rd, the Community Center is having a dinner for Dave Heintzleman to honor him for his services.
- Priscilla said on December 8th at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, the Chamber is having a joint Christmas event mixer at the Hotel Bethlehem with a fee involved. If anyone is interested, let her know.

I. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn. The time was 8:35 PM.

J. Next Meeting: December 8th @ Saucon Valley School District; January 12th @ Hellertown Borough Hall; February 9th @ Lower Saucon Township Hall