

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Saucon Valley School District

- A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by Chair, Glenn Kern, on March 11, 2009 at 7:02 PM at the Saucon Valley School District.
- B. **Roll Call: Present:** Glenn Kern, Chair; Ed Inghrim, Vice Chair; Jack Cahalan, Mayor Fluck, Jane Balum, Charlie Luthar. Guest: Tom Harp from the County. Priscilla deLeon and Susan Baxter arrived at 7:05 PM.
- C. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes of February 11, 2009 Meeting:** Ed moved for approval of the February 11, 2009 minutes, second by Mayor Fluck. All in favor.
 2. **Treasurer's Report** - Jack said the Checking Account balance as of February 28, 2009 is \$13,957.50. There was a payment made to Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) during February in the amount of \$2,241.48. In the Treasurer's Account, the balance as of February 28, 2009 is \$10,695.35. There were no payments made out of that account in February. Dues were received from the Saucon Valley School District on February 17, 2009. Ed moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2009, second by Jane. All in favor.
 3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** - Jack said there were no bills to pay, but he does have an answer to a question from last months meeting which Priscilla raised about the annual dues that we pay to the PACOG. He contacted Linda Costa at the PACOG and indicated to her that while our account balance does run over \$10,000 that is primarily because of grant funds we received for the comp plan. Our actual revenues are about \$3,000 a year. Based on that, the Linda indicated that we should pay \$200 in dues to the PACOG, so he'd like a motion to do so. Jane moved for approval to pay \$200 in dues to the PACOG, second by Ed. All in favor.
- D. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**
1. **Comp Plan Update & Schedule -Discussion**

Jack said he and Charlie had another go round with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). They met with Olev Taremae and Mike Kaiser on February 18th and we think our negotiations with them have been fruitful. At the end of that meeting Mike suggested that Olev send a memo to us indicating the items that needed work on in order to get our comp plan to the level they were looking for as far as format and data. They acknowledged that we had a lot of data in our appendix section and they recommended that we attribute that information to the specific sections of the comp plan, so we knew we were heading in the right direction. Priscilla said does that mean they want it clearer in the text? Jack said all we have to do is refer to it in the front part of the comp plan and say there is more data in the appendix dealing with traffic or dealing with recreational studies, etc. We did receive the memo from Olev and we discussed that with Carolyn. Glenn said did you meet with them in person? Jack said yes. We had discussed setting up a meeting with the EPD planners and Mike and Olev, but when we looked at Olev's memo we didn't think a meeting was necessary because the changes were very minor and it was apparent that EPD could make the changes fairly quickly. Carolyn sent us a completion strategy today that indicates how we will comply with the requests in Olev's memo. Jack said in Olev's there are seven (7) items that were highlighted. For the Land Use category, we will be incorporating a general description for each land use category on Map 2 – Future Land Use and also will be putting in some additional information defining a range of likely intensities for each land use category.

Carolyn said the approach they are recommending also confirms the information that was in the previous correspondence that they had provided to us at the previous meeting. Under population projections, in addition to the build-out scenario population projections that are currently part of the appendices, a series of population projections outlined as part of the LVPC's regional planning efforts will also be incorporated. Both sets of this information will be incorporated into the Plan's main body of text instead of the appendices. They will move a lot of the data up to the front of the plan. Priscilla said some of the data in the appendixes is going to be pulled out and included more in the plan? Jack said yes, or referenced. Under the Housing section, the text that is currently included under the comp plan's housing element will be further expanded regarding the communities commitment for meeting variety of housing needs. Charlie said he talked to Carolyn this evening and this is the area that Jennie McKenna had an issue with because we talked about the Lehigh Valley Affordable Housing plan. What Carolyn explained, was that she was going to look at land uses with a range of housing types - the high or medium intensity and she will say these kinds of housing types are in that area. That's how she is going to try to address it rather than trying to be more specific in saying we are all of a sudden going to have a whole bunch of rental units.

Priscilla said how do you know what a developer wants to do with the land. You can put anything here, but what about the market and the economy. Jack said with the Natural Features, this was one of the areas, as with and the recreation and transportation, where we had a lot of data that was in the appendixes that we are going to use as a reference to the natural features section of the plan. We had submitted a disk with several plans and studies that the township had done, so there's a lot of information contained in those appendixes and they will use that as references to the community's natural features. Charlie said that Mike acknowledged that the Township and people like Sandy Yerger had done a lot of work in these areas. Jack said regarding the Utilities, we had obtained additional information from the Lower Saucon Authority (LSA) and Hellertown Borough Authority (HBA) that was provided on the disk. That is in the appendixes, so that will also be referenced in the front of the plan. For the Recreation section, we gave them several different recreational studies from both the Township and the Borough. Those will be added as a reference. Under Transportation, numerous traffic studies were provided in the appendixes that will be attributed in the body of the plan.

Priscilla said just to back up to the natural features, that followed up on the work the Township did, in the late 90's, the Council then was very supportive of doing all this identification of the natural resources. It has been happening in the last few years and it takes time to develop the studies and approve them. It's been going on for a long time. One of those plans recommended that we set up the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). That was a concept that the Township Council in the late 90's wanted to do.

Jack said to address the items that Olev cited in his memo, Carolyn and AJ will produce another revised draft of the comp plan and have this additional information added to it. They can get that back to us probably by April 1st. The cost is still within the \$2,000 budget. Ed said do we have the \$2,000 budgeted? Jack said we have additional funds that were left over from the money we received for the comp plan. We were in the process of closing out the LUPTAP grant with DCED, and it would have involved sending back some additional money. We received a certain amount, and EPD charged us a lesser amount so there was additional money. We've been getting nasty letters from DCED because we haven't closed out the grant. Priscilla said it was in the funds, but it wasn't budgeted. Jack said we can cover that. What we recommend doing, is have the re-write come back to us by April 1st, and we'll get sixteen copies and give hard copies to each of the Steering Committee members, have additional disk copies, and put the re-written draft on the website so people can go there and download it. We'd like to get it to the LVPC as soon as we receive it and they will start their forty-five (45) day review period and we will hope to get a positive review from them sometime in mid-May. Priscilla said they only meet once a month, and we're delaying our time table by forty-five days. Will this have to go to the other municipalities again? Jack said they don't believe so, but he hasn't totally confirmed that. We do know when we sent out the previous draft for review, we got no comments except from the City of Bethlehem. If

we have to, we'll send them a disk copy and their review clock will run the same time at the LVPC. If it comes back from the LVPC in May with a positive letter, which we hope so, then we would plan on having a joint meeting here on June 10th and having the presentation by Carolyn and AJ, and answer any questions. Following that meeting, each of the bodies would take it back to their meetings the following week. He's not sure when the school board would have their meeting. Ed said it would be at the end of June. Mayor Fluck said would it be a public meeting? Jack said yes. We'll have a quorum of both Councils and the school board and anybody else. Ed said does that mean you are pushing the April public meeting out again? Jack said yes, it will be in June.

Priscilla said can you ask Carolyn when she revises the document, if she can make one change. It would be page 1-9. Priscilla said the night we had that fire company meeting, one of the firemen said they had all those meetings and the firemen came and the write up in the comp plan was three sentences on how can this plan help civic organizations, especially the fire company. Do you know where that would be? She said she was very disappointed. Charlie said he can understand where this comment was coming from as there was a lot more discussions at these meetings then what were put on paper. Priscilla said maybe we can mention that to Carolyn and for the \$2,000 come up with a better paragraph. Charlie said there's a mention of joint services on page 132, and it talks about cooperative efforts, cooperative public services, whether its for cooperative fire services, joint municipal composting or joint municipal opportunities. Jack said we were working with the fire companies on the task forces idea and we had the meeting of February 24th and will report on that later. We are trying to work together. He doesn't know if we have any answers that we can point to immediately. Priscilla said she just wants to know where in the book it was. Jack said it would be joint services on page 131. Jack said we would like to get direction from the Steering Committee for the \$2,000 for EPD Services.

Ed moved that we approve the additional \$2,000 to obtain comments from EPD, second by Jane. All in favor.

Jack said we are confident this will address their issues and will put the comp plan in the format that will satisfy the LVPC. Charlie said Mike Kaiser was very supportive of this and he wanted a response that was workable.

Charlie said at yesterday's meeting of the Borough Planning Commission, they talked about the possibility of a joint meeting with the Township Planning Commission because there had been discussions previously about having a joint meeting twice a year. Charlie said that in looking back at their minutes, John Landis, the Chair of the Township Planning Commission, said it should be done after the comp plan was approved but just to keep things moving and we're hoping to continue working on the comp plan action items, it is probably a good idea to have the two groups meet again, and it was suggested we meet in April. The April 14 meeting in Hellertown already has plans on the agenda, so it was discussed to hold it at the Township meeting on the 16th. Jack said they will discuss that at this month's Planning Commission meeting to see if that is okay. Last night's reaction was interesting; only one member, Ron Shegda, was absent, but it was a pretty uniformed feeling from them that we should not respond to the LVPC. Priscilla asked if we are trying to work out the differences? Charlie said yes, he explained that to them, why we need to do it. They felt comfortable with the plan as it is.

E. Brief Report and Discussion Items

- 1. Casino Impacts Funding - update** - Jack said they have a couple of news articles to hand out and draft letters that need action. One of the things that the Partnership had asked for was the court decision from Erie County. It had to do with the distribution of the gaming funds from the casino out there. This is the first court decision dealing with the distribution of the gaming funds. We got a copy of the article by contacting the Erie Times and wound up being interviewed as they wanted to know why we wanted a copy of the court decision. There is also a copy of the ordinance that Northampton County adopted. This ordinance was adopted to form a County Economic Redevelopment and Gaming Authority. This would be the body at the County level that will

distribute the gaming funds that will be starting to come in later this year when the Sands Beth Works Casino opens at the end of May. The ordinance states that the Authority will be made up of a total of nine (9) members. One (1) each from the contiguous municipalities, which is five (5); one (1) from the City of Bethlehem, one (1) from the County Executive and the other two (2) are Controllers and the President of Council. Since then, there's been another Council meeting and they've adopted a second ordinance that was needed to get this body up and running. The next step is we'll receive a notice from the County asking each Council to recommend members to serve on this authority. Charlie said Hellertown authorized the inter-municipal agreement for advertisement at their meeting on Monday night. They also acted on the ordinance which allows the inter-municipal agreement to be signed and those are ready, assuming the Council approves it, to go over to the Township and then go to the next municipality and for signatures. Bethlehem Township is also on this agreement if they want to sign.

Priscilla asked how many are on that board? Jack said nine (9). Glenn asked what is the procedure for deciding who is on it? Jack said he doesn't know that they have anything set up as to how that's going to be done. Priscilla said that weighs the majority according to the County. You know what the majority is. Jack said if the five (5) of us stick together with Mr. Stoffa, who supports our distribution proposal, then we have six out of nine votes. Someone asked what about Bethlehem Township? Jack said they support the formula of 60% going to the contiguous municipalities but disagree with us on the split of the 60%. Glenn said now that this committee is being formed, they might see the writing on the wall now.

Priscilla said when Jane was on the LVPC, and whenever anything happened in your municipality, you abstained. The County gets their own part of the pot. Jack said in the revenue sharing arrangement that Senators Boscola and Browne set up that splits the gaming funds up between Bethlehem & Allentown, the host fees are split into County money and municipal money. In the original gaming law, there is a provision that says all the money that was unused would stay in the County pot and that the County and the City of Bethlehem could apply for grants from this unused money. The Boscola - Browne revenue sharing provision says it's at the discretion of the County to give this additional money to the City of Bethlehem, and also to itself from the left over municipal grants money. If the distribution formula that we gave them is adopted by this new Gaming Authority then the money be divided evenly without a competitive process and all of the money will be distributed. It will not be sitting leftover in the County coffers. Priscilla said the funding of this committee should come from the Counties share of the money. Jack said they may be prohibited from using gaming funds for administrative expenses for this new authority. They may to have to fund those expenses from the County's general fund. Priscilla said what do authorities cost? Jack said Mr. Stoffa told him it cost the County \$2 million a year to operate this authority. It's not going to be cheap. The other suggestion he had was that it might be an opportune time to ask our County Council representatives to come here and talk to our group. He handed out draft letters to Ann McHale and Lamont McClure which cover what our gaming distribution proposal was, and we will send along with it copies of our proposal because the couple of times we talked to them previously, they were not familiar with it.

Priscilla moved for approval to send out the letters to Ann McHale and Lamont McClure, second by Mayor Fluck. All in favor.

2. **Joint COG Projects** - Charlie said both PW Directors will be gearing up pretty soon to look at joint road work projects.

Charlie said on the Rails to Trails, we are going to have a meeting of the four municipalities later this month. The rail removal is down to Grist Mill. The contractor has not been paid, as he's pulled out and the SEPTA guy who was watching over them, is in Leighton Hospital right now. They held off on removing the ties on the Borough section this past winter as it was pulling up too much of the ballast stone.

Jack said we want all of the Solicitors to look at the lease and see if they are all comfortable with it and then they can take it to each of the Councils and make recommendations to support it or make changes. We also will have the engineers there to discuss the structures on the rail line. There is an issue with a bridge structure in the Borough. The Township does not have any problem structures as far as he knows. We don't know what Upper Saucon has. One of the things we want assurances from SEPTA is with the equipment that is going to be left there after the contactor is done. This is the signal equipment and the battery boxes that contain environmental hazardous materials. SEPTA said they will take care of removing this equipment. We may wind up with some signal poles standing that our Public Works can take down. We need to get geared up for when people start using the trail. We need to be ready for that to patrol it with the police departments and start getting ready to open it as a park facility. We started working on the concept of a Rail Trail Advisory Committee that we would like to form with representatives from the four municipalities. Membership could be made up with some residents who live next to the trail. It could be people like Steve Labrake in Hellertown who runs the bike shop. Charlie said we would be looking for people who could bring expertise to it. Jack said we need to form this Trail Advisory Committee and start talking about how we want to see the trail look, how we want to see it operate and how we want to see it maintained. He'll be recommending to the Township Council several people from the Township that they feel will be good representatives. He got in contact with a member of the Ironton Rail Trail up in Coplay and Whitehall Township, which is a real model for inter-municipal cooperation. They have a very strong and active Trail Advisory Commission. The members are willing to come down here and help us get our advisory committee geared up. We'd like to get this up and running as we have an offer from Joe Hoffman to assist us in getting a grant application together for DCNR. We also need to start working on trail heads in each community. Hellertown has some already made ones with their parks. Lower Saucon will have to look into creating at least one trail head. Upper Saucon and Coopersburg already have access points at their parks. That's moving along and we should have something more to report next month.

Priscilla said when you talked about the structures that are there and the environmental concerns are there any structures like signal lights that could remain as historic landmarks? If they aren't going to harm the environment, maybe they could be left there. Jack said we have to remove the ladders to the signals as a safety precaution. Charlie said the ladders used to be the type of thing you can attach and remove so people can't climb them. You go and look at some of the locations where the lights are now, you can see the ladders are still there. Jack said there are rail buffs that might be interested in buying this equipment. Priscilla said we might want to keep them for their historic characteristics. Jack said we have to make sure that any environmental hazards are taken care of.

Priscilla asked if these trails have emergency call boxes Jack said they could but usually the trail heads provide quick access on and off. Charlie said the Advisory Committee will be looking into these types of things; they'll do the research and come back with suggestions. Priscilla said what she's looking forward to, there is a lot of potential for the historical areas to be linked together with the trail. Charlie said the Borough has applied for a \$90,000 grant for something called PennDOT's transportation initiatives and it's really streetscapes in Hellertown, but it ties into the Rail Trail because it says that the people who will be using the Rail Trail are going to come down to the Main Street and patronize the bike shops, the food stores, and the restaurants. Priscilla said there should be information available to show them where the restaurants are, where the bike shops are, etc. and the places to visit.

Margie said you should be able to put the information on the bulletin board. Jack said at each trailhead, there will be information, a map of the trail, brochures, and will identify where they are on the trail. Signs will say you are in Hellertown and its eight miles south to Coopersburg and that type of thing so people can follow the signs if they are walking.

3. Traffic - Polk Valley Road/Walnut Street Intersections; Speed Limits on Apple, Skibo & Friedensville Roads; School Zones) - Jack said there is still nothing new from PennDOT on our

Polk Valley Road signal application. We did provide them with additional information on the ADA ramps and are waiting to hear back from them.

Charlie said the resolution of the Walnut Street intersection is still deadlocked. A letter went from the Borough to PennDOT to talk about the ADA ramps. That's the problem that everyone has. We have limited amount of space to build a handicapped ramp the way they would like it under their new guidelines. We need to have a meeting. He spoke to the PennDOT representatives, sent them a letter, and hopefully, the Borough will get a response.

Charlie said with the roads, a lot of you have probably read in the paper that Route 412 is going to be resurfaced because of the federal stimulus money that is coming. PennDOT has \$4 million to do 412 a lot quicker than we anticipated. It would be resurfaced from Herbert Street in Lower Saucon all the way up to Cherry Lane. From what he understands, they are in such a hurry that they don't have the time to sit down and talk with us about these plans, but we are going to keep pressing on that. There are things the Water Authority needs to do with lines and the gas company needs to do with their lines, and Public Works probably needs to do some things with curbing. They are also commenting on the ramps. We are probably going to see all the ramps changing on Main Street. If they do not want to meet with us, then they are going to have to address Walnut Street when they get there. They now have electronic bidding for this process. Everyone on about April 15th submits their bids on-line. He's never heard of this before. June 15th would be the starting date and the starting date for paving would be in August. They would do the work at night and they will keep all of the lanes open for traffic during the day. We have the traffic study and the maps and we will submit them.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem - update** - Charlie said he hasn't heard anything on this. He did talk to Wayne Watsler at the City and he said they are still ready, they haven't named their Director yet for this activity in Bethlehem, and it would be extended to the other communities. In April or May, they are hoping to name this individual. No activity on the actual enterprise zone in Bethlehem other than looking to name this individual.
5. **Hellertown – Lower Saucon Compost Center - update** - Charlie said we picked the opening date for the Compost Center which is April 17th and it will be open until the end of November. We've installed additional fencing, which we have budgeted for this year. We've got about two thirds of the facility fenced in right now. We had a tremendous increase in customers last year and think we are going to see more this year. We generated 260 tons of yard waste material last year, which was a major increase. Jack said we want to continue improving the quality of the compost we are producing, but we need some additional equipment, which we hope to obtain this year. We were hoping, regarding the grinder, to work with the County, and have a grinder rotated amongst the municipalities, as it's only used two or three times a season at our facility. Charlie said it costs us \$4,000 to rent it and to purchase it you are talking many hundreds of thousands of dollars. It would be better for the County to have it so all the communities could use it. Jack said DEP will pay 90% of the cost of this equipment, but we felt it could be utilized better if it could be rotated around.
6. **Tax Reassessment - update** – Ed said nothing to report.
7. **Fire Services - update** - Jack said we were fortunate to finally get the meeting with the DCED Governor's Center set up. Dean Fernsler, who had been with DCED retired and is now working for PSATS and proving training for fire services. Rob Brady from the Governor's Center met with the fire companies on February 24th. We had a good discussion with everyone and he suggested that the group meet again on April 2nd with the fire companies recommending representatives who could form the nucleus of a joint fire services group. We've submitted a letter of intent to DCED, requesting that they appoint a facilitator to work with this group and work through the initial stages to explore various regional opportunities that can help assist the fire services in Saucon Valley. It can explore such issues such as equipment to manning the various day time shifts, and other issues that we are all struggling with.

Glenn said from the meeting we had, it always comes down to the issue of manpower during the day, and that's the main issue with the fire companies not having manpower to respond. Ed said has Hellertown and Lower Saucon ever considered pooling resources and hiring full time fire personnel to support both communities during the day? Charlie said Hellertown submitted a grant for two full time people. The cost was \$116,000 and it would cover three years and the Borough would have to pick it up after that. We haven't heard anything back on that, but he thinks Dewey Fire Chief Rick Delmore has suggested they might need some permanent people in the house to be able to start equipment up. This committee will come up with a lot of ideas that we haven't even thought about.

Jack said both Councils had directed last year that our Public Works employees who are trained as firefighters be released to respond to fire calls during the day and that has really helped out the manpower issue. Hellertown has several PW members and we have one at the Township. Ed said he was really surprised at how much training the firefighters have to do. How can an ordinary person find time to do this? Jack said if you belong to a fire company you are out five nights a week. Ed said the community should be made aware of this issue.

Priscilla said the other thing is funding and manpower. Most people move into the area and they have no idea it's a volunteer fire company and it's very hard. Years ago we had a fire tax and people stopped donating to the fire companies so we stopped the fire tax. They need replacement equipment and the Township does help them out somewhat, but whatever the remainder percentage is, the fire companies have to absorb that.

Jack said he and the fire chiefs got together last year and came up with a list of incentives to address the problems with recruitment and retention. We identified a whole list of incentives that we sent to the local and state legislators and said there is legislation at the federal-state level that we want you to support. Recently we noticed that there is a fire caucus in the State Legislature that works on legislation that supports the fire and emergency people and he noticed Bob Freeman has since joined this caucus. Jack said that the firemen told us is that the more efficient they get, people think that they are paid. They don't look like a volunteer fire company anymore.

Priscilla said fire services should be a priority in the Township and it should be number one. Ed said the Townships and Boroughs needs to put pressure on the County. As a school board member, he wouldn't mind giving them a tax break. Jack said in the list of incentives we put together was such things as a free pass to the community pool, reduced tuition at the Community College, and some tax abatement items.

Jack said there have been a lot of studies on the problems with fire services in the state that are sitting on shelves, and it takes awhile for the legislators to get going to address these issues. Priscilla said when we run out of volunteers, it's going to be paid and that goes back to the municipalities. We are going to be helping them 100% and we need to plan for that now because the money we are setting aside for fire trucks, isn't covering that. We should be paying 100% for them. Next year if we have to do paid fire companies and we didn't plan for it, we are going to be in trouble. It has to come from somewhere.

Jack said the group will meet at the Township on April 2 at 7:00 PM.

8. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan - update** - Jack said there is nothing new to report. Priscilla said at the Council meeting last week Ron Horiszny brought this issue up. She asked if anyone in Hellertown knows if any progress has been made with the two authorities. Charlie said the last time he recalled, Lower Saucon Authority was going to respond to questions and concerns that were raised by Hellertown Borough. Jack said the Lower Saucon Authority was finalizing a response to these questions and concerns. We were hoping that with the adoption of the comp plan that we could address some of these concerns.

Priscilla said the comp plan, in her opinion, didn't do that. If this isn't going to work, then they better go to Plan B as there are people in Leithsville who need sewer. She gets emails and letters from people asking when are we going to get sewer – we need it. It's unhealthy and something has to go. Jack said what we were looking for in the comp plan was a regional approach to sewerage planning. The comp plan does touch on the municipal services boundary issue and some other things we were hoping to move forward on on a regional basis. Priscilla said in her experience, that concept is going to take years to do.

Charlie said the way to trigger this is to have Lower Saucon Authority come up with a proposal again. Priscilla said someone has to really get the ball moving. We keep talking about this and it's always no update. Jack said the Township alternative is to upgrade the pumping stations. Priscilla said that was Plan B, and that's what they need to do then. They need to move forward on this. If it doesn't work, you have to go to the next step. You can't be talking about it for years. That's just her opinion. She understands that under the proposed line would run from Leithsville and then go along the creek and some sensitive areas and then through the Thomas Iron Works, and the Borough does not want to see these areas disturbed. That is the most economical way to do it, but with the sensitive areas, it appears they should go to the next plan and the next plan is a pump station and it adds a lot of money.

Jack said going with the Plan B pumping stations it's the same amount of disturbance you would get from the gravity sewer line, and the capacity on that is not as good as taking it to the sewer plant in Bethlehem. Priscilla said there is no place to go with a replacement in Leithsville for the system, so they can't fix their existing septic systems and most of them are cesspools.

Ed said asked about the Giant Shopping center. Priscilla said they go up around the back towards the Meadows. Jack said they are pumping into Hellertown now. Charlie said the Springhill Shopping Center in Hellertown also has a pumping station that lifts it into Hellertown. Where we left it the last time was there were questions, and if those questions were brought forward, we could bring it to Council and they could talk about it. Priscilla said something should be moving.

Charlie said there were 18 questions. One was about concerns if there was a leak, who would be responsible for that, what measures would be taken. There is really a value in going that way as it's a gravity run. You don't want to pump it. That's the worst you can do. Under the Hazard Mitigation grant that the Borough put in for, what was approved were pumps for Hellertown that we can then hook up to the power stations when there is an electrical failure in the system. You really don't want to pump. Priscilla said a lot of people have the misconception that we are extending the sewer lines to have more development out in Leithsville, and that's absolutely not true. What we are doing is we're stopping it at a certain point and trying to protect the people who are living there already with the small lots. We know it's happening. Jack said they will get an update. It does boil down to going with the alternate if there's a "no" from the Borough to this proposal.

9. Other Issues - None.

- F. County Report** - Tom Harp was present. He said they had their joint meeting of their Councils of Governments and Municipalities and it was a pretty good agenda and had some interesting presentations. There was a demo on the County GIS services available to the municipalities. It looks very interactive and useable for a number of applications that were shared with most of the representatives that were there. Joe Laky from our GIS section was very willing to come out to these meetings and do demos because a picture is worth a thousand words. It's very interesting. They also had a guest there from the Land Recycling Initiative at the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation and she talked about that program and how they are available to help with blighted properties to try to get them to a point where they can be utilized commercially, mainly in the area of hazardous substances in these buildings, and she talked about some of the buildings they work with and offered help to any of the municipalities that had a property of that type that was vacant and needed to be restored and used. She also mentioned there is an opening on their Advisory Committee for a rural representative and made an offer if anyone from the municipalities,

the rural areas or communities would like to volunteer to serve on this Advisory Committee, they meet the third Friday of the month for lunch, which is provided. Priscilla said we can put this on our website and also give it to the EAC.

Ed said the LVEDC service is free. They pick up the tab for these environmental studies. That puts a whole different light on the situation. Jack said they act as the front man and they try to bring in people to get them interested and do some remediation. For example, the City of Bethlehem's greenway, they paid for the environmental study on that. Charlie said they looked at the spark plug factory also. Jack said they have an inventory of all of these sites on their website. Tom said they get their funding from the EPA, it's grant money. Charlie said they looked at them for the Thomas Iron site because we had to do a Phase I environmental study there, which was many years ago. They did allocate some money there for the Phase I work, but then everything blew up on the site. They did have EPA money. Ed said it's not really free, we are paying for it. Jack said if anyone wants to be on the committee, just get in touch with him and he'll pass the information on. Glenn said he knows a resident in Lower Saucon who is in the business of environmental remediation, so it might be worth contacting him to see if he'd be interested to serve on the committee.

Tom said we also had a presentation from Tom Ditmars, and he talked about several events coming up. There will be three recycling events this year. The first one is at Easton High School on May 9th. It was very successful last year. There will be another one up in Washington Township and a third one in Nazareth. They are going to be having their annual hazardous waste event at the Northampton Community College on October 10th. Regarding the stimulus bill, they don't have exact details on what money is going to come down. As they get more details, they will be shared with the municipalities. We have a hazard mitigation coordinator in Northampton County for those folks who are in flood zones or other areas that might suffer some catastrophe. There is some assistance there. In some cases, they are elevating or jacking up homes or moving them out of flood plains. They will be developing the web page on the Northampton site for the COG's. They talked about the PACOG Annual Conference which will be held in September in the Lehigh Valley. They will get support for that. The TreeVitalize program, they are moving ahead with that. There were seven or eight proposals that were accepted. For those who have an interest in Gracedale, you will see they are finally replacing all the windows in the main tower which have been leaking for years. They started at the 10th floor and will work their way down. Yesterday was filing day for all the County candidates. They developed a directory of government services for the public, both in terms of a print version and it is on line on the Northampton County website. It's long overdue. They had a telephone listing of agencies, but the problem is a lot of people really don't understand who does what. What this does is it gives you a telephone number and the location of the office, but also gives you bullet point essential functions of each of those offices. It's going to be a real big help to the County citizens. We've already distributed these to the twelve senior centers in Northampton County. That was a priority. They will be distributing them to libraries and many other locations. They are also all over the Courthouse. Hopefully, it will be helpful to you as you are doing your various duties, you'll know how and who to get a hold of. Priscilla suggested putting a revision date on the back of the brochure.

G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items - Margie said do you know what the deadline is for filing for the County Budget for 2010? Tom said he'd have to get that information. The County Executive has to have the budget in the hands of the Council by November. He will and check on that get back to her.

J. Events Calendar - Priscilla said please continue to send her your updates for community events. Coming up, on Sunday, April 5th, there will be a second young artist exhibit at the Heller Homestead. They've been working with the Art Department at the school district. It should be a good exhibit. You'll be getting invitations. The public is invited to come from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The exhibit will go from April 4th through May 10th. They are looking forward to it as a joint venture. She won't be able to go to the COG Conference as their 3rd annual barn tour will be held that week. It starts at 9:30 AM and goes until 4:00 PM and it's a self-guided tour.

Mayor Fluck said the Farmer's Market will open on May 3rd. There are sixteen vendors as of today, two more than last year. They are getting some different vendors. The times are 9 AM to 1 PM and the market

will stay open until November 22nd this year. Charlie asked about the senior coupons. Mayor Fluck said they tried senior coupons last year and some of the vendors don't take them.

<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

H. Adjournment - Priscilla moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Ed. All in favor. The time was 8:32 PM.

I. **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, April 8th – Hellertown Borough

Wednesday, May 13th – Lower Saucon Township