



**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**  
**Lower Saucon Township Special Meeting Council Agenda**

**6:00 PM**  
**Lower Saucon Township**  
**Special Meeting**  
**3700 Old Philadelphia Pike**  
**Bethlehem, PA 18015**

**1. OPENING**

---

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Announcement of Executive Session (if applicable)
- E. Public Comment Procedure

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY - 3-MINUTE TIME LIMIT**

---

**3. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

---

- A. Discussion on Southern Lehigh Public Library's correspondence dated February 24, 2023 -- 1. Possible action on SLPL offer to provide "Limited" Library Services -- 2. Possible action on sending a proposal to SLPL for "Full" Library Services

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS - RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY - 3-MINUTE TIME LIMIT**

---

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

---

- A. Move to Adjourn

1. **OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** A special meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Mr. Jason Banonis, presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Jason Banonis, President; Mark Inglis, Vice President; Priscilla deLeon, Sandra Yerger and Thomas Carocci, Council Members; Mark Hudson, Township Manager; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; and Stacy Werkheiser, Administrative Assistant.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – Mr. Banonis said that Council did not meet in Executive Session before today’s meeting, but will meet at the conclusion of this meeting.

Mr. Banonis would like to thank Mark and Township Staff for the improvement to our audio system. We have the same microphones but they have been tuned and hopefully the residents don’t have any issues hearing Council and hopefully Council doesn’t have any problems hearing you.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Mr. Banonis said he’d like to remind everyone of the Public Comment procedure is available on the table. We have a three-minute comment period for Lower Saucon Township residents and taxpayers. If anyone would like to speak on any agenda items, please come forward and identify yourself. He will read Resolution #75-2022.

WHEREAS, Lower Saucon Township is a Township of the Second Class, Optional Plan of Government, located in Northampton Count, PA and is governed by an elected Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council of LST is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations for legislative public hearings to be conducted by Council; and

WHEREAS, the LST is authorized to establish a level of civility and promote an atmosphere of reasoned expression of ideas in promulgating rules and regulations for its public hearings; and

WHEREAS the Council recognizes public participation in the public hearing process is intended to afford citizens an opportunity on the important matters being considered by the LST Council;

Mr. Banonis said he’ll skip over Resolution #75-2022 and will read Resolution #33-2023 which pertains to the conduct of Council meetings.

WHEREAS, Lower Saucon Township is a Township of the Second Class, Optional Plan of Government, located in Northampton Count, PA and is governed by an elected Council; and

WHEREAS, the PA Home Rule Charter and Optional Plan laws, the Second-Class Township Code, and the LST Administrative Code all authorize the Council of LST to promulgate rules and regulations for its Council meetings;

WHEREAS, the LST Council is authorized to establish a level of civility and promote an atmosphere of reasoned expressed of ideas in promulgating rules and regulations for its Council meetings;

WHEREAS the Council recognizes public comment is intended to afford citizens an opportunity to bring important matters to the attention of LST Council.

WHEREAS, the Council is strong advocate of free speech and wishes to promote an atmosphere of reasoned expression of ideas;

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of LST establish the following rules and regulations regarding the Agenda for public meetings, and public comment and conduct during such public meetings;

**AGENDA:**

1. Public participation including public comment relating to agenda items shall occur at the beginning of the meeting and shall be listed on the agenda as a public comment - agenda items - residents and taxpayers only.
2. Public participation including public comment will not be allowed after the commencement of Council's business meeting or during any other agenda item.
3. Public participation including public comment shall be within the discretion and under the discretion under the direction and control of the Council President or Acting Council President.
4. Public comment shall be made only by LST residents and taxpayers.
5. Persons wishing to make comments to Council must put their names and addresses on the sign-in sheet to be used by the Council President to allocate the available time among those wishing to speak.
6. Residents and/or taxpayers of LST shall announce their name prior to addressing Township Council.
7. Public comment may be made only by a resident or taxpayer who has been recognized by the Council President.
8. Comments about items on the agenda will be limited to no more than three minutes per person.
9. The Council President or Acting Council President shall, in his or her sole discretion, be permitted to expand the individual comment period by no more than two minutes upon request from the individual. Thereafter additional time may be allowed only upon motion approved by a majority of Council.
10. Organized groups of people attending the meeting to present a comment position or idea to the Council shall designate no more than two members of the group.
11. No speaker will be allowed to surrender his or her time to any other person or to call upon other persons for comment.
12. No resident or taxpayer shall obstruct in any way the entrances or exits to the Township Council meeting room.
13. The resident or taxpayer shall address Township Council from the lectern situated in the center of the Township Council meeting room unless the resident or taxpayer is physically unable to do so.
14. All public comment will be addressed to the Township Council. Nothing herein shall require any Council member to answer questions or engage in debate.
15. Members of the audience may not address other members of the audience or argue, speak, or yell back and forth at each other.
16. To facilitate the business of the Township and to maintain order there shall be no foul or vulgar language used or gestures made during the meeting.
17. Comments should be substantive and not include any defamatory comment and/or person on the integrity of others whether or not present.
18. Letter shall not be read during the public comment unless such letter can be read within the allotted three-minute time limit for individual public comment. No extension shall be granted for residents or taxpayers reading a letter during public comment. Any letter cited or read may be submitted to the Township Manager.
19. Copies of any documents be reviewed or discussed during public comment shall be made available to Council at all times each attendee of the Council meeting shall respect the point of view of others.
20. At all times, each attendee of the Township Council meeting shall respect the point of view of others. No comment disagreeing with another's point of view shall involve a personal attack on the character of others with a different view point.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

21. Any conduct disruptive of the Township Council meeting and interfering with the business of the Township, such as talking when not recognized by the Council President or Acting Council President, talking beyond the allotted time and/or the use of a cell phone shall not be tolerated.
22. The Council President or Acting Council President will rule out of order any speaker or comment which is defamatory, contentious, scandalous or impertinent, redundant or disruptive to the proceedings of the meeting.
23. If the conduct and order of the Township Council meeting is no longer maintained, the Council President or Acting Council President may recess the meeting to restore order so the business of the Township may be conducted when the meeting resumes.
24. Public comment shall not contain personal text of any nature directed toward or against any Council person, employees of LST, members of the audience or any other persons.
25. A period of public comment will be placed at the end of each agenda item for comments regarding non-agenda items. The rules and regulations contained herein shall apply to this public comment period as well.
26. The purpose of the public comment shall be for residents or taxpayers to comment of matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before Council prior to official action being taken. Council will not respond to comment made by the public portion of the meeting unless it is necessary to ask or clarifying a question, correct factual error or provide specific information. The purpose of public comment is not for residents or taxpayers to engage in argument or debate with members of Council, the administration or other residents and the Council President shall maintain order in accordance with such purpose.

This resolution shall repeal and replace Resolution #31-2022. This resolution was adopted on January 3, 2023. Copies of this resolution are available at the tables outside the Council meeting room. Considering tonight's meeting is a special meeting with a single item on the agenda, he would like to make a motion:

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to dispense with the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting to give residents and taxpayers the opportunity to comment after Council has their comments and before we vote so that we can hear the discussions of Council, and address if you have any comments, the issues that are discussed by Council during our deliberations. At the conclusion of the public comment period, Council will then deliberate again and we will entertain any motions.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

3. **PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS** – None

4. **DEVELOPER ITEMS** – None

5. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **DISCUSSION ON SOUTHERN LEHIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY'S (SLPL) CORRESPONDENCE DATED FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

1. **POSSIBLE ACTION ON SLPL OFFER TO PROVIDE "LIMITED" LIBRARY SERVICES**

2. **POSSIBLE ACTION ON SENDING A PROPOSAL TO SLPL FOR "FULL" LIBRARY SERVICES**

Mr. Banonis said the correspondence that is referred to in this item is correspondence directed to Linc Treadwell, as the Township Solicitor, so perhaps he could update Council on that letter and your interpretation of it.

Attorney Treadwell said as Mr. Banonis said, he received some correspondence from the attorney for the SLPL which is dated February 24, 2023 and that correspondence contains a proposal that they requested be presented to this Council. The next SLPL Board meeting is

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month and our meeting isn't scheduled until the 19<sup>th</sup> so if you would like to get a response to the SLPL prior to their next meeting which is the 18<sup>th</sup>, then it would need to be done tonight.

Attorney Treadwell said all of Council got this letter from the SLPL, it was in the agenda, it was posted on the website. Just briefly, the terms of it were that it was a month-to-month agreement proposal, and can be terminated at any time, by either party. The cost of the agreement was \$3,750.00 per month with the condition that it not exceed 15% of SLPL's yearly income from all local municipal services. The services section provided limited services on most, specifically not the PA Library Access. There were no board members proposed for our LST residents and that's pretty much it. There was a paragraph at the end to advise us to abide by all PA laws when having a public meeting. After he got that letter, he responded, as he had some questions which are in his letter. At the SLPL's last board meeting which was March 21<sup>st</sup>, there was some comment that they had recently got the letter and would respond to it. The purpose of this evening is if you would like to respond to this proposal in the February 24<sup>th</sup> letter and/or have a different proposal, to get it to them in a timely fashion, we should do it tonight.

Mr. Banonis said he would like to ask Attorney Treadwell a question about the terms of that offer letter that we got from SLPL. The not to exceed 15% of the yearly income, what's the significance of that? Attorney Treadwell said the significance of that is that in the library code there is some language that talks about the library regulations. There's some language that talks about if you contribute more than 15% of the municipal income that the library receives annually, then you are entitled to board membership. He believes the purpose of this section was to keep it under 15% because later in the agreement it says no board membership.

Mr. Banonis said with regard to the letter that you wrote back in response to this letter, have you received any response? Attorney Treadwell said no, not yet.

Mr. Banonis said he will turn the floor over to Mr. Inglis. Mr. Inglis said he thinks it was pretty clear what they said. He doesn't know about you guys but he was kind of looking for a more permanent solution to this. That's his opinion. He'd like a long-term arrangement and he thinks we should perhaps put something together that might work long-term instead of short-term because he thinks this has gone on too long. He thinks our residents need some library service. We need some stability and he'd like to pursue something more permanent.

Mrs. Yerger said she agrees with Mr. Inglis whole heartedly that this is what our residents need or want, so she agrees with him, we need to come up with something permanent or at least as permanent as we can make it for our residents.

Mr. Banonis said Linc, as he understands it, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) when a request is submitted to them, the statute and/or regulations or guidelines say something to the effect that they want the municipality which is joining or becoming a partner with a public library to do so for a ten-year period and that's for continuity so they don't have municipalities jumping in and out of libraries on an annual basis, which creates a lot of administrative issues for the OCL, is that correct?

Attorney Treadwell said that's in the addition to the direct service area section of the regulations, correct. It should be for a minimum of ten years unless there are one or two exceptions to that, one of which the Hellertown Area Library (HAL) used last year when they asked for special approval to remove LST from its service area.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Mr. Banonis said back in June of 2022, you may recall this better than he can, HAL has made an offer or a demand and we responded to it, and he doesn't remember if the timing of that is correct, can you refresh his memory of what those terms were.

Attorney Treadwell said he thinks you are referring to the letter that's in the packet which is the 5/20 letter. He asked Stacy to put it on the screen. That was an offer of a settlement letter we had received correspondence from Hellertown and HAL and that letter came from your May 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Those three issues were discussed at the Council meeting and Council directed him to send correspondence to HAL's attorney which he did and that was a, I guess we could call it a settlement offer, which was an offer that HAL would keep the state aid for 2022 and that LST would remain in the direct service area for all of 2022 and that HAL and the Township would cooperate to remove the Township from the library service area at the end of 2022 and that the Township would, in addition to the \$50,000.00 donation, donate another \$32,000.00 to HAL for 2022. That's what he would term as the settlement offer that there was \$82,000.00 on the table. We would have mutually gone to OCL and said we don't want to be partners in the library business anymore and there would have been no litigation. The HAL said no to that offer and if you recall, it's in the letter that offer was contingent on all three issues going together.

Mr. Banonis said he'll wait until the end, Priscilla do you have any comment? Ms. deLeon said there have been no comparable studies done like we did back in the early 2010, 2011 looking into library services when we were considering leaving the Bethlehem Area Public Library (BAPL), and there are two reports on our website under library services and there's a study called "Overview of the Saucon Valley Library Task Force" and one of the paragraphs on page 3 in 2009 says, primarily due to the increase cost for library services at the BAPL, the Township Council asked the library committee to explore other alternatives for library services for Township residents. The library committee reached out to the SLPL in Center Valley and the HAL to initiate discussions with these facilities concerning library services. The SLPL advised the library committee, that due to state library regulations, they would be prohibited from joining with the Township for library services. So, how does that affect us with what you are doing now? Mr. Banonis said who are you asking? Ms. deLeon said whoever wants to answer her question. If Council can't answer it, then she guesses Linc.

Attorney Treadwell said the question is in 2009. Ms. deLeon said no, this was in 2012, this was the report given to the Township. Attorney Treadwell said it says that the SLPL said that the library code prohibited LST from going to SLPL. Ms. deLeon said it says the SLPL advised the library committee that due to state library regulations, they would be prohibited from joining with the Township for library services. Attorney Treadwell said and you are asking him why they said that? Ms. deLeon said no, she's not asking him why. She's saying is it true that they are prohibited by State...Attorney Treadwell said no, he doesn't think it is. Ms. deLeon said in your opinion, it's not. Attorney Treadwell said he could probably read you the section of the Library Code, this is Section 9371 of the PA Library Code for use of libraries. There's a Section A that talks about residents and taxpayers. Then there's a Section B that states the Board of Library Directors may extend library privileges to persons not residing in the municipality upon the terms and conditions that the board prescribes. Ms. deLeon said is there a date on that regulation? Attorney Treadwell said it's the current library code. Ms. deLeon said current code. So, there's been no studies done that you are aware of like how many people use the library or you know, why we are going towards SLPL and not going with HAL? Mr. Carocci said HAL wouldn't give them the usage numbers. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't know of any studies other than Mark, the Township Manager, has the people who signed up for HAL cards that were reimbursed for library cards. Ms. deLeon said she'd like to hear from everybody before she comments further.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Mr. Carocci said if a long-term agreement can be proposed with SLPL, he'd be for that. If not, he's fine with the reimbursing residents for library cards, wherever they want to go, like we are doing.

Mr. Banonis said again, we are going to deliberate more after we hear from the public so what he will do...Attorney Treadwell said before we get into the public comment, there are two things we need to talk about and decide. One is does anybody like the proposal we got from SLPL. Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci said no. Ms. deLeon said she does, but probably for different reasons.

Attorney Treadwell said the second question would be if he's going to respond at some point and say we don't like the limited library service proposal, do we have...Mr. Banonis said here's his thought on it and he'll put it out there and the public can...other members of Council can talk to it before we turn it over to the public. His thoughts on this are to have the Solicitor issue a letter to SLPL and its funding partners with an offer for, not for library limited services, but for full library services for LST residents that would include the PA Access card for all LST residents which they can use at the SLPL or any other public library, the BAPL, the HAL, any others that accept the Access PA card. It would be a ten-year deal. He thinks it needs to be a financially viable offer to support a ten-year agreement like we've done in the past with library arrangements and he thinks an appropriate way to do this is to offer \$250,000.00 up front upon signing of the agreement for access to the library. That money would come from the American Relief Refund monies so it's not LST taxpayer money that's being used for this. It's Federal COVID money that's being used for a purpose like it's intended to be used for the betterment of the community and for the ten years thereafter, offering \$75,000.00 per year for ten years, which is a substantial savings over past years of library services. We would want to have board representation on the library board upon us being admitted in, and by getting it out now it gives them the opportunity to include LST in its service area on its application to the OCL for state funding which they submit in the summertime and it gets approved in the fall. The 10-year deal would go into effect on January 1, 2024, and he would want a show of good faith by them to provide us with immediate access to the SLPL, full access to the entire library with the PA Access card, effective June 1<sup>st</sup> so that our residents have the ability to go to any library they want this summer. He would also want the agreement to have a term in it or terms in it that would be punitive if the agreement is breached by LST because the OCL wants this in agreement for ten years and he thinks there has to be a penalty in it for SLPL taking us in as funding partners taking us in, because they were counting on our financial commitment to support this library for ten years so he would suggest that there be a penalty in it of five years of annual payments that would be due at any time the agreement would be breached, if its every breached, and he doesn't think it should be or would be. By doing that, the public has complete access to all libraries through the Access PA card. They can go to the HAL if they want, so there's no differences in the services that are being provided to the Township.

Mr. Carocci said that's if it is violated by any party because they have partners in the library. HAL breached the ten-year state requirement by filing to get us off early. So, something offered to their partners as well.

Mr. Banonis said correct as the partners are...what we are looking for is for a partner and we clearly didn't have a partner with HAL and it's unfortunate. They went out and entered into their own agreement, he thinks it was a two-year agreement. They removed all LST residents from having any board representation on the library. That's after LST gave them close to \$1 million over the nine- or ten-year period.

Mr. Carocci said it's just fiscally wise to have a partner like Upper Saucon that's also financially capable. Mr. Banonis said that's true Tom, they certainly have the funding and the means to provide for the library and he thinks that...Mr. Carocci said and we do too. Mr.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Banonis said that library is, when you compare the two, it's a more substantial robust library with a vision for the future and he thinks by having an equal funding partner that wants to maintain that library and improve library services, it's for the best of the Township...while providing LST residents with better library services, sustainable library services for less money for ten years.

Mr. Carocci said the quality of the program is much better over there. The library facilities are 100% better over there and they are improving library services for the Township residents for about or the same or less cost. Mr. Banonis said it's actually less. Mr. Carocci said less on a yearly basis. Mr. Banonis said and we get board representation with that. Mr. Carocci said right, we get board representation for a funding commitment.

Attorney Treadwell said that board representation would be based on financial contribution, so prorated based on financial contribution, just so he knows what he's...Mr. Carocci said as it should be. Mr. Banonis said right. Those are his thoughts, there's no motion that's been made but those are his thoughts for a potential offer. He doesn't know if anyone else on Council has any thoughts or comments on that.

Mr. Banonis said he will now open it up for public comment. We have the sign in sheets with a number of people who have signed in. He will go through these in order. He'll call your name and if you would come forward, identify yourself for the record and we'll get started. The first person is:

- Anne Marie Crown said this is a sad night for someone like her. She speaks of the Hellertown Area Library as HAL. HAL is a friend really. HAL has served her very well in all the years she has lived in this Township. She has always, from her childhood, experienced and believed that the library has a personality also. It is in some ways like a home away from home. She has always felt that Hellertown is like that. They have a very courteous, helpful staff and they obviously love their library and they share it so willingly with the entire Saucon Valley (SV) community. She has experience with them, times when they have gone so above and beyond to help her. She has a deep interest in military history and she reads books that can't be found hardly anywhere and all she has to do is ask someone at HAL to find it and it comes from somewhere in the U.S. for her to use. She was one of those people who bought the card at HAL. She received the check for reimbursement and she promptly donated it to HAL. She will say publicly that she will never leave HAL unless she has no other choice. To her, they are the very definition of a small hometown library and the personality and the feeling of being home that goes with that. She wants to publicly thank them. Her impression thus far about SLPL and she has read all the documents that are available, is that even the \$50,000.00 incentive for them to start the process with us, still lets them with a feeling of reluctance so when she thinks about us being part of that group, how welcomed will we be. She really doesn't know. She's always open to discussion but she's always looking for solid financial information why we make a decision and she always looks that SV gets served especially the school district and the children of SV. It seems like it is going to go the way of SLPL and that's unfortunate in her view. She will simply say she always look at the chart, the organizational chart for this Township, and the top box is voters and the box under that is Council. They are linked. She hopes whatever decision we make we know we are always linked for the future of the residents of this Township. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci said in your motion you did say the part of our offer is the state library access so Ms. Crown would be able to use the HAL. Mr. Banonis said correct, it wouldn't change. Mr. Carocci said he just wanted to clarify that it was part of your, he guesses you didn't make



a motion, but part of your idea. Mr. Banonis said Priscilla did you want to say something. Ms. deLeon said not at this time, but she probably will before the meeting is over.

- Diane Hollowell said she did have adjust it because you guys had your little meeting beforehand...Mr. Banonis said what meeting before are you talking about. Ms. Hollowell said she didn't know you guys were going to talk first so she had to adjust some of the stuff she's saying. So, her question is how did this even get started and have any of you ever visited the HAL. Have you seen any of the programs that are offered there to Hellertown and LST residents. Sorry Mr. Treadwell she's quoting you a lot, you stated in a letter to Mr. Attorney Sebia in November, the Township is going to fight for continued library services for their residents, and again, how did it get there. We had a library and she doesn't understand how it gives us Access PA and she's just curious, what is the vision of SLPL, you said they have a vision. Can you enlighten us with it? No. You said they have a vision for the future, she was curious what that was. Mr. Carocci said he said they have...Ms. Hollowell said he said that. A month-to-month agreement that could be terminated at any time without reason, so if she checks a book out there at the end of the month, would she get a late fee and would the Council cover that? Our limited access, no museum passes, you do not have the privilege to Access PA and let me see what she got here, she can't understand how it got that far. Oh, we do have to quote Mr. Treadwell in that a small group of LST residents - do you think standing room only, board meetings, letters to the editor and social media post is a small group of LST residents. Attorney Treadwell said no, he doesn't, he thinks that 21 emails and the 7 that went to the library is a small group and that's what the letter said. If we are going to be factual, let's please be factual. Mr. Carocci said be factual, there's approximately 55 people in this room, he counted and there are close to 12,000 residents in LST. There's 55 people in this room. Ms. Hollowell said if the cameras are going, maybe Mark, can you get...whenever those are up and running, can you find out how many people are viewing on line, that would be awesome. Just another note, this is just concerning Resolution #31-2023, under Public Comments and participation No. 13, no resident or taxpayer shall obstruct in any way the entrances or exits to the Township Council meeting room. No offence, but she thinks as long as this Board is sitting up there making these decisions that are affecting Township residents, you might want to hold them in bigger accommodations. She's been to a few of these where everybody is standing in the doorways, in the hallways and you can't hear anything what's going on. Mr. Carocci said he sees empty seats. Mr. Banonis said he counts at least 17 or 18 empty seats and he needs to correct the record as it was represented, there was a comment this was going to be on a month-to-month basis, his proposal was not. His proposal was for ten years which would be 120 months, not month-to-month. With regard to late fees, enforcement of late fees is up to the library however they decide to do that. They are a separate 501(c)3 and they operate how they see fit.
- Jennifer Helton said good evening members of the Council, and fellow community members. She's here to express her strong opposition to the decision of LST to work with SLPL for library service. As many of you are aware, this topic has been allowed on our agenda only twice in 16 months and that is a concern of her as a member of the community. It is important that we have transparency in the decision-making process especially when it comes to matters that affect our community. Furthermore, she believes that the decision will be more expensive than if we had stayed with HAL. The cost difference is between working with SLPL and HAL has not been fully addressed and it is unclear how LST has arrived at their decision. It's important that we have a clear understanding of these financial implications on the decision and that we are communicated to the community. She has been attending these meetings and she has is shocked by the lack of transparency in the process. Mr. Treadwell continues to misrepresent the will of the community and he has

expressed that their failure to reestablish the relationship with HAL is very concerning. As a community, we deserve to have a say in this decision and it affects us and our local institutions. In conclusion, she urges that the Council reconsider their decision to not work with SLPL and instead reestablish the relationship with HAL. It is important that we have transparency in this decision-making process and that we work together as a community to ensure that the best outcome is for all of us. Thank you.

Mr. Banonis said he needs to address another couple of factual errors there. We already talked about this in the beginning of the meeting where it's the correspondence that went back and forth in May where we were attempting to work with HAL to reach an agreement with regard to our relationship and they rejected it. The other part he needs to address is the allegation that somehow going with HAL is financially better than what he had proposed. To be clear, the last demand that we had received from HAL, was \$107,000.00 or \$109,000.00 for a five-year deal with no guarantee as to what the funding levels would be after year one which would likely increase to higher levels. What we are doing here is we are actually providing the same or better library services for substantially less money where the amount we are proposing is locked in and guaranteed and is not subject to the whims of a library board telling us what we should be paying and not giving us the data that we need to justify those numbers. Mr. Carocci said he doesn't know how we can reestablish with HAL when they kicked us out and stopped service with us and when do you want him to talk about transparency, now or at the end. Mr. Banonis said we'll talk about it at the end. This is public comment. Mr. Carocci said okay.

- Ellen Buck said libraries have always been a certainty in her existence. Born and raised in SV, she has enjoyed books and reading her whole life. Until this Township board took over, she had access to three libraries. You don't realize it but you up ended her life and caused her anxiety, sadness, and anger. Here's what she wants you to do to rectify this contentious issue. She wants you to fully fund the HAL. Yes, she gladly bought a pass for HAL and she is pleased to visit and take out books. Last week she checked out five books and when she got home, she realized she had read three of them. She had read a lot of books from HAL especially large print books. Here's the main point she wants to make. If you do not fully fund HAL, she is not entitled to PA Access through which HAL can request books from other PA libraries. Before you cut funding, she could request large print books or other books freely, and the staff was happy to cooperate. If you partially fund SLPL, she cannot get PA Access either. The best solution in her mind is to fully fund the HAL. Mr. Banonis said may he interrupt her for a second. So, Ma'am, perhaps you didn't hear what he said and what he said was their offer to SLPL. It would include the Access PA card so the sign you have hanging around your neck or clipped to your shirt is what we are trying to get you. We are trying to get you the Access PA card which would give you access to not just the three libraries that you would go to but any of the libraries that receive state funding that participate in the Access PA program. Ms. Buck said she's saying she would like you to fund HAL so she can get it from them. Mr. Banonis said we're talking about getting it from SLPL which that card would allow you to go to HAL or any other library, and what we are talking about is funding at a level which is less than what we had paid and what was demanded of us by HAL. Do you understand that? Ms. Buck said she doesn't know what the funding was. Mr. Banonis said he just told her; it was \$107,000.00 or \$109,000.00 year one subject to going up after that and then it's going to be \$75,000.00 pursuant to the terms that he just made. Ms. Buck said you would have saved money by just paying the \$100,000.00 originally. Mr. Banonis said how? Ms. Buck said because you had to pay attorney fees and everything. Mr. Banonis said but over the life of the deal, over the life of the deal Ma'am, we are actually saving a quarter of a million

- dollars. Ms. Buck said she's sorry but she...Mr. Banonis said he understands you just want to go to HAL, and he appreciates that. Thank you for your comments.
- Mary Dawson said libraries are hugely important to her. Her husband is really tired of hearing about how important it is for her to have the PA Access program and she thinks the HAL is lovely and the SLPL is lovely, BAPL is lovely, but she does not understand why this Council is moving away from HAL which is our community library where the children can walk there after school. They cannot continue to exist if we are not supporting them with our funding. Why should people who live out in Steel City or the Wassergass area have to go to SLPL to use a library? Mr. Banonis said they don't. They can use the Access PA card. Ms. Dawson said excuse me, she's not finished. Please stop interrupting her. She said she realizes if we get the Access program they can still use all these libraries, but HAL will not be funded as they were before and that's very important to a community to have funding from their local schools and have children come there after school. This whole thing is such a debacle she can't believe how it has happened. The library should be conveniently located. SLPL is in a different county, how does that make sense for us to go to a library in a different county and fund them. Mr. Carocci said it makes sense to have an equal financial partner. Ms. Dawson said also, you have proposed this \$75,000.00 a year. SLPL has not accepted that so you have no idea if they will agree to that. It's her understanding that so far, they have not really wanted us to join their library because it has been so contentious and they may not want to work with us or have a representative on their board. She doesn't think you should say we can pay the \$75,000.00 and we'll have the Access program back and everything because we have no idea if that is going to happen. Meanwhile, she had 15 books on reserve in December, and now she has nothing, so it's really affecting all our residents and hurting everyone in this Township. She also thinks the Township has not been at all responsive to the resident's wishes. She has written several letters to the Township and Priscilla answered one of them, but nobody else ever answered her emails and she thinks we are the people who vote for Council and we deserve to have our voices heard and you have not been doing that. Thank you. Mr. Banonis said he needs to correct the record again. You had mentioned funding by the schools, we are LST...hold on Ma'am, let him finish, you yielded the floor, let him talk now. Ma'am, the school has nothing to do with what we do here. We are the Township so if you have that concern, you need to take that to a different body. We can't control what they do here. Ms. Dawson said she understands the schools don't fund the library. Mr. Banonis said fair enough.
- Bruce Dawson said he doesn't have prepared remarks but listening to the debate he would think if SLPL would accept the proposal you outlined, including the PA Access sticker, that we would once again have the kind of library service we had before the expiration of the agreement with HAL. You have stipulated that they kicked us out but he thinks that is a misrepresentation. The agreement with HAL was coming up for renewal and they asked for an increase in the per capita charge which is based on the number of residents in our Township and that we didn't find that acceptable and there was a period of debate by the proposal in May that you referred to. You said you were going to jointly work to get us removed from the HAL service area. He believes that's when we would lose the PA Access program that we need to have a resident library in order to participate in that program. For SLPL to accept the proposal as you've outlined it, they would have to go to the state and get us in their service area, is that a legal understanding as well. Attorney Treadwell said there's a difference between providing service and being in a library service area. The service area refers to state funding. If a municipality is in a library service area, then that library is entitled to receive state funding based on the population of that municipality. What he read earlier was the service provision, that said any library can provide service to someone that's not in the municipality where the library resides under rules and regulations adopted by its board. No

qualifications, no state approval. You want state aid, you have to go to the state with the service area issue. Service is a separate issue. Mr. Dawson said is the Access program, which is a state mandate, dependent on having being in a service area that the state is funding. Mr. Banonis said no, it's not. Attorney Treadwell said no, if a library receives state aid it has to participate in the Access program, not vice versa. So, a library can give PA Access cards to any...Mr. Dawson said that doesn't make a lot of sense to him because...Attorney Treadwell said the entire library code doesn't make any sense. Mr. Dawson said if it's just a decision up to SLPL whether to grant us participation in the Access program, why would they stipulate that this month-by-month which he also agrees is unacceptable without PA Access. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't know why they made the proposal that they did. What we are discussing tonight is a counter proposal. Mr. Dawson said right. Mr. Carocci said HAL could put state access stickers on the cards that were sold...they could do it right now. It's true. Mr. Banonis had to call order. He said folks we are not doing this tonight. We are not going to have outbursts where people are yelling and being disruptive. He's not going to give another warning, if it happens again, he's going to ask the police to escort you out. We are here to have a constructive meeting. We've rearranged the order of this meeting so that everyone has an opportunity to speak. Please conduct yourselves appropriately. If you need a reminder, step out in the hallway and pick up the ordinance and take a look at it again. This gentleman is trying to speak and offer his comments, we are not going to disrupt him. Okay. Excuse me? Mr. Dawson said thank you. He thinks that's a point for clarification as it's not his understanding that it's just the sole decision of the library offering service when we are not part of the service area. If he's incorrect, he hopes somebody will research that and ask why if we can get Access stickers on the cards, then why are they withholding that from us - out of spite. Mr. Carocci said yes. Mr. Dawson said or do they have a legal stipulation. He finds it very difficult to believe that that's the case, but if it is, please publish it, cite the...Mr. Banonis said that's a question that the citizens can go ask any library they want. We don't have a relationship with HAL. We don't have a relationship with any library at this point other than providing residents with funding where we subsidize individual and family memberships, so if that's a concern, you may want to go and ask whoever it is who has control over that, why they aren't doing it. It's not for us to ask that question. Mr. Dawson said if they say we are not permitted to, under the laws of PA, then how does that get reconciled. Mr. Banonis said we feel highly confident with the research and the opinions we are getting from our Solicitor. He's a licensed lawyer. Attorney Treadwell said this has been going on for 18 months. He's said that from the very beginning. Service area is different than being provided service by a library. If somebody can point him to a section of the library code where it says that for a library to give out a library card with a PA Access sticker on it, the municipality has to be in its service area, then please show it to him. Mr. Inglis said this came out in a lawsuit down in Philadelphia, didn't it? Mr. Banonis said yes. Mr. Carocci said he has a Philadelphia free library card that has a PA Access sticker on it. Mr. Banonis said he does too. Mr. Carocci said HAL won't put them on.

➤ Maia Simon said thank you for the opportunity to speak. She is not the new kid on the block, she's the new old lady on the block. She moved to LST in September of 2022 and one of the things she and her husband learned when they were shopping for a house was by living in LST that they could use the HAL and the pool and the compost and blah, blah, blah which all now is no longer true. They sort of feel they've been hoodwinked because what the websites all said in ways that were easily accessible to the stranger at the time, did not say no, no, no, this isn't going to happen. We've already broken off and so on. It didn't say that. She understands and she could be wrong. She promises she is wrong at least once a day and this could be it for today, but what she understands is that the genesis of this problem with HAL was that LST stopped paying the monthly fee. Attorney Treadwell said

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

is that a question Ma'am? Ms. Simon said yes. Attorney Treadwell said the answer to that is no. The agreement expired and we were unable to agree on terms of a new agreement. Mr. Carocci said his problem was never paying, it was we didn't get any board representation, no say over how that money was going to be used. Mr. Banonis said and no data. Mr. Carocci said no usage data, they claimed 3,100 used the library every day or something like that and we barely sold 200 memberships. Mr. Banonis said Ma'am, he'd like to indulge your comments about pool and the compost center because you may not know the history of that. We did not kick ourselves out of the pool. We did not kick ourselves out of the compost center. He wants to be clear on that. We aren't the ones who decided to change those arrangements. What is significant here with regard to the pool is if you are still interested in the pool, we do provide reimbursement to residents who go and purchase a non-resident rate pool membership. We do provide reimbursement for a part of the difference to offset that. You can still use the pool. You are not prevented from using the pool. You are still using the pool at the same price; you just have to come here and get a reimbursement just like with the library card. With regard to the compost center, we have made arrangements for compost and Mark has that information. He can talk about that but we do provide compost arrangements for our residents just as before. The compost center is not open yet and the composting arrangements we have here are not operating yet. They did operate after the holidays for Christmas tree pickup just as the compost center did and we will continue to provide compost services to our residents just as we have talked about in past meetings. You may not have been participating in those meetings or are aware of it, so he just wants you to be aware of that. Ms. Simon said the question she then has is this new compost center, is it going to actually compost material and then make the compost available to residents. Mr. Banonis said Ma'am, the item on the agenda tonight is the library, so Ma'am we are here for the library. We are not here for the compost center and he offered that information to her as a courtesy, maybe that was his mistake. If we can focus on the library, okay, if you have questions about the compost center and how it operates, he suggests you contact the Township offices when they are open and they can provide information on that. Ms. Simon said that's fine. You brought it up. Mr. Banonis said no, you brought it up and he responded to it, Ma'am. Ms. Simon said she apologizes. She said her concern is that she doesn't have a sense that the negotiations with HAL were done in good faith. She doesn't understand, when she talks to people at the library, they tell her that the difference between what had been and what was being proposed, was a relatively small number and that there has been so much ill will that HAL felt that they had no choice but to take the action they took because they weren't getting a fair deal in the negotiations. One of her concerns, second the comments about it being the community library and she also seconds the comment about it not being funded when if we are now not part of it, so HAL is not going to be the library it used to be and she is of the opinion that LST was the initiator of the break. Mr. Banonis said thank you Ma'am.

- Bob McKellin said this morning he and his wife thought they weren't going to be able to be at this meeting, but she wrote an email out and he knows sometimes if it's not a great email, you don't read it into the minutes. Mark told her he got it. He just is going to tell you. Cindy wrote this, "Dear Manager and Council Members: Cindy McKellin, I am not able to attend the special Council Meeting tonight April 4, 2023. I hope that you will do me the same courtesy you did for the Billick's when you read their letter of support for the SLPL at the January 19, 2022 Council meeting. I will reiterate my opposition of changing the Lower Saucon Township home library to any library except Hellertown Area Library. Your frivolous spending on lawyer fees, lawsuits and donations in the past 16 months have far exceeded the amount that HAL was expecting from LST, not to mention the lack of full library services that the LST residents are experiencing now. Your lack of

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

transparency by not keeping LST residents informed of the on-going negotiations with SLPL are insulting to me. We learn more by attending the SLPL Board meeting or the Southern Lehigh School Board meeting. This is sad coming from the officials we elected. I find it disturbing that you act surprised when HAL removed LST from its service area. What did you expect after you had Mr. Treadwell send letters to both HAL and OCL requesting that LST's population be excluded from the OCL's 2023 calculation for funding?! I will also go back to Mr. Carocci's campaign promise to be fiscally responsible – is that what is happening here? And to support the Hellertown Library – well, I guess we can see how that is working out.” Mr. Carocci said when we had board representation, they don't want to hear about board representation. Ms. deLeon said point of order, Mr. President. Mr. McKellin said along those lines he went to the last landfill meeting and Mr. Carocci came up to him afterwards and asked him about all the differences between BAPL, HAL and SLPL. He told him about iPads that were available. None of them have iPads, we checked. Mr. Carocci said he wanted iPads available; you're lying. Mr. McKellin said parking, you can't get 3,100 cars at the...BAPL doesn't even have a parking lot. How rates will go up. He's been to SLPL meetings and their rates go up and they are crying for more money right now. If you go to a meeting, you'd find that out. Mr. Inglis said he has been to the SLPL's meetings. Mr. McKellen continued with the rest of his wife's letter “I know from experience how these meetings go. You let us pour our hearts out for hours and then go and vote as if we didn't speak at all. I urge my fellow residents to remember the behavior of certain Council members when it comes time to vote in November. Be careful that we don't allow another Trojan horse to be wheeled into our township. Sincerely, Cindy McKellin”

Mr. Banonis said thank you. Attorney Treadwell since you read about some letter he wrote where he asked that the Township be removed from the service area, what letter is that? Mr. McKellin said in May of last year. Attorney Treadwell said so his letter is the May 18<sup>th</sup> one, is that the letter you are talking about that he sent to HAL's attorney? Mr. McKellin said you sent letters to them and OCL. Attorney Treadwell said what letter you are talking about. Mr. McKellin said both of them. Attorney Treadwell said the letter he sent, can you open that Stacy, 5-20, he never sent a letter to OCL asking for that. The letter that he sent says in paragraph 2 that HAL and the Township will cooperate to remove the Township from the HAL direct library service area. Where is the letter where he asked HAL and OCL to remove us unilaterally? Mr. McKellin said it was in the minutes that you were asked to send a letter. Attorney Treadwell said that's the letter he sent. Let's be clear then. If there's something in the Township minutes, then it's not a letter that he sent. Mr. Carocci said Mr. McKellin you completely misrepresented the conversation we had. It's ridiculous. What he pointed out and he has it with him right now is exactly what he pointed out, so here's some of HAL's programs for April of 2023. They have a teen and tween Arts and Crafts, they have an adult craft night, the Girl Scouts meet, they got a family story time. He said other library programs are quite more extensive, than we have...I'll get to the electronic stuff he talked about. SLPL has music class sessions, chair yoga, gentle Yoga, story time as well, they have kid's flicks, they have library discussion groups, they are having a book sale, they have a Pokémon club for the younger kids. Emmaus Library has a support group for Alzheimer's, computer basics for Sr. Citizens, computer apps, how to use apps, creative writing program for kids and adults, finding your ancestors, how to research that, teen writer's group...Mr. Banonis said Tom, hold on. Folks, he can't hear what he's saying. He hears a lot of mumbling and groaning in the audience, so...Mr. Carocci said Bucks County Library has “How to not be a Victim of Computer Fraud”, “How Not to be an ID Victim”, they have a Chess club, they have some coding programs for kids, so that's what he talked to you about and that's what he said. Mr. Banonis said Sir, you yielded the floor, you sat down, you brought up

comments, Tom hold on. Sir, you yielded the floor, you sat down and you made comments and he's responding to what you said. He's not trying to have an argument with you, he's responding to what you said, so allow him to speak as he allowed you to speak, okay? Go ahead Tom. Mr. Carocci said as you can see, his problem is with the programs at HAL. They are just not as good as other libraries and not what our Township deserves. Our Township deserves better and we never were offered representation on the board in any of the new deals.

- Mr. Banonis said Lynn Hill. Someone said Mr. Carocci is talking about programs that the library...Mr. Banonis said are you Lynn Hill? You have to identify yourself. The person who was speaking said of course I'm Lynn Hill, you called my name. Mr. Banonis said he called her name and you are standing there. He called her name to come up, you just came up when Mr. McKellin was talking and you've been standing there. He needs you to identify yourself for the record, are you Lynn Hill? Ms. Hill said yes, she's Lynn Hill. Ms. Hill said her three minutes are starting now and she doesn't want to be interrupted. Mr. Carocci is talking about programs that are offered by libraries who get the benefit of full funding. Libraries cost money. HAL is a relatively new library. They are just kind of getting started. A library has to run a budget surplus because one of the biggest expenses that they have, believe it or not, is books. We have to buy books for the library. She lives in about the center of this Township. HAL is less than two miles from her house. SLPL is like 7 or 8 miles from her house. She's in the center. If somebody wants to go to SLPL for whatever these programs are, and they live at the NE corner, they are probably going to drive 12 miles, it's probably going to take them 25 minutes. The kids can walk from school to the HAL. We have a community between Hellertown and LST, that's always how it's been. The fact that you just want to tear apart this relationship, we can repair it when you are not in office anymore, of course, but in the meantime, you are just embarrassing everybody with your lack of nonnegotiable skills, you are threatening lawsuits, and now you want to send \$250,000.00 to SLPL just to enter into a ten-year agreement with us. That's the same amount of money, you are talking \$100,000.00 a year, that's what we would have paid to HAL. She doesn't understand your motives, and you should not enter into an agreement that lasts longer than your terms in office. Have you not seen all the red signs on people's lawns that say "Fully Fund our HAL", it's more than 7 people, it's more than 21 people, and believe her, a lot of people that feel the way she does, do not have the signs on their lawns, but they still feel the same way. Everybody in this room agrees that we should cut the nonsense between HB and LST and go back to the relationship we all had. Thank you.

Mr. Banonis said again he wants to clarify an error which is that when negotiations were taking place with LST, HB and HAL, which was going to be a tri-part, a three-party agreement, HB and HAL entered into a bilateral agreement with the two of them and excluded and removed LST's board representation. Also, the last speaker said that we were going to be giving \$100,000.00 to SLPL and again, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, it's \$75,000.00 a year.

- Robert Hill said he's retired, a St. Luke's Physician for 35 years and a Township resident as long. He's bewildered by the chaos and vitriol and discord that is between HB and LST which he thinks is unnecessary. His question is he saw the proposal that SLPL put out, it seems they want to deal with this Council at arm's length. He can't blame them with all the chaos going on with HB and LST. Why would they want to touch this with a 10' pole? He thinks with penalties and what not involved, why would they want to touch this with a 10' pole and what if they say no, then where are we? Mr. Banonis said he'll respond to the penalty part of it. The penalty part of it is to maintain the integrity of the agreement for ten years which is consistent with the OCL requirements for providing library services. That was pretty clear that the OCL wants those arrangements for ten years and we are willing

to abide by the OCL requirements. It would be actually contrary to what their requirements are for us to do anything different than ten years. Mr. Hill said penalties don't sound very friendly. What if they say no, then where are we. Mr. Banonis said we'll see what happens if they say no. We are here making an offer; we are not here about what we are going to do and speculate what they may do. All we can do is make an offer, put the terms of the offer in and hear from the public as to their thoughts on it. Mr. Hill said it's kind of disappointing, but thank you.

- Donna Boden said she lives past Southeastern Fire Station, and HAL is about an 8-minute drive from her house. SLPL is about 25 minutes from her house. That might not seem far, but as a mom of three kids, making a 45-50-minute trip on a regular basis is not a feasible option for her. She would like to share a little bit of information on her family. They moved to LST in 2018. One of the first places she visited was the library. She would take her daughter who was three at the time, to story time. That's where she met some of her first friends when they moved here. Her son Connor is ten, and he's a very talented student and an avid reader. He's currently on book 11 of the Fire Series, all books which they have borrowed from the library. Her daughter Samantha is 7, and she has a reading disability. She works with Special Ed in school and for as tough as it is for her to read, as much as it's a challenge, she loves to go to the library. They go to HAL and she has so much fun picking up books. She loves to read even though it's hard for her. Her youngest daughter is 1-1/2 years old and she loves books also. She has a different finger book every week. So it's so nice to pick up new books and rotate the finger books for her. Her husband he has a very demanding job and is also in Graduate school. He unwinds by listening to audio books on his long commute. Prior to January he was able to borrow E-books through HAL and now that he no longer has that option, they are spending \$50 to \$60 a month on audio books for him to listen to while he's driving to and from work, which is not sustainable for them. This Thursday, all three of her children are attending the egg hunt that the library is putting on which is one of their favorite egg hunts they go to more so than the one on Saturday because they have to many activities and it doesn't last longer than 10 seconds. She's sat through numerous of these meetings and watched your faces during these meetings. She's sent you all emails. She knows there is nothing that she will say tonight that will change your minds. She knows you all decided long ago and she knows there is nothing any of them will say that change your minds. In preparing for today she was going to give facts and figures but she knows the facts don't matter either. She just knows that she's one of many people, not of you, that support a partnership with HAL. She wants this on record of her being one of the taxpayers of LST that does not support a partnership with SLPL; and HAL cannot survive without our financial support.
- Debra Rodenbach said according to the internet SLPL is 19 minutes from her home. She lives on the other side of LST, not on the rich side. The HAL it says is 9 minutes, some people know she can get there much faster than that and it's 6 miles. She listened to the Southern Lehigh School District (SLSD) meeting which was two or three months ago. There was a representative from Upper Saucon Township (UST) that spoke at that meeting that said they are paying the library building which they own, over \$350,000.00 a year to support that and he was stating how they cannot continue to do that. So you're allowing them to use our taxpayer money to support UST to support their building. That's what you are doing with our money. Also, Council members should be trying to support your constituents and your community. Since you probably will do whatever it is you want to do, as she knows you already made up your minds, a ten year agreement with SLPL should not be entered into. It should be a shorter term so that we can go back to HAL when we get new members on Council. Thank you.
- Ignatios Hadjiloukas said he has lived in this Township for 35 years and he always assumed that having a library was a key and critical part of why he wanted to live



and pay the taxes he pays. Both of his children graduated from SV high school and they were able to use all of the facilities they preferred because of Access PA to use the BAPL and all of the sudden he feels like a nomad. He goes to a library and he tries to check out a book and they say sorry you can't. He finds that insulting and demeaning and he is mad. He is mad because there has been no transparency and he knows there has to be issues that are never addressed; however, having a situation that we hope to fix is to him an amenable situation. He runs a business. They plan and make the decisions before the problems arrive. Here you made a decision, the problems came and now you are trying to figure out how the dickens you are going to get out of them. It's backwards. He really feels that from what he's seen, the SLPL really could care less one way or the other, maybe it's because there's animosity, maybe because it's the way the relationship is with HAL, but very honestly what he hears now what your proposal is, you hope that they will give us PA Access and if we do, then yes, he agrees people can go to HAL, they can go to any library. Incidentally he has a library card from the HAL and it most certainly does not have an Access PA sticker, he can guarantee you that. Mr. Carocci said that's what he said. Mr. Hadjiloukas said he heard you say you could get one there. Mr. Banonis said Mr. Carocci said Philadelphia, sir. He said Philadelphia. Mr. Carocci said can Linc make it clear that HAL could put a state Access sticker on his card. Make it clear. Mr. Hadjiloukas said all he is saying is that he has not heard in the various meetings he has come to, other than wishful thinking and significant amount of taxpayer money spent on legal fees, on donations, with no repercussions. This is not a way to run a business and it is certainly not a way to run the Township. Thank you.

- Mary Beth Zincone said she lives out by Wassergass. She thinks she might win the prize as she's lived in this area for 68 years, her entire life. In fact, she was part of the committee that started the HAL. She is beginning to wonder if the library issue is a hole brought up by the Council and the demise of the relationship is just a red herring that was thrown out there for us to become busy while the landfill issue was in the background. She may be paranoid, but it's starting to look that way. Mr. Carocci you are very vocal about the library and things. Ms. Zincone said she doesn't know if he is a library user or not. Mr. Carocci said he is, he believes in good libraries though. Ms. Zincone said well why you didn't donate the \$20,000.00 that was allocated to furniture for the Township to the library fund then. Mr. Carocci said he's the one that came up with the plan to reimburse people. Ms. Zincone said you were real quick to get that money in for that furniture. Mr. Carocci said me, he barely remembers that. Ms. Zincone said Mr. Banonis, our President, has made the statement at one of the meetings that his kids buy books, lucky you. You said your kids will go to Amazon, it's in the minutes. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't think it was him, Ma'am, but whatever. Ms. Zincone said you said it, you said it. Attorney Treadwell said actually...Ms. Zincone said yes, Mr. Treadwell, you are one of the unelected officials and we should wonder about how long you get to stay because we have to vote them out, but we don't have to vote you out. You are contracted. Attorney Treadwell said he serves at the pleasure of the board. He was the one that said his wife buys books sometimes at Amazon, it was not Mr. Banonis. Ms. Zincone said she apologizes. Mr. Banonis said no need for apology, Ma'am. Ms. Zincone said you, in a very astute way, said that your children bought books, great. Attorney Treadwell said he didn't say his children, he said his wife sometimes buys books on Amazon with her book club. Ms. Zincone said no you didn't, pull the notes and look. She's also heard and she's not going to point a finger on this one, but she heard the genesis of all of this is because someone was denied a zoning permit to build something. Now she will tell you as a 68-year resident, we used to take our kids to Dr. Chaffier, and she worked at the sewing mill factory. Mr. Banonis said he would caution her to be very careful about what you say right now. Ms. Zincone said okay, she's just saying what...Mr. Banonis said that's all he's saying.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Mr. Carocci said defamation suit. Mr. Banonis said he's just cautioning you. Ms. Zincone said you can caution her, but that's...Mr. Banonis said you can say what you want. Ms. Zincone said she used to work at the sewing mill factory. Mr. Banonis said he's glad. Ms. Zincone said at work putting out blouses after school so she could pay for nursing school. So, she doesn't get why you don't want the library in Hellertown. We worked for 50 years from the time she was an adult to merge Hellertown and LST culturally, not demographically, we didn't have any problems. It was a wonderful relationship, high schools, her time is almost up. Hopefully time is up for all of you.

- Milly Dignetti said she has not been able to come to a meeting yet because it seems like so many of the library meetings wouldn't have the time to talk in the beginning of the meeting. It seemed like it would always be lost in between and like this is the first meeting that's been about the library. The biggest thing, she doesn't understand- not one person from LST has got up here and said I want to be part of SLPL. None of us want to be part of SLPL. We all want to be part of HAL. She has a letter that she wrote to SLPL and everyone here, but you never hear anything back, and HAL was our happy place as we came out of COVID. She has a 7-year-old son, he's her only child. He's learning to read, but we're not like in school because we're not really in school, but we go to the library for those events and somebody said about HAL not having educational events. That's preposterous. They have learning on numbers, Lego's, stem, there's so much learning that goes on there with Ms. Andrea. When they walk into the library, Ms. Andrea knows her son's name. She says hey Ben, what's up, she knows the books he likes, she knows how he is doing in reading. These are important things that are actually about community. He wants to go to the library that's right across the street from where he plays T-ball. That's community. It's not going to the other side to a different county, in a different school district because yes, once we are supporting HAL again, she'll have her blue sticker back and if we want to meet a friend for story time at SLPL, then we can, but she wants her tax dollars and her community support to be going towards HAL, which is part of our school district. Remember, not one person from the community has said they want to join SLPL so why is it even a discussion. It shouldn't be.
- Larry Wright said a library has been one of the most important parts of his youth and into his what's now you can call old age. From the age that he first started reading, even on the outskirts of Denver, Colorado, he had access to a library, he had access to library for his whole life and it's really shocking and dismaying when he went at age 70 to the library and was turned down even though he's lived here and enjoyed numerous libraries around for 25 years, and now it's at a time when it's perhaps better than ever. He works 10-hour shifts at QVC, he listens to books on CD, he can get them from the library, they are prohibitively expensive for him. He relies on the library for his well-being. It's not an optional service. It's an essential service just as the police department, the fire department, anything else that is supported by the Council. He's appalled this is happening to him now at a time when it's maybe more important than ever. He listens to the proposals, the proposal for SLPL sounds like a really great wish list, but he don't see from their responses so far, that he has a lot of skepticism, that they are willing to accept and give what we are requesting. This is a hugely important issue to him. He really has expectations and the hope that this Council finds a way to give us full library service. Mr. Banonis said Sir, may I ask you one question. You expressed some skepticism, have you had conversations with them or do you have information that's not available to us? Mr. Wright said no, only that so far, our efforts to join them have been rebuffed. Mr. Banonis said thank you.
- JoEllen Thomson said she often respects what you are trying to accomplish but she totally objects to the techniques that you use. She's been attending these meetings for the past year and a half and has been very disappointed at how information

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

regarding library services has been withheld from the public. There were several meetings when library services were not even on the agenda. To get an item on the agenda, you changed the rules so that even if one Council member wanted the issue discussed it must be seconded, otherwise the item is not addressed. At the meetings when library services not being on the agenda was questioned, the answer was frequently that there was nothing to report. This occurred despite meetings that were currently going on behind the scenes with SLPL, SLSD, and others. Since you value transparency, why did you not feel obligated to keep residents updated and why must we go to other entities to find out what's going on in our very own Township. Why the secrecy? Comments have been made about the number of membership cards to HAL. Just to provide accurate information, as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 648 library cards have been issued, not the 200 that Tom quoted earlier. You have mentioned a monetary offer to HAL on May 20<sup>th</sup> for \$50,000.00 plus an extra \$32,000.00 and that HAL did not accept it. What you neglected to say is that on June 28<sup>th</sup>, the day the HAL board was meeting to discuss this offer, Attorney Treadwell rescinded that offer. No check was ever sent. Since she's talking about fiscal issues, have you rationalized these three, one the issue of a \$5,000.00 unsolicited donation to SLPL for services that they were already required to provide; second is spending greater than \$108,000.00 in legal fees regarding library issues; and third saying you support library services yet withheld your finding for HAL for eleven months while they provided free service to LST residents. Because of the numerous discrepancies between what you say and the facts that she has witnessed, is it extremely difficult to know what the truth really is. Based on all of the prior actions, how can any LST resident or any other library from another municipality believe what you say and not fear legal action. She's a Republican and she's very sorry to admit that she voted for several of you. She wants all Republicans to be very careful in the upcoming primaries. Now she knows how to make sure she asks candidates to clarify which library they support and it is okay for her to vote for only one, not three Republicans for Council.

➤ Mark Kachmarsky said he's a resident since 1988. His daughter attended SV High School. During that time, later in her elementary years and through her middle school years, she would walk over to HAL and so he wants to reinforce the thought that was brought up earlier about community. That's what she felt, she was able to walk two or three blocks from school, after school, do projects, do whatever with her friends, who were residents of Hellertown. He doesn't have a sign in his yard. The problem is he didn't know where to get one or he would have put one up. Many of the questions he had at the start of this meeting were questioned and answered by the various attendees. He's not going to take too much time here but it seems like this whole negotiation, how you are going to go about this, what you are proposing, the terms, the length of term, the five years, the penalties, things of that nature, it seems that it is less than suitable for what the public desires. He feels that there should be more meetings if you are going to go with SLPL, come back with your negotiations, don't negotiate, accept and then tell us how it all turned out. He would rather be on the front end, not on the back end. He appreciates your time; he appreciates your efforts as a Council. Again, maybe the people that do support transition to the SLPL are not here because maybe they feel it's a done deal.

➤ Eileen Dolphin said she attended a Council meeting in early 2022. At that meeting, LS Council members claimed that they could not sign off on a deal with HAL because library staff and officials were, according to Council members, taking LST residents for granted and the library was not communicating with LST, and the library would not explain how they came up with funding for LST. Hogwash. Saucon Source published emails and minutes approved. The library had made every effort to communicate with LST. HAL did nothing wrong. The intransitive party in the negotiations was LST. This whole charade was created by LST Council members. At that meeting, person after person, young and old, gave heartfelt testimony in support of HAL. At 9:00 p.m. we thought the meeting had ended with

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Township officials telling us they were going to keep the lines of communication open. The next day we learned the Township Council had written a check to SLPL, a \$50,000.00 gift was made to SLPL, so much for keeping the lines of communication open. This \$50,000 gift to SLPL was a mismanagement of taxpayer money because through the Access PA program, we already were able to check out materials from SLPL. LST residents got absolutely nothing for that \$50,000.00. Library patrons explained to Council members that PA Library Access program gave us access to all libraries but we must have a home library. Our Township lawyer, Mr. Treadwell argued no, no need for a home library. At that meeting he said anyone in PA can use any library in PA. Well yes, anyone can use a library, whatever that means, but to check a book out and take that book out, you need a library card. On December 31<sup>st</sup> just as library patrons predicted, when we no longer had a library agreement with HAL, we were cut off of the PA Access program. BAPL immediately cancelled our library cards despite Mr. Treadwell's assurance that library services would continue, we were cut off. In spite of the \$50,000.00 gift to SLPL, this February 28<sup>th</sup> they cut off our library service. They took our money and cut off our service. If you consider all the thousands of dollars in legal fees, the money wasted on SLPL, and the whole unwelcoming offer SLPL has made to us for future services, you have to conclude that the original HAL offer which would have cost the Township \$107,000.00 a year was a pretty good deal. She proposes tonight that LST vote to fully fund HAL. Through this fiasco, the HAL has been faithful to us library users in spite of all the slings and arrows thrown at them by the Township Council. The HAL is the only library today that we...Mr. Banonis said Ma'am, you hit the three-minute mark, he needs her to wrap it up. Ms. Dolphin said if you won't fund the library tonight, she proposes that LST stop any further negotiations over library services until after the 2023 election. Not one more penny, not one more penny to SLPL. Mr. Banonis said Ma'am, you are well over the three minutes. He gave her some time to wrap it up, but it doesn't seem to him that you are wrapping up your thoughts, you are continuing on and having a campaign speech or some political speech. Ms. Dolphin said she will wrap up her thoughts. Council members it is your duty to act in the best interest of the citizens of LST.

Mr. Banonis said there's one glaring comment that stood out to him that he thinks needs to be corrected. You suggested that this Council did something in secret at a meeting, and the reality of it is he announced when the crowd stood up and they were leaving, he announced that the meeting was not concluded and there were other items on the agenda to be discussed. People left at their own peril. They chose not to participate or stay for the meeting. He wants that to be perfectly clear for those who may not have been here.

- Mark Ozimek, said hello Council, hello citizens of LST. He's the guy at the other end of the road. First off, some of you are going to be upset with him because he's going to flip the coin. Actually, when some of what Banonis said, he agrees with. He didn't do the math, he didn't bring pencil and paper, and he didn't write anything down. If you actually save the Township money, that's a good thing because you sure have been blowing a lot of it all over the place. As far as, and he's had this conversation with some people, and he doesn't get involved with the library very much, but if he's going to give you money, and he doesn't care who it is, he wants say in some of where that money goes or what happens. So, if you didn't get that from HAL, he can see your gripe with them especially the amount of money that's been spent. Everybody has a right to be heard. Everybody has a right to the Access card and if SLPL doesn't provide for state access so that people can go to any library that they want to go to, then you kibosh them. You don't accept the deal. Mr. Carocci said he agrees, he would not accept the deal. Mr. Ozimek said you, you, he didn't ask you anything. Mr. Carocci said he's telling you. He's telling you. Mr. Ozimek said you are here to work for the people that voted you in, and he's not

going to bring up the dump, but what everybody should really be pissed off about, first and foremost, is all the kids that got out of that school every day, Monday through Friday and got screwed because they couldn't go to the library. The ones who needed it most in their educational growing. Like he said, some people might be upset with him here, if you don't support the HAL, but people got to learn to live within their means. He's a welder, he's broke. He doesn't make much money. He learned to live within his means. His house isn't fixed up. The library doesn't get little extra things but you can't be taking money and you shouldn't be taking money in just throwing it all over the place like, we're going to give you \$50,000.00 and hope for the best. You got to know what some of these people said that their library services got cut off when that ran out and that ain't fair at all. So in part, he agrees what you said...Mr. Banonis said Sir, you need to wrap it up, your three minutes are up. Mr. Ozimek said he is right now. So whatever you do, whoever you decide to support, you make sure you get a say in spending of the money, you make sure you get state access and appropriately fund whatever library is in need of stuff.

➤ Mr. Banonis said Victoria O.C. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Victoria Opthof-Cordaro...Mr. Banonis said he's just reading what's on the list. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she knows, she's providing her name for what you've requested everyone to do. Mr. Banonis said thank you. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you. First and foremost, she wants to point out that HAL has been our community library. You've already heard from many people that they want their tax dollars to fund their community, not just a library, but a community. She's been here and watched the debacle with the library since 2021. She watched Mr. Carocci in November of 2021, so that was well before we lost any board members which is now the reason we are saying now that we don't like HAL. Back in November 2021, the reason was they didn't provide good library services. The end zone has shifted multiple times depending on whatever way the wind blows as to what the reasons are that we don't like HAL. The bottom line is HAL is our community library. Nobody wants their tax dollars that they spend in LST to go to SLPL. We spent \$50,000.00 for nothing - that was again another goodwill gift. Then now we are proposing to just blow \$250,000.00 as basically a bribe to say we will give you this right now because we know we are so contentious and we caused all this trouble and you don't want to be with us, but we'll going to try to find the right number as everybody has a price. So \$250,000.00 of COVID relief money which is supposed to be used by our Township for COVID relief purposes, is now just going to be thrown at a library that our community doesn't get to participate with. Those people that participate in SLPL go to SLSD. What about our children that want to participate in HAL activities. Her understanding is when you get an Access card, it gives you the opportunity to take out books and materials, but in the past, if we tried to participate in SLPL activities with an Access card, we were not permitted in those activities because that was not our home library. Speaking of home libraries, there was this huge discussion again, whether or not we needed an Access sticker or whether or not a library was permitted to put an Access sticker on a card. She thinks the allegation is this evening that oh by the way, HAL can put an Access sticker on it. So, while we are sitting here, we happened to go on the PA State Website, so this is PA OCL, that's the citation, it says, state aided local libraries shall maintain statistical records. It says state aided local libraries may charge an eligible PA or out-of-state residents...Mr. Banonis said Ma'am, your three minutes have expired, so if you could wrap it up, please. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she is, she's in the middle of reading what's on the...Mr. Banonis said he's asking you to wrap up your comments. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Mr. Treadwell claims are not true. A library selling such a card shall not sponsor that person for the state-wide library card program. Citation on the state website, so that's all she has to say, she's wrapping it up. Her opinion is that we should stay with HAL and we should support our community. We should be SV together.

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

Attorney Treadwell said Ms. Ophof-Cordaro is 100% correct. A library that sells a card, this proposal has no selling of cards. A library that sells a card...Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said you said HAL can put an Access sticker on these library cards...Mr. Treadwell said this proposal to the SLPL does not involve the sale of cards. He was talking about the SLPL. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said Mr. Carocci's statement that everybody could just put a sticker on...Mr. Treadwell said if HAL chose not to sell cards and if HAL and the Township had been able to come to an agreement, then they would be able to use Access PA cards, that's the whole point. That's the whole point, any library can do that. Mr. Banonis said he needs to clarify two other points. The last speaker said we were offering \$250,000.00 right now. That's not accurate. Again, he said \$250,000.00 upon the signing of a long-term agreement and the other part of it was the use of the COVID money for programs. His hope is that the library would use that money to provide whatever infrastructure and other needs they have upon LST entering into their library as well as providing for digitization for whenever the bureaucracy shuts down the country again so that people can have access to the library and have access to materials that they otherwise couldn't get. So Linc can comment on the COVID money and what can we use it for, what are the limitations that we have for the COVID American Relief fund money. Attorney Treadwell said there are no limitations at the moment. Initially there were limitations on what the Township could use the money for. It then changed with the Federal regulations and there are no restrictions on the amount of money, based on the amount of money that the Township got to what you can use it for. However, originally one of the things that the Federal government was suggesting the Township use it for was to help 501(c)3's which is what a library is.

Mr. Banonis said Bill Broun. He thinks he left and he isn't an LST resident anyway, he's a candidate for the school board in Hellertown and next is David Willard.

- David Willard said he doesn't want to be redundant and he feels like March madness, he's on the clock here, but he would caution this board, in your deliberations and any decision you make regarding SLPL at this time. It's pretty obvious that they are reluctant to work with us. It's obvious from the letter that was received in February. He thought our Solicitor's response was fairly accusatory, a little bit intimidating and that's not how you really want to begin a partnership, so he feels pretty much tonight's meeting is Council vs. the people. Anytime he was sitting up there and 55 people showed up, it was a big deal. Normally you sit here with a few people in the audience. So, he guesses what he is suggesting is why don't you offer that same deal to HAL and SLPL and see who accepts because he doesn't know if it's worth dividing a community to prove that you are right. Mr. Banonis said Mr. Willard, he has to ask you, when you were sitting up here on Council, did people publish online your home address and encourage people to come to your home and protest 24/7 on Christmas Eve and did they send emails at 1:20 a.m. and 1:40 a.m. repeatedly and bombard you with information like that or threats like that? Mr. Willard said no, he'd like to address that because he thinks all of that is wrong. You are all serving as elected officials. You are all giving your time to try and make the best decisions for the community, so that's disappointing to him what's taken place here, but it's equally disappointing.
- Jessica King said you've seen her face here before in support of HAL. Part of the issue we are running into is you are not being good stewards of our tax dollars or the wishes of the constituents. We are here requesting that you reconsider who you are choosing to support. She asked if she could she have eye contact please? We've all been sitting in the audience. It would be more respectful if you are watching the people who are speaking. Ms. deLeon said she's writing notes. Mr. Carocci writing notes. Ms. deLeon said she is. Mr. Carocci said he knows. Ms. King said if you join the Lehigh-Carbon Library Cooperative then that's how you could potentially get PA Access. That is how SLPL is under the OCL, they are part of a cooperative. As you are writing that agreement, she thinks there's more to it than just saying we

want to be a part of SLPL. She doesn't want to be part of SLPL but what you said earlier there's more to it, so it sounds kind of elementary when you say well these are demands, this is what we want, and we are going to get those things, but we're not part of Emmaus, Parkland, Slatinton, Lehigh, Jim Thorpe, Palmerton, Southern Lehigh, or Whitehall under the Lehigh-Carbon Cooperative. So she just thinks there is more to it than what you are saying. She thinks this is a prideful, arrogant Council and that you are choosing to go before us and not follow the wishes of your constituents. There's 55 people here, sure, but from January to the end of February of last year, you had over 100 families represented in emails, thanks to a Right-to-Know which they didn't count every single individual person as there were multiple people from each family that were reaching out to you in support of the library, but there were 100 families in that six-week timeframe that were saying please don't give up on HAL. Please support HAL. In the past, there have been multiple reasons why you felt that a relationship with HAL wasn't appropriate - being better services. She said to you before, we can't do more with less; what you offered was less. \$83,000.00 isn't more. So if you want more, please consider offering something that is fair market value for the thing and the product you are looking for. If you want better services or you want better programing, you don't take the rug out from underneath someone and then say, oh, but we want you to be able to build a Lego tower on that. No, that's not how it works. That just doesn't make sense. The library is within walking distance of our school and it does make sense. You don't want to be part of the whims of the board of the HAL, Mr. Banonis, those are the words you said earlier tonight, but do you have all the information from SLPL that you requested from HAL which were the reasons why you weren't willing to sign that agreement. Do we have all the documentation from them that you sought from HAL? She doesn't know because you aren't providing that to the public. Mr. Banonis said it's his understanding Ma'am that they regularly provide that information to their funding partners. Ms. King said does HAL not do that? Mr. Banonis said no, they didn't. They asked them for it. Ms. King said she does believe they did because it got published pretty quickly and it's also pretty convenient that your secretary, your Township Manager disappeared in the midst of all of this and very conveniently got relocated so she could never speak to the information that she shared when she was the one doing the negotiation meetings. Mr. Banonis said your time is up Ma'am. Ms. King said she knows. She said she can't wait for your time to be up. Mr. Banonis said thank you Ma'am.

Mr. Banonis said that concludes who asked to speak on the agenda items. Someone from the audience was speaking. Mr. Banonis said okay, if you can come forward. He said are you a resident of LST? Mr. Spohn said yes.

- Mr. Phil Spohn, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Hellertown for 27 years. One of the things he learned from the business world as relationships, relationships, relationships, partnership and we can point to the police departments of Hellertown and LST. They do a great job, great partnership, so he thinks this is morphed into a bigger issue than just the library. Jason and Jen Zavacky, who was a member of his church and who was on the board here, and also assigned to the library and got ahold of him and said can you bring all these groups together. The Mayor, the Board President...Mr. Banonis said and you did and he appreciates that. Thank you. Mr. Spohn said it was a good meeting, wasn't it. Mr. Banonis said it was. Mr. Spohn said we left hopeful in the midst of this turmoil. We left hopeful and he wants to say please don't go ahead with this. Can you give him another shot, can we try again? Can we try again to restore, to restore relationship? He came here 27 years ago when there was fraction. We made so much progress and he just thinks it's bigger than just the library at this point. He'd ask you to consider that and what

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

your actions are. Mr. Banonis said thank you. He believes we had one more person who arrived late.

- Laura Ray said she didn't realize we were starting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Banonis said it was advertised that way, Ma'am. Ms. Ray said she's so tired because she's up so late emailing you. Mr. Banonis said he wakes up every morning looking for them, thank you. Ms. Ray said she has a couple of comments here, although things got changed around based on what was said, but she was not happy reading about the letter to Attorney Leeson saying that only the 7 people that spoke there and that only the 21 people that sent emails, blah, blah, blah. They don't matter, they are not speaking for the residents and have you forgotten about the hundreds of people that have been here in the past 18 months, especially last December and January. Every single one of them said they wanted to keep HAL as their library. Do you think they all changed their minds since then? She hasn't heard of anyone that said they have. The numbers, she did get the numbers yesterday, it was 75 individuals, 192 households for 670 library cards so today, that's 670 people that are expressing their opinions. No, they are not all here, and they would never fit in the building and nobody wants to come here because it isn't fun. Those are residents that you are ignoring. She kept hearing over and over how we didn't have board representation at HAL and that is false. They only discontinued having our board member after we stopped funding them and we no longer had an agreement and that was after January when they removed the board member and that's because we had no agreement and we were not funding them. She thinks SLPL has said numerous times they have waitlists for their programs that they have. They can't even accommodate the people that they already have in their territory so how are they going to be providing all these great services you mentioned to our residents. They are not, they can't. Also, in that letter earlier to Leeson, it indicated that because of our opinions we would be putting SLPL in some sort of financial peril, that was our intent or something. It doesn't even make any sense. First of all, it's not our responsibility to support SLPL, that's not our community library. Our responsibility is to our library which is HAL, and she is totally against going with this ten-year agreement along with everybody else.

Mr. Banonis said that concludes the public comment on the agenda items. As he said earlier, you've already gone once, Mr. Willard, he's sorry. So what we will do is bring it back to Council and we will start again at Mark, do you have any comments, questions, anything additional based on what you heard from the public.

Mr. Inglis said he wasn't really here in the beginning of all of this when all this transpired, so he's not totally versed on what's true and what's not true so all he can really go by is the facts that he honestly hears from Linc, and he truly believes what he says. He does, he believes what Linc says and until somebody proves him wrong, he will believe what he says. So, that's kind of where he's going.

Mrs. Yerger said if the agreement goes through with SLPL and it allows these people to have access to the HAL, she's sorry, she doesn't completely understand all of the objections. Mr. Banonis said thank you.

Ms. deLeon said first of all she does not support what you are talking about tonight. She's enraged over the legal fees that have been spent to date and it just overwhelms her. The library is for the adults and children but to her she holds the children special because this is what their future...this is what they need to have, and it's close to the school. She knows that she doesn't have children, but she has friends that have children, and they use the library as a meeting place, a place to gather after school and build friendships and have playtime and it's a community hub for the adults with all the different events that they hold. She's appreciative of what HAL has done for us over the years. It's hard to respond to a lot of the



**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

residents' emails and she apologizes if she didn't respond to you because she didn't know what to say. She just didn't know how to answer them. Some she did at the time, but over the past 18 months, she really didn't know as she's not part of this other group of people trying to focus on going with SLPL. She attended a couple of their board meetings; she watched the You Tube for the SLSD board meetings. She just thinks it's terrible that the people who live over in the Wassergass area have to travel 7 miles, depending on getting to Wassergass, you know, she loves the area out there. It is windy roads and snow, ice, whatever and you got to remember the parents have to come back and maybe they have to go back and pick up their kids again, that's four trips. She thinks it's just awful. She doesn't know why she has that written there. She has written down here that it's insulting and demeaning. She thinks that this meeting, in her opinion, should have been held before Linc wrote the letter of March 20<sup>th</sup> to get Council's input on some of the wording that he used, not after the fact and it wasn't, so she's not very happy about that. Someone spoke about the library being fire and police, she never thought she'd live in a community where you didn't have a library and we're in the fiasco we're in right now. She just never ever. A lot of you have been past board members with BAPL, she remembers your names as she's been here so long. She just never thought we'd ever be sitting here talking about this, but we are. She thinks we should be talking about HAL; and Pastor Spohn, she really appreciates he really tried to have that meeting and she would be in support of having another one with him leading it. She really, really thinks we should try to do that if this board is willing to do that. She supports staying with HAL. She thinks we should settle the lawsuits and negotiate with them, and that's her opinion.

Mr. Carocci said Priscilla and others are concerned about the distance and he doesn't think that's a valid argument because what we are saying is if we go with SLPL and they provide the state access sticker, you can use whatever library you want to, whether it's BAPL or HAL or SLPL or any library that's on the state system, so the distance argument doesn't make any sense whatsoever. As far as Priscilla said we don't have a library, we do have a library. The HAL, we reimburse people for library cards to them right now. That's been going on since the beginning of the year basically and he's glad as he is for strong libraries and he's for good libraries but we need more representation especially when we are the largest funding member of that library and to have no board representation when you are the largest funding member, doesn't make any sense whatsoever to him. He would never vote for an agreement where we didn't have board representation. He wouldn't vote for an agreement where we didn't have a state access sticker. He wouldn't vote for an agreement where we don't have board representation and we were offered none at HAL. We didn't even know it was a five-year agreement and as Jason said we didn't know what the costs were going to be, year two through five. It was going to be way over half of a million dollars, probably closer to \$750,000.00 over the five-year period for no board representation to try to prove this library, and the library has some transparency problems. They didn't provide us with actual usage numbers, they still haven't. They said throughout its history about 3,100 people had library cards, or families had library cards and they also have a problem with the PA Open Records Law. He said do you have the thumb drive I gave you, can you pull up Mr. Altieri's open record complaint. He's going to read this to you. So John Altieri, he has no idea who that is, made a Right-to-Know request to HAL. The HAL refused to turn over the communications, the emails. Then they appealed to the PA Office of Open Records. The request was simple. Please provide all emails sent by and to the Library Director regarding Friends of the Library Members being allowed to order personal books using a library discount within the last five years. Also include any emails to book vendors explaining that you are allowing private citizens to obtain these library discounts for their personal books and are you allowing staff to use these library discounts from vendors. So HAL wouldn't respond to the RTK request. It was appealed to the PA Office of Open records. If you go to the last page, it says for the foregoing reasons, the appeal is granted, meaning they should turn these over, and the library is required to provide all response records within 30 days. This is the HAL. Okay, they apparently appealed this to the Court

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

of Common Pleas spending attorney's fees...Attorney Treadwell said Tom, he doesn't know that they appealed that one. What was the date on that one? Mr. Carocci said the final determination was March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Attorney Treadwell said so they would have had until April 2<sup>nd</sup> to turn it over, so he doesn't know whether they did or not. What they know if there is another Open Records office that they appealed to the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Carocci said is that Mr. Stilton's? Attorney Treadwell said no that's Longnaker. Mr. Carocci said Mr. Stilton, there's another one, and all this guy wanted was emails between the Library Director and the Library Board Director President for a ten-day period - January 6, 2023 to January 16, 2023. Again, HAL was told to turn it over by the PA Office of Open Records and to his knowledge, they haven't yet but what's being hidden here. Why the lack of transparency. What's going on here with discounts to the Friends of the Library. You people want us to have a relationship with HAL but they are not transparent about anything. Who knows what's going on here with this library discount being given to everybody under the sun apparently? If it's so innocent, why won't they simply turn the communications over? Why would they appeal to the Court of Common Pleas? That's his questions. Again, he thinks our best plan of action right now would be make this offer to the SLPL and their partners, it's very important, and their partners. Let's see what happens.

Mr. Banonis said the one thing that resonated with him was one of the residents stood up and she talked about the library having a personality. He agrees with that, libraries do have a personality. What's concerning to him is having a personality that lacks transparency for the reasons you talked about, Tom. So, when all this started at the beginning of this, we had requested certain pieces of information such as usage data, something as simple as usage data, to justify a demand that was being placed upon us to give LST's resident tax dollars to an organization. So that information wasn't provided to us and that's the beginning and here we are at the end, and the Office of Open Record opinions show again a lack of transparency. These are not opinions that were issued without some thought. These are very scholarly legal opinions that cite to legal authority. Some of them are 15 pages long and yet they still haven't turned over that information so that is a concern to him and that's why we need to move forward with a different library that's going to be more transparent and better serve our residents. There's another resident that made a comment about the number of people who signed up for library cards, and he thinks they said a total based upon individual and family memberships were 670. That's great. He's happy that HAL is deriving some revenue from that and people are getting reimbursed from the Township for that. That number represents about 5% of the entire population of LST. We are stewards of the Township tax dollars and there's another 95% of the people who may or may not support the library, but they certainly have not gone out to get library cards and he's wondering how many of those 670 people are actually using those library cards and how many of those people actually got library cards because there was some sort of campaign to generate interest in the library just like there was a campaign to put signs up and other things. Again, he thinks the fiscal and financial responsible decision here is to move forward with a future that's a sustainable library, that's affordable, that's representative of the Township and wants us on its board, and will provide library services for the future. So, with that said unless there's other comments from the members of Council, he will make a motion along the lines of what he had talked about earlier, in fact exactly the same as what he had talked about earlier.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to make an offer in writing directing the Solicitor to immediately extend that offer to the SLPL for a period of ten years, with a \$250,000.00 payment from the American Relief Fund money to be paid upon execution of that agreement by both parties, hopefully this year, with the agreement beginning on January 1, 2024 with an annual payment by LST to the SLPL and its partners, in the amount of \$75,000.00 per year for ten years consistent with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries directives for having ten year arrangements for municipally funded libraries and municipally supported libraries with a penalty of five years of annual payments if the agreement is terminated early; to also include board representation on the SLPL board proportionate to our funding levels; and also the PA State Access sticker available to LST

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

residents. He would direct that a response to that offer be provided to us no later than May 4, 2023 and that the offer be communicated to them as a best and final offer on behalf of LST.

Mr. Inglis said he'd like a penalty for them if they ask us to leave or something changes on their side as well.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis amended his previous motion and moved to make an offer in writing directing the Solicitor to immediately extend that offer to the SLPL for a period of ten years, with a \$250,000.00 payment from the American Relief Fund money to be paid upon execution of that agreement by both parties, hopefully this year, with the agreement beginning on January 1, 2024 with an annual payment by LST to the SLPL and its partners, in the amount of \$75,000.00 per year for ten years consistent with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries directives for having ten year arrangements for municipally funded libraries and municipally supported libraries with a penalty of five years of annual payments if the agreement is terminated early; to also include board representation on the SLPL board proportionate to our funding levels, and also the PA State Access sticker available to LST residents. He would direct that a response to that offer be provided to us no later than May 4, 2023 and that the offer be communicated to them as a best and final offer on behalf of LST. Also, a penalty for SLPL if they ask us to leave or something changes on their side as well, which runs both ways.

Mr. Banonis asked if there was anything he missed. Attorney Treadwell said no, he took notes from what he talked about earlier and the above motion had them all. Mr. Banonis said there's one other thing he'd like. He wants a response from them and hopefully an acceptance from them by May 4, 2023. If they accept, he would like LST residents to have full access to the SLPL including the Access PA sticker effective June 1, 2023. The agreement can be finalized by the Solicitor and any attorney or Solicitor on behalf of SLPL and any solicitor or representatives of any other funding municipalities.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis amended his previous motion and moved to make an offer in writing directing the Solicitor to immediately extend that offer to the SLPL for a period of ten years, with a \$250,000.00 payment from the American Relief Fund money to be paid upon execution of that agreement by both parties, hopefully this year, with the agreement beginning on January 1, 2024 with an annual payment by LST to the SLPL and its partners, in the amount of \$75,000.00 per year for ten years consistent with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries directives for having ten year arrangements for municipally funded libraries and municipally supported libraries with a penalty of five years of annual payments if the agreement is terminated early; to also include board representation on the SLPL board proportionate to our funding levels, and also the PA State Access sticker available to LST residents. He would direct that a response to that offer be provided to us no later than May 4, 2023 and that the offer be communicated to them as a best and final offer on behalf of LST. Also, a penalty for SLPL if they ask us to leave or something changes on their side as well, which runs both ways. If they accept by May 4, 2023, he would like LST residents to have full access to the SLPL, including the Access PA sticker effective June 1, 2023. The agreement can be finalized by the Solicitor and any attorney or Solicitor on behalf of SLPL and any solicitor or representatives of any other funding municipalities.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Inglis  
**ROLL CALL:** 4-1 (Ms. deLeon – No)

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY – 3 MINUTE LIMIT**

- Mark Ozimek said he heard a lot of good things tonight, very informative. All the way around. Last Saturday he was out with a few girls from the neighborhood, women, and they were out picking up trash on Easton Road in the rain. So he hopes people who live out there appreciate it that as there was like 24-25 bags in less than a mile. He was on Easton Road and came back Ringhoffer Road which he don't travel on much, he travels on Applebutter, but when he came back on Ringhoffer Road and had the camera in the windshield going, he actually had to pull over for 5 or 10 minutes

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

and look at the landfill. Take notice how big it is when you sit and look at it facing forward from left to right. It's huge, it don't need no expansion. He got pictures from Ringhoffer Road with the little scoopy diggy thing on top of the hill and then after church yesterday, no Sunday, when he and the wife went out shopping he got pictures from Texas Roadhouse over at Lowes parking lot, of the same scoopy diggy thing on top of the hill from the other side of the landfill, so if you people don't pay attention to your Township you are going to have to get out and do so. We don't need a landfill expansion. The money might be nice and he has no idea on what they intend on giving, but it could never be enough. For every tree you take down, it's just wrong, it's just wrong, change your mind on the landfill.

- Victoria Opthof-Cordaro said first thing she wanted to address was the PA system. She's thankful we have what appears to be operating microphones for today and she hopes they continue that way, so thanks for that. She thinks the price was double or triple what it was a year ago to get these, but she's happy for them nonetheless. The other thing she wanted to ask regarding the PA system was when this Council will consider having some virtual option for our residents to participate in. Back when we were dealing with COVID, the Council operated rather smoothly, with a Zoom participation and everything worked out just fine. Since COVID ended, many municipalities and other governing bodies have adopted various forms of participation virtually, sometimes it's as little as a Zoom stream. Other times it's with active participation by virtual members and comment period by virtual attendees. She has no idea why we sit here in 2023 with residents asking for virtual options to participate or view this meeting since 2020 that we still don't have that. She hopes that the money that was invested for this new PA system included some kind of highly technical virtual option that this Council had said they didn't have the technical skill to actually administer themselves in the old way, so she hopes this new version and she's hopeful you can provide some timeline as to when we could have some virtual participation, so that's the first thing. Her second non-agenda item is the ongoing issues we have with the landfill. We have conditional use hearings that are going all throughout this month. They started in February and it does not appear they will be done anytime soon. She has no idea why this Council feels it's appropriate to continue participating and drawing out landfill issues when there is an appeal in place on both the procedural and substantive means by which the underlying zoning was passed. So she does ask Council tonight - 1. immediately place on your next agenda a virtual participation agenda item with details that not only allow participants to watch the meeting but also to participate and comment. 2. she strongly suggests that Council in the future from today's date stop what they are doing within the landfill and she would like to know what the attorney fees will be on the brief and the procedural appeal, but either way, they should just fold and agree they screwed up on their zoning and get that done. Mr. Banonis said Ma'am he knows that you are campaigning and he'll direct your attention to the back of the room that there's a new camera that's installed and one up here and at the last Council meeting the Township Manager provided an update on the virtual meetings. Part of the audio upgrade is part of this improvement so he thinks we'll have more information at the next meeting. That concludes our non-agenda items. Someone in the audience spoke. Mr. Banonis said okay, you weren't on the list, that's why he thought we were done, please identify yourself for the record.
- Jessica King said in 2021 she spent months and months working with landscape architects as well as engineers in order to create a livable landscape in order to apply for the NC Open Space Initiative. She has an example of that right here. The thing she was trying to accomplish was an outdoor education space and it sounds to her that our Township has \$250,000.00 that she could benefit from so the NC grant is basically to have in-kind money in order to be able to use for grants so she would need in-kind money to apply for grants in order to create a wonderful outdoor education space that is both ADA compliant, good lighting, and improves the waterway in the area. She has been working with the PA Dept. of Agriculture as well as Penn State Master Gardeners, the watershed for the Saucon Watershed, the Lehigh Valley Greenways and she attended all kinds of great workshops to do this, and since we have this money that could potentially work on it, she thinks the only hiccup you are going to find is where she was planning on putting it. She was holding up a picture. Mr. Banonis said he can't see what she's holding up. Ms. King said it's a picture of the HAL and she had designed this outdoor education space and location so that all community members from all directions could learn about good stewardship of the land, pollinators, and it would be used for everyone in the community, not just library members. Mr. Banonis said have you gone to HB with

**Special Meeting  
April 4, 2023**

your proposal. Ms. King said yes. Mr. Inglis said have you talked to the school district about their courtyard. Ms. King said she doesn't want to work in their courtyard. Mr. Inglis said no, because that's gone downhill. Ms. King said that's for them to work on. Mr. Inglis said okay, he just thought it was a nice opportunity for you to incorporate. Ms. King said it certainly is, but they could be working with Babbitt's and the students that are in the program but Babbitt's dropped their horticulture program and the closest horticulture program for student is Upper Bucks Vo-Tech so she tried to connect them. She has tried that direction because first and foremost for her it is always education, and working with the students. These are things you folks don't know about as you haven't had the opportunity to come to their meetings to discuss them. Jen Zavacky knew about them. Mr. Banonis said great, thank you.

- Eileen Dolphin said she would like to support her project to use the \$250,000.00 of our COVID money for that project because as you pointed out only 5% of LST residents use library services so that would be a better program as more LST residents would be able to use it. Mr. Banonis said he is understanding you are advocating not to fund library services. Ms. Dolphin said she's asking to not use the \$250,000.00 to be given to SLPL, she'd rather use it on this project.

Mr. Banonis said we are going to break for an Executive Session. The time was 8:35 p.m. Council reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for adjournment. The time was 8:46 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Submitted by:

---

Mark Hudson  
Township Manager

---

Jason Banonis  
Council President