



Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Lower Saucon Township Council Agenda

6:30 PM
Lower Saucon Township
General Business and Developer
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. Potential Action on Executive Session Issues (if applicable)
- F. Public Comment Procedure
- G. Jr. Council Member Report

2. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

- A. Lower Saucon Fire Rescue Annual Report Presentation

3. DEVELOPER ITEMS

- A. Review and Possible Action on Bethlehem Landfill - Steely Lot Line Change #LL 02-23
- B. Saucon Overlook - 1379 Station Road - Request for Security Reduction

4. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Zoning Hearing Board Application # Var 01-24 - 2014 Springtown Hill Road
- B. 2023 Fire Funding Audit - Release of Annual Funding
- C. Authorize Payment #4 to CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield Project
- D. Resolution #42-2024 - Transfer of Funds to Capital
- E. Acting Township Manager Salary
- F. Resolution #43-2024 Appointment of Township Labor Attorney
- G. Seidersville Hall Electrical Upgrades Quote
- H. Special Event Application - Saucon Valley Conservancy/Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of March 6, 2024 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of March 2024 Financial Reports

6. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

- A. Acting Township Manager, Cathy Gorman
- B. Council
- C. Solicitor
- D. Engineer

7. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS - 5-MINUTE TIME LIMIT

8. ADJOURNMENT

A. Move to Adjourn

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

A. Zoning Hearing Board: April 22, 2024

B. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: April 22, 2024

C. Planning Commission: April 25, 2024

D. Landfill Committee Meeting: April 30, 2024 (5:00 p.m.)

E. Council Meeting: May 1, 2024

F. Parks and Recreation Board: May 6, 2024

G. Environmental Advisory Council: May 14, 2024

1. **OPENING**

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Carocci said this is the April 17, 2024 Council meeting, its 6:30 and he'll call to order the meeting, roll call Cathy. Mr. Goudsouzian said hold on, wait a second, we have the Chair is not here. Mr. Carocci said right and its 6:30 p.m. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., Steve and then he'll call the roll. Mr. Goudsouzian said you can't call the roll. Mr. Carocci said he'll call the roll if he wants to. He started to call the roll call. Mr. Goudsouzian said no, we're not doing that. Mr. Banonis said its 6:30 p.m.

The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. with Laura Ray, presiding.

B. **ROLL CALL:** Priscilla deLeon, President (by phone); Laura Ray, Vice-President; Victoria-Ophhof-Cordaro, Jason Banonis, Thomas Carocci, Council Members, Cathy Gorman, Township Acting Manager & Director of Finance; Steve Goudsouzian, Solicitor; Brien Kocher, Engineer; Stacy Werkheiser, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Goudsouzian said no. Mr. Carocci said he probably doesn't believe standing for the pledge, but the rest of us do. Please stand for the pledge, fire fighters. Mrs. Gorman said she has to do roll call. Mr. Carocci started with the Pledge of Allegiance. He said thank you all for standing. Alright, thank you all for standing. Call the roll please. Mr. Goudsouzian said hang on, wait, wait. Mrs. Gorman said wait. Mr. Carocci said it's 6:30 p.m. Steve, you don't run the meetings. You don't run the meetings, you're not the Vice Chair. Mr. Goudsouzian said that's right. Mr. Carocci said you don't run the meetings either, so be quiet. Nobody elected you so be quiet. Mr. Goudsouzian said he's the solicitor. Mr. Carocci said it doesn't matter. Mr. Banonis said actually you are the Interim Solicitor, so let's be clear. Mr. Carocci said interim solicitor. Mr. Goudsouzian said let's start from the top. Mrs. Gorman started with the roll call. Mr. Carocci said great, thank you for all being here.

D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – Mr. Carocci said there's no Executive Session. Ms. Ray said we are not going to redo the Pledge of Allegiance. She said yes, we had no Executive Session to announce so there's no potential action on our Executive Session.

E. **POTENTIAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ISSUES (IF APPLICABLE)** - None

F. **PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE**

Ms. Ray said the public comment procedure. The rules are out there with the handouts when you come in to the door but in general, we allow for public comment after each agenda item. There's a 5-minute limit. We ask you to be respectful and to everybody up here and in the audience and address Council. We are going to start with the Jr. Council members, but she doesn't see any here. They have them at the top of the meeting so they don't get hung up here late.

G. **JR. COUNCIL MEMBERS** - Absent

2. **PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

A. **LOWER SAUCON FIRE RESCUE (LSFR) ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

Ms. Ray said Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue will present their annual report to Township Council. If you guys want to come up and share the table.

Good evening said Ty Johnson, the Fire Chief of LSFR. Scott Krycia said he's the Captain and President of LSFR. Mr. Johnson said as you can see, we're here to do our year-end presentation from last year. Has everybody had a chance to look at it? Council said yes. Mr. Johnson said any questions? Ms. Ray said can you remind everybody again on the good intent calls? She knows he explained it to her, but just in case, someone doesn't know what that is.

Mr. Johnson said so if you go to the next page, it will explain what your call types are. The 600s is your good intent, so 611, 622, 631, 651, and 652.

Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said can you give us a definition of what a good intent is. Mr. Johnson said well, so when they put it in the report, it could be categorized for us like dispatch, cancelled en route, no incident found on arrival, that type of stuff. Someone reports smoke and it's a dust cloud or you know

some type of vapor or something like that. It's not...it's more or less like a false alarm. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so it requires you to come out, respond to it, and assess the situation but it's something that would not require an actual firefighting event. Mr. Johnson said yes.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she would appreciate if you could just go through the report and talk about all the things that you do that are within the report. She thinks it's really well done and she appreciates all the work into it. She thinks it would be helpful for the public to see and hear from you to explain what the report is. She knows some people aren't able to see it or they are listening for the first time tonight and didn't have a chance, so she thinks it would be very helpful if you could just go through it and then we'll try to figure out if there are any additional questions.

Mr. Johnson said so the report is generated from the information that we put into our system that gets reported to the State. This is how the State keeps track of incidents in the Commonwealth. So we have a pie graph here shows majority of what our calls are. You know, it has it broke down into overpressure rupture, explosions. Thankfully that's only one incident this year or this past year and so on and so on. You can see hazardous conditions, so no fire, so that might be, you know, a car leaking oil or something of that sort and it's pretty self-explanatory. Then you go to the next page, it's page 2 of 3. It's breaking down the incidents by building fires, you know versus a chimney fire, which brush fires so on and so on. He's not going to read the whole list off because there's quite a few of them there. Then there's a little bit on the next page, there's three categories. Any questions on that?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks it looks pretty good. She likes that they have all the detail about the type of incidents. Can he just tell her the out of types of categories you have here, if you know or if you can, it's okay if you don't, but what amount of these calls do you have to generate a report from?

Mr. Johnson said everything that's here is a generated report, that's why they have it. So, calls or times that the pager goes off and they don't record is if they need a fire officer to call in for a burn compliant or something like that. So, this is actual calls that a number from the county, from the 911 center generates. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay, and then...Mr. Johnson said so they don't include if they call for a Chief Officer to call in even if it's, hey, we have a complaint, what do you want us to do? Do you want us to dispatch or send the police? Usually in those kinds of circumstances, he'll have the police sent, especially for like a burn complaint, and then they don't log that as a call. If they did, their call line would show that we're probably 50, 60 more a year, if not even more.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay. Can you explain what you have to do when you report it, like for this particular log, how you do that? Mr. Johnson said so, yea, go ahead, because Scott QCs most of them.

Mr. Krycia said so, how it works is when somebody picks the phone up and calls 911, that information is entered into a computer dispatching system at the county. Then they dispatch us, they open our pagers up, they send us to the fire call. When that call is completed, the county keeps a log of everything, all the information, trucks on the scene, any kind of radio traffic, everything. That text file or that CAD file gets sent to our software, which is emergency reporting and emergency reporting, they go through emergency reporting and they add their staff to it. They add a narrative to the call, basically what they did on the call, what happened to the call, any pertinent details about the building, any pertinent details about the structure, anything like that, that all gets added into the emergency reporting and then once that information gets added into the reporting system, it goes one more step where himself or our Deputy Chief, Eric will actually go through and will quality control the calls, so they have two people that actually enter the calls for them in the company. We have a gentleman for the first 15 days and there's a gentleman that does the second half of the month and then himself and Eric actually go through and they quality control the whole call again. So, they go back in and make sure everything is right. The reason they do that is because the State of PA looks at this stuff for our grants and the Federal Government does too. So, when these calls are completed in the system, the Federal Government can look at them and so can the State. So, it's important that they have all the right information and everything.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay, and then you said there are two individuals that cover the month, they split it in half. Are those volunteers? Mr. Krycia said yes, they are volunteers. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so do they perform that duty above and beyond like their normal training and response to fire calls? Mr. Krycia said yes, absolutely. They probably spend, he wants to say they spend probably four, maybe five hours each month, every 15 days, putting their calls in. Mr. Johnson said it depends how busy that...Mr. Krycia said it depends on how busy it is. So they could have a month where they run 20 calls and then have a month where they run 100 calls, very few, or they could have 120 calls. So, then it takes him and Eric an additional four to five hours to go back through and check everything. Mr. Johnson said so this is on top of the normal duty of just responding to fire calls. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said then that is something that is critical for you to obtain any Federal or State grant to support the organization. Mr. Johnson said absolutely and not to mention if our records get subpoenaed or insurance companies put in asking for information, so we have to make sure everything is right in the reports. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay. Mr. Krycia said it is pretty much required by the state at this point. Thank you very much. Then, she guesses you want to continue on with the report as they just got through that part and she sees they have some...

Mr. Johnson said so the next page, it shows the incline of calls since 2016 since they did their operational merge. They are on a pretty steady uphill climb here. You know, 2016, they were at 407 and this past year they finished out at 868.

Mr. Carocci said 527 were in the Township. Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said so there was over 350 outside of the Township. Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said which we don't receive any money. Mr. Johnson said Upper Saucon gives them a donation every year. The Township sends them a check every year. Mr. Carocci said how much? Mr. Johnson said \$1,000.00. Mr. Carocci said that's good because there was 49 calls to Upper Saucon Township. Do we get a donation from Hellertown? Mr. Johnson said no. Mr. Carocci said we responded there how many times? Mr. Johnson said he has to look at the report. Mr. Carocci said it says Dewey. Why does it say Dewey instead of Hellertown? Mr. Johnson said well because it's Dewey Fire Company. Mr. Carocci said well it says Fountain Hill. Mr. Johnson said what's that? Mr. Carocci said Fountain Hill. It says Coopersburg. Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Carocci said it says Upper Saucon. Mr. Johnson said right, Dewey goes by, Hellertown Fire goes by Dewey Fire Company. That's their actual name. Mr. Carocci said alright. Mr. Johnson said they receive mutual aid from these companies too, so they give mutual aid and they also receive mutual aid.

Ms. Ray said correct. She can give a good example. Mr. Carocci said he's not done yet. He was talking and you are interrupting him. He was talking. He was asking questions. You interrupted. For Fountain Hill, for Fountain Hill there were 102 calls, how many of them were at St. Luke's facilities? Mr. Johnson said they'd have to pull up...Mr. Krycia said they'd have to find out. Mr. Johnson said a couple. Mr. Carocci said he's speaking Ms. Ray and he has the floor, so please don't interrupt him, very rude. So, 527 Lower Saucon calls out of 868, and you'll get him the number of Fountain Hill, or Fountain Hill were 102, and St. Luke's is roughly almost 40% or 50% of the Fountain Hill is their property. Mr. Johnson said he's not sure. Mr. Carocci said approximately. You used to be sure. Then...Mr. Johnson said he was never sure...Mr. Carocci said and you'll get him the number of St. Luke's calls. Mr. Krycia said yes, for 2023, right. Mr. Carocci said for 2023, correct. Mr. Johnson said so starting the beginning of this year, Fountain Hill has taken them off all their automatic fire alarms. Mr. Carocci said okay. Mr. Johnson said they just respond to major incidents now like structure fires or dwelling fire. Mr. Carocci said so this 102 for Fountain Hill included all calls. Mr. Johnson said any call they went to there, yes. Mr. Carocci said okay, but you think it will be less in 2024 because of the nature of the calls that they are called out to. Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said alright Ms. Ray, he's finished, for the time being if she'd like to speak, he'll recognize her.

Ms. Ray said she just wanted to point out regarding the mutual aid so, she means, she knows everybody helps out everybody and we just had a house fire last week right down the street from her, so the fire police was stationed outside her house trying to make sure, keep traffic off the road and get all the trucks in there so just in what she saw, Palisades Regional, Williams Township, Springtown, Riegelsville,

that's what she saw coming from her end, so coming from the other end, she's not sure, but she's sure Dewey came up the other end and she's not sure who else was there, but there was an awful lot of trucks there and nobody really questions, you don't help us enough or we help you too much. She's sure everybody who has their house on fire would be happy to see a pumper truck show up and pumper truck No. 2 and pumper truck No. 3 because she doesn't know how quickly those empty out and you need the next one right there so the next one can go get refilled so, she just thinks you guys did a great job that day, it was a lot of work and it was sad what happened.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so overall it shows you have 868 total calls for year 2023. Mr. Johnson said yes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay, and then it shows you have like an upward projectory, it looks like more than doubled since 2016. Mr. Johnson said correct. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay. Has your volunteer force increased too at the same rate that you responded to calls? Mr. Johnson said no. He means here recently they've been doing pretty good picking up new members but if you would break it down into percentage, no, they are not gaining as many members as they are going up in calls, so it's just folks that have been on board since 2016 when they did their operational merge are picking up more and more calls. Farther back, actually the next page, two pages he guesses, keep going, that's where he's at now, one more. That will show you the members that respond to calls, what their call volume rate is, out of the 868 calls. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so is it fair to say that your volunteers are putting in more hours this year than they would have put in two years ago or four years ago? Mr. Johnson said yes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she sees, she does want to point out, she thinks it's tremendous that all these members are putting in time. She thinks you have trainings once a week. Mr. Johnson said every Monday night they train, unless it's a holiday. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said how many hours of training is that? Mr. Johnson said they try to do at least two to three hours on a Monday night, and that's on top of guys who are taking special classes, you know Firefighter 1 alone is he thinks 198 hours now. That's just so you can go in a burning building and then you still have vehicle rescue and hazmat training and then any other type of special rescue if you do trench rescue or confined space, which they have several members who do all that kind of stuff because they are equipped to do so. So, yes here recently, the officers of the fire company, it's been three, four nights a week for fire department activities between meetings and trainings, so yes, there is a lot to do.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said you mentioned that she thought it was interesting, he indicated a Firefighter 1, you are indicating that in order for that person to be able to go into a burning dwelling, they would have to complete that course and be certified in the Firefighter 1 and how many hours is that? Mr. Johnson said it's about 198, he thinks that's what it's up to now. They keep adding to the program. They are trying to enroll more and more trainings into it so when they have a recruit instead of making him go and take separate other classes, while they have them locked down committed to the one, they just pile a bunch of stuff in there so they can get several certifications from just going to class once or going to school once. He thinks it's anywhere from like six to seven months now it takes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said and who is they? Who is the entity that creates this class? Mr. Johnson said so they do most of their training through Bucks County Community College. They have an outstanding Emergency Service Program that offers national certifications so they pay a prescription every year that allows them to send their members to Firefighter 1 and it gives them two additional certification classes a year for the folks that have already completed the Firefighter 1. So they've been doing our 10-06 vehicle rescue which gives them a pro-board certification for heavy rescue that will follow them anywhere in the country. Trench rescue they finished last summer, so you know, they've been going after classes like that to keep up with their national certifications.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so is it fair to say that the national certification criteria has increased over time to include more requirements for Firefighter 1, is that what she's understanding? Mr. Johnson said well, not just for Firefighter 1, he means you can go just to Firefighter 1 and maybe that's all you want to do. You know but their mindset at Lower Saucon is, you know, especially since they have a heavy rescue, that they got the equipment on the truck, they need to be trained to use it so that's where these other specialty classes come in and it's not everybody wants to do heavy rescue. They just want to fight fires so, the majority of their members are trained the same across the board. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so they have the Firefighter 1 plus what would be the requirements in light of the specifics of our township

and our needs in our township so there's additional hours, additional certifications on top of the 198 for the Firefighter 1. Mr. Johnson said yes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said and that's volunteer time they are giving 198 hours to just become a fire fighter. Mr. Johnson said yes. For Firefighter 1, they usually do Monday and a Thursday night and then a Saturday and/or Sunday. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said you said that takes about six months. Mr. Johnson said yes.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay. She just wanted to highlight on this particular page the personnel that are listed here that have all responded. She wants to thank them for their time and for their efforts in responding and for going through all that training. She thinks it's phenomenal. She's not sure she's aware of another volunteer organization that, in our township, that has that many hours or requirement to fulfill to service our residents, so she just wants to say thank you to all of them for all that. Then if you can go to the budget section, can you kind of describe what's going on with your budget?

Mr. Krycia said so this is our 2023 P&L, so the first section is going to be income. What they had budgeted is the center column. What they expected to make off of it, what they actually brought in is in the first column. So, you can see their car drive, their fund drive, our other grants, that column is actually an AFG grant, sorry not AFG, a FEMA grant, they are working on bringing that in. Pipeline grant they did not receive that. DCNR grant is still being processed, so is the Safer grant. So you can see the State grant down there for \$28,000.00 and then our Township allotment for the year, so there's their gross numbers on the bottom along with donations and their total contributions for the year. What they expected to bring in like he said is in the center column, on the left is what they actually brought in and then scroll up a little more, right there. Then other revenue is dividend, interest earned, rent from their social halls, their Leithsville, Se-Wy-Co, our Southeastern, and our Steel City Hall. Our total rent income, they did sell some excess equipment that they didn't need anymore. They had a couple more donations that came in. Their call billing for hazmat calls was a big whopping \$824.00. So that's at the very bottom, you can see their total income for the year was \$779,504.00. They expected it to be a lot more. They expected it at \$982,000.00 but like he said they were waiting for that grant. Then right below that is their expenses starting off with bereavement expenses and if you could scroll down further, keep going to the next page, here we go. So general expenses, admin, car show, maintenance on the buildings, maintenance on their halls, public relations, communications, equipment purchases, wearable equipment which is turnout gear, hoods, gloves, clothing, helmets, boots, all that stuff. Fuel is, they have an allotment from the Township on the fuel. This is what they went over their allotment so they ended up going over \$7,300 and change. Their incentive payout, our loan payment, obviously is next, and then maintenance on their buildings and then maintenance on their trucks. Now they don't budget maintenance on their trucks because they have to be fixed because people rely on them. You can see here, 1611 was \$9,300.00; 1612 which is owned by the Township was \$19,000 and change; 1613 was \$2,000.00, that's the Steel City truck; 1614 is the truck at Se-Wy-Co that was \$21,000.00; and then so on and so on. It gives you an idea. That's their whole fleet basically so apparatus was a little over \$100,000.00 for the year. Maintenance on their Southeastern station, our Steel City station, medical services, recruitment and retention, reimbursement for members, sale of apparatus and equipment, station supplies, uniforms, utilities, the whole nine, if you go to the very bottom. So, their net income for the year was \$3,200.00, whoop, a good year. Basically, that's where they are at. That's their P&L statement. They are still doing their 2023 taxes. The accountant is going to start working on those in May so it takes a little longer for them to go through but that's kind of where they are.

Mr. Banonis said he wants to ask them some questions about that Scott. So, he had mentioned that there's a FEMA grant that's still pending so that's not included in these figures, correct? Mr. Krycia said correct. Mr. Banonis said what's the amount that's being sought in that grant? Mr. Krycia said there's a, the 2023 FEMA grant right now, well 2024, so let's worry about 2023 is \$265,000.00. It's a Safer grant. So they are waiting for that money to come. They applied for the \$165,000.00 so they are waiting for that payout and an additional \$100,000.00 or so once the process is done.

Mr. Banonis said so if and when that grant is funded, that will adjust these figures. These figures are not accurate because it doesn't include that grant. Okay, so that \$2,000.00 of net income that you are talking about, is actually going to be off by about \$265,000.00, right. Mr. Krycia said possibly, yes.

Mr. Banonis said so on the expense side of this thing, you look at the budgeted expense, and the budgeted expense is \$1.067 million and it came in, the actual expense there were \$802,000.00 so it looks like the budget was off by a quarter of a million dollars. Either the expenses were overestimated or you guys did a heck of a great job in controlling expenses to come in well under budget. Do you have an explanation for that? Mr. Krycia said yes they did a heck of a job to control expenses. Mr. Banonis said great job. Mr. Krycia said they really did last year. They just anticipated expenses on the trucks and they knew they were going to do a lot of maintenance so they cut back on spending a lot of money on stuff, they really cut back.

Mr. Banonis said he just wants to go over another thing that he has here. Now they don't have their Form 990 for 2023, and he has their Form 990 from 2022 and he got that in his RTK request. That looks like that was submitted in November of 2023, so he's anticipating their 2023 Form 990 will be submitted probably around the same time much later this year. Mr. Krycia said probably, yes. The reason it was submitted so late last year was because they were in the process of doing that and doing their BC-0101 Form and they were also working on Steel City taxes, all at the same time. Mr. Banonis said the Steel City tax things, that's done because you guys are merged now, right? So you don't have to worry about that. Mr. Krycia said they still have to file one more year of taxes. This year will be the first year that they would have consolidated taxes. They wouldn't be filing for Steel City.

Mr. Banonis said so your 2022 Form 990 that you submitted to the IRS, says that your contributions and grants from the prior year, this would have been 2021, were \$468,000.00 roughly. Mr. Krycia said yes. Mr. Banonis said and then the current year, which would be 2022, that number, your contributions and grants jumped all the way up to \$1.243 million. That's almost a three-quarter million-dollar increase. What do you attribute that to? Mr. Krycia said the FEMA grant they got for the radios, which was \$500, well the grant itself was he thinks was like \$350,000.00, the Township gave them some money towards the radios for that and also he believes that was the same year that the SCBA AFG grant cleared through. He thinks both of those were in that year, so that's why there is so much more coming in then going out because of those two grant items. Mr. Banonis said got it, let's look at 2023, if we go back to your financial statements that you provided here, in your packet, it looks like your actual total grants government plus contributions and gifts is a total of \$606,000.00, almost \$607,000.00 and then if you are to add in that \$265,000.00 FEMA grant, you are at almost \$900,000.00, that's accurate? Mr. Krycia said yes. Mr. Banonis said so your contributions and grants that, hold on, your contributions and grants that you are projecting here, for calendar year 2023, are basically double what they were in 2021 based upon the Form 990, right? Because the Form 990 in 2021, prior year, was \$468,000.00 and 2023, based upon the financial statement as well as the pending \$265,000.00 is over \$900,000.00 so it's essentially double, right? Mr. Krycia said he just wants to clarify on the Safer grant, the \$265,000.00 one, that's actually four years. So, they are applying for all of that money in one shot, and they should get that back, but they actually, that Safer program is for recruitment and retention, our pay per call program, a bunch of other stuff. They ran that program over four years and now they are at the end of that cycle, that four-year grant period, so they are going to be applying, they applied to FEMA already to get those payments. Mr. Banonis said okay. Mr. Krycia said so he gets where he's coming from, but it's also, they spread those costs out over four years. So it looks like there's a big pile of money coming in, but in reality it wasn't, it was four years' worth of expenses on that grant package that they are getting reimbursed for.

Mr. Banonis said well, let's look at the Form 990 again for 2022. If we look at prior year, line 22, net assets and/or fund balances, that total was \$3.261 million and in 2022, the current year for when this was submitted, that number jumped all the way up to \$3.857 million, basically an 18% increase. So, you haven't calculated yet what your numbers are for 2023, right? Mr. Krycia said what year is that 2021? Mr. Banonis said the prior year, which would be 2021, this is according to your 2022 Form 990, \$3.261 million that you had in net assets and fund balances, and then in 2022 you reported to the IRS that your net assets or fund balances were \$3.857 million, an 18% increase year over year, but you don't have numbers for 2023 yet because you haven't gone to the accountant. Mr. Krycia said correct. Mr. Banonis said okay. He brought this up before. Mr. Krycia said do you want to know why there was the increase there because the ladder truck came on line, that's what it was. Mr. Banonis said that's the

ladder truck that the Township paid part of, a substantial part of it. Mr. Krycia said yes. Mr. Carocci said 75%. Mr. Banonis said thanks Tom.

Mr. Banonis said so, back in January, the three cover-up girls on this Council, increased taxes by first, publishing a knowingly inaccurate budget and then second, by increasing taxes and holding in reserves greater than 25% of what they should be permitted to do under the law. Part of that, what they did was, they increased the fire services tax and they, he believes, they were trying to paint a picture of poverty here for the fire department, for the volunteer fire services that we have here in the Township, and nothing can be further than the truth because we have a Form 990 that shows that the net assets and funds that you had in 2022 were \$3.857 million, went up 18% year over year and in fact, the total contributions that you received in both government grants and gifts is double what it was in 2021. Is that a fair statement? Mr. Krycia said yes. Mr. Banonis said okay.

Mr. Banonis said while we are on the subject here, you remember back when in the fall of last year, we had meetings, we had a Fire Services Group, Committee, and this was to study a new fire station for the fire department and we are looking at something centrally located, Polk Valley Road because of the changing dynamic and demographics and locations of the population within the Township. We talked about, you know, consolidating fire stations, closing fire stations, and building it over there. He's not a liaison to Fire Service's. He doesn't think Tom Carocci is the liaison to Fire Services anymore, have there been any other discussions about that effort? He means there was a report that was generated, a lot of people put time into that effort to identify the needs for the fire department and it's now been four months that the three cover-up girls have a majority of this Council and they haven't as far as he knows, haven't done a damn thing to advance that project, which are in the interest of the public safety. Is that fair? Have you had any meetings with them?

Mr. Krycia said they've had meetings with them. Mr. Banonis said okay, with who, when, who was there, was it a quorum, what was discussed? This is all news to us. Again, you know, all the information he gets Scott and this is regrettable that you and Ty have to hear this, but the public has heard this many times. He has submitted literally hundreds, if not thousands, of RTK requests to the Township to get information that should be readily available to him as a Council person and should be readily available to the public because they have an interest in these things, okay, because it's their tax dollars that are being spent on different things for this Township. Yet all this stuff is never transparent. It's not transparent and hasn't been for four months. They've had secret meetings off-site, okay. He has gone on and on about these things. So, he'd like to know what meetings have taken place, what was discussed, who was there, let's put it out there so the public knows so that he knows because he's a voting member of Council and he'd like to know about these things. Ms. Ray said we are the liaisons (*inaudible*)...Mr. Banonis said he's not talking to her, he's not talking to her, he's talking to them, I'm not talking to you, don't interrupt them. Mr. Carocci said don't interrupt them. Mr. Banonis said he's asking him for an answer, you don't have to jump in and cover for him or cover for yourself. Mr. Carocci said he has the floor. Mr. Banonis said sit down, he asked him a question, allow him to answer it. (*Three Council members speaking at same time beginning at 37:00*) Ms. Ray said I am sitting. Mr. Carocci said (*inaudible*) question...recognized.....question....don't be rude (*inaudible*). Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said I think that if you are making statements about what the Council majority (*inaudible*) doing, I think that you would obviously be (*inaudible*)...Mr. Banonis said pipe down, how does that (*inaudible*), you are not recognized. (*inaudible*) Gavel her so she'll stop talking so the gentleman can answer the question. Gavel her so he can answer the question that he asked of him. It's not that hard of a question, it's not that hard to get control. Mr. Carocci said Mr. Banonis has the floor. (*Ms. Opthof-Cordaro and Mr. Carocci were speaking at the same time Mr. Banonis was.*) Mr. Banonis said get control, he knows it's her first time. He realizes it's your first time. Mr. Banonis said please answer the question, don't allow her to interrupt you. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro (*inaudible*) Council liaisons to our (*inaudible*) fire company to answer this, and I do apologize to our fire department for being interrogated (*inaudible*) do and don't do because you are here volunteering for us and you are here to support our Township and everything you do, hundreds and hundreds of hours. Mr. Carocci said answer the question, answer the question. Mr. Banonis said okay, if she's just going to keep talking, he's going to keep talking too because he'd like his question answered. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks that is appropriate for everybody to

understand that number 1, fire services meetings have always done (*inaudible*) not in any (*inaudible*) of Council but they are done in the situation, situation (*inaudible*) fire services meetings happen (*inaudible*) community so (*inaudible*) very appropriate for our residents to understand that they are not public meetings (*inaudible*) it is very appropriate to understand that...Mr. Banonis said because he didn't recognize her and he still has the floor. (*Ms. Opthof-Cordaro continued to speak at the same time Mr. Banonis was.*) Would you please gavel her? Would you please gavel her? Would you please gavel her? Would you please gavel her? Would you please gavel her? He'll gavel, here we go. There's the gavel. Would you please answer the questions? He said he's not being disruptive to you, he asked you a straight a question. He's sorry that she's wasting your time and your energy here, you guys are volunteers, it's a straight forward question, and she wants to politicize this issue. He's really sorry for that. (*Ms. Opthof-Cordaro continued to speak at the same time Mr. Banonis was.*) Mr. Banonis said he's really sorry. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we have again volunteers here trying to present their presentation and she thinks they should have the right to present their presentation without being interrogated. Mr. Banonis said you asked the questions. You are such a hypocrite. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we are not here...Mr. Banonis said you are a hypocrite and a clown. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we are not...Mr. Goudsouzian said everybody stop for one second. Mr. Banonis said how about you answer the questions he asked and...how about if somebody just control the damn meeting. Mr. Carocci said you know he has the floor, tell her to be quiet. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we should respect these people. Mr. Goudsouzian said sit down. Mr. Carocci said he's not going to listen to him. Mr. Banonis said who are you? Mr. Carocci said who are you? Mr. Goudsouzian said the solicitor. Mr. Banonis said wow. He's the elected member of Council, so is he. Mr. Carocci said Jason has the floor. Ms. Ray said okay, sit down. Mr. Carocci said give him the floor. (*During the above time, everybody was speaking at once, so it was inaudible to get everything everyone said.*)

Mr. Johnson said they are just going to get up and go. Mr. Carocci said Jason has the floor, give him the floor. Mr. Banonis said save yourself the aggravation because they are clowns. You are dealing with clowns. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said be respectful and with...Mr. Banonis said dealing with clowns. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said give them the opportunity to answer one at a time. Mr. Goudsouzian said everybody stop talking. Everybody stop, just for a minute, just stop talking for one minute, stop, stop. Mr. Banonis said how about if the Acting Council President gets control of the meeting?

Mr. Johnson said they have been meeting with the liaison committee, the fire services committee...Mr. Banonis said wow, a little late, maybe ten minutes earlier. Ms. Ray said everybody quiet up here. Mr. Carocci said right. Ask your questions again. Mr. Goudsouzian said he's answering your questions. Mr. Johnson said I know his questions. Mr. Carocci said no you don't. Mr. Johnson said, I don't? Mr. Carocci said more than just whether you just met or not. Mr. Banonis said who you met with, when did you meet, what did you talk about, that's what he'd like to know because this isn't being transparent. Mr. Carocci said and were they public meetings? Mr. Banonis said yes. Mr. Johnson said no, they aren't public meetings because there's a lot of stuff that they can't have out in the public. So, they've talked...Mr. Carocci said a category there, a category, nothing specific, a category that can't be out there in the public because you are asking for \$235,000.00 tonight, later on in the meeting and you won't have public fire meetings. You are asking for \$235,000.00...Mr. Johnson said they never had public fire meetings. Mr. Carocci said well, but you are asking for a lot of money. Mr. Johnson said right and they need that money because it's not a cheap business to be in to. Mr. Banonis said just answer his question, go ahead Ty.

Mr. Johnson said Laura Ray and Victoria Opthof-Cordaro are on the committee, and then it's the chief officers and the president of the fire department that meet. So, they brought them up to speed just like when you got on the committee, they had to bring you up to speed. Mr. Carocci said sure. Mr. Johnson said and there's a lot to take in. Mr. Johnson said they've discussed buildings and trucks and everything that they've discussed in prior meetings. Mr. Banonis said when did you meet with them? Mr. Johnson said he doesn't have the dates right off the top of his head. Mr. Banonis said how many times? Mr. Johnson said he thinks three, possibly four times already. Mr. Banonis said what was discussed? Mr. Johnson said they try to meet once a month. Mr. Banonis said okay, has that occurred? Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Banonis said have they both been present? Mr. Johnson said yes. Mr. Banonis said are

you aware they haven't reported any of this back to Council or the public? Mr. Johnson said it's not up to him. Mr. Banonis said he knows that. He's not asking if it's up to him, he's asking are you aware of that? Mr. Johnson said no, he's now aware of it. Mr. Banonis said okay. Do you find it regrettable that the people that are supposed to be liaisons with the fire services, hold on, with the fire services aren't actually communicated to the other members of Council and the public what you are talking about in terms of having a centrally located fire station that's going to cost millions and millions of dollars to build, right. Mr. Johnson said right. They haven't gotten that far yet. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said...Mr. Banonis said he's not talking to her. He's talking, will you stop interrupting? Mr. Opthof-Cordaro said it's not the purpose of their presentation. Mr. Banonis said what is wrong with you? Do you have a condition that you have to blurt out like that, what is it? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she has the same condition you have, Mr. Banonis. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't think she does. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she just doesn't do it as much. Mr. Carocci said keep going. Mr. Banonis said he's not interrupting her, he's not interrupting her. He's not interrupting her. Ms. Ray said okay one at a time. Mr. Carocci said he's not done, he didn't ask his questions yet about the finances. Maintenance on 1611, what...Mr. Banonis said can he get an answer to his whole question. He doesn't think his whole question was answered yet. Mr. Carocci said it wasn't.

Mr. Johnson said what did he miss in your question? Mr. Banonis said do you find it unfortunate or concerning that the people that are liaison, liaising with fire services, aren't reporting back to Council what they are talking about and the needs that you are bringing to their attention in terms of equipment and facilities? Mr. Goudsouzian said that's an unfair question. He said he didn't know what was happening.

Mr. Carocci said he has a question. Mr. Banonis said because he told him they haven't reported to us assuming he's telling you the truth, okay. He's not lying to you. Assuming he's telling you the truth, do you find that to be concerning. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said that his a lot of interrogation. Mr. Johnson said whatever they do is up to them. He can't control what they do and nothing really has been presented that has to take any kind of great measures at this point. So, he's sure once they get to that point, hopefully they will discuss it with the rest of the Council. Mr. Banonis said when you say at this point, what are you referring to? Do you have a time line where you want to have this fire services building built? Mr. Johnson said not right now, no. Mr. Banonis said so there's no urgency to it. Mr. Johnson said well there is an urgency to it but there's a lot of moving parts, as you know, now that they have to get folks up to speed again that kind of put them back a little bit but they'll get there. One is there's no property acquired yet and he thinks even when you guys were on it, it was, that was the main topic of, you know, property. Mr. Banonis said have you talked with the liaisons from Council about acquiring a piece of property? Mr. Johnson said yes, that's been discussed. Mr. Banonis said what did have you discussed? You might as well talk about it now. Let's get it out there. Mr. Johnson said we talked about what was exactly in the report. Mr. Banonis said so you basically told them what was in the report and that's all the discussion was. You haven't looked at parcels. You haven't tried to identify a parcel to move this project forward? Mr. Johnson said they haven't because they have been bringing them up to speed for fire services. Mr. Banonis said for four months. Mr. Johnson said well we are only meeting an hour or two a night when they do meet and there's a lot going on, so, but it's on the radar. He doesn't know what else to tell you. Mr. Banonis said it might be on the radar but it's not getting done. It's not getting done with these people. Mr. Johnson said they are going to keep pushing it forward themselves. Mr. Banonis said well you aren't pushing it right now, you are having conversations and again, he appreciates your volunteerism and he appreciates what all you guys do. He wants us to have the best fire services for our community and you've known that when he was on the majority on Council. They supported you guys tremendously and acquired equipment, apparatus, donations, whatever they could do. He thinks it's important what you guys do and he doesn't want to see it take a step back because of these people and he doesn't want to politicize because of these people.

Someone from the audience said, wow. Mr. Carocci said now...Mr. Banonis said will you be quiet? Do you have a problem? Do you have a problem too? Because clearly, she can't control the meeting so you have to yell out "wow" because he made a comment. Alright, you haven't been recognized Ma'am, so he'd ask her to please stand down and not make comments. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said, she

doesn't think this is appropriate. Mr. Banonis said I didn't ask you to stand up, I said what is your problem? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said, I think that you are out of order. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't know what your problem is. Mr. Goudsouzian said everybody stop. Hold on. Ms. Ray said hold it up.

Mr. Carocci said he has a question. On 1611, what truck is 1611, it says maintenance \$9,300.00. Mr. Krycia said that's the E1 that used to be at Se-Wy-Co and it's over at Leithsville station. It's an engine at Leithsville station. Mr. Carocci said what's 1632 again? Mr. Johnson said that's the tanker out at Southeastern. Mr. Carocci said okay. Ty, where's your vehicle, the one you drive around? Mr. Johnson said 1648. Mr. Carocci said 1648. Alright, 1648, just a \$1,000.00 this year of maintenance. Alright, and then, out of curiosity, obviously expenses are going up, it's going to be going up in the future, and then you also have plans for to build a kind of modern station for the next 50 years, what is the volunteer fire services, what is their stance on how that should be paid for meaning tax dollars, landfill revenue? Mr. Johnson said it's not up to them on how it's going to be paid for. Mr. Carocci said he didn't say it was up to them. How do they expect it to be paid for? Mr. Johnson said he doesn't know. He means...Mr. Carocci said besides taxes and landfill revenue, what other sources of revenue are there? Mr. Johnson said there's, you could get, you can get grants, but they are only good for three years and then after that three years or four years, whatever the grant cycle is...Mr. Carocci said you can't get a grant to build a whole fire station, you might get a grant to build a portion of it. Mr. Johnson said yea. Mr. Carocci said what is the leadership of the volunteer fire services in LST? What are your expectations for these very expensive projects? What are your expectations for how they will be funded? Mr. Johnson said well, that's why they are talking with the Township to come up with a plan because that's where the money is going to have to come from, a majority of it. So, whether that's taxes, he doesn't know. Mr. Carocci said or landfill revenue? Mr. Johnson said whatever they decide, or you guys decide.

Mr. Banonis said you don't care where the money comes from as long as you get the money, right? Mr. Johnson said well, yea, because they have to provide emergency services to the Township. Mr. Carocci said right, but there's different levels of emergency service. You guys do a very good job and you are also have very good equipment. There's other municipalities that don't have as nice equipment, don't have the number of volunteers either. You know their services are not to denigrate it, but probably a little lesser than the services you guys provide. You guys provide great services, right. Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said and a big component, you would have to agree, is funding. Mr. Johnson said for sure, you are going to attract people if you have good equipment and good practices and good training, so, yes. Mr. Carocci said and that funding historically in LST has come from landfill revenue and tax revenue. Mr. Johnson said years ago there was, he thinks Cathy could talk about it a little bit more as she's more familiar with it, but years ago, there was a fund that landfill money was put into to help pay for fire apparatus and then that went away for quite a few years and then the fire tax was enacted. Mr. Carocci said right, right, but there's limits to the fire tax. He said 1% now, that can only go up to about 2% under PA law. Mr. Johnson said he thinks it's about 3 mills. Mr. Carocci said 3 mills and its 1 mill now, right? Mr. Johnson said 0.9. Mr. Carocci said so there's limits to taxes so even if you raise it to 3 mills you may not have enough for all that you really want for a fire house for the next 50 years or to keep the level of services, quite frankly, you have now compared to a lot of other municipalities that don't have the funding from a landfill or tax base. Certainly, Fountain Hill doesn't have the funding that LS has, right? Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said no landfill in Fountain Hill, is that correct? Mr. Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said in fact they have a large property owner, St. Luke's who doesn't pay property taxes at all. Mr. Carocci said so it's all on the backs of the taxpayers of Fountain Hill. Mr. Johnson said he thinks St. Luke's did give a donation for an engine last, two years ago they bought a truck but he doesn't know what the number was exactly. Mr. Carocci said but it's certainly not like tax revenue or landfill revenue. It's nothing that can be counted on year to year like those sources of funding. Mr. Johnson said probably not unless they sit down and talk to St. Luke's and say they need a certain amount of money from them. He doesn't know if the fire company over there has done that yet or not.

Mr. Carocci said so to do what you guys want to do over the next five, ten, fifteen years, it's going to have to come from either a combination of tax revenue and landfill revenue or all tax revenue. If you go to all tax revenue, there's limits. We've agreed to that. There's even limits on how much property

tax can be in PA as well, so there's limits in the tax. There's limits to the landfill money as well because there's a Host Municipal Inspection Agreement provides for a certain amount every year and as long as the landfill is open and operating. Well, he thinks that's a conversation to continue in the future is how will all this be funded when people are making decisions about shutting the landfill down and what kind of fire services we want. You can say, alright shut the landfill down, no revenue and we'll do the tax services but it hasn't worked out so well for other municipalities that don't have landfill, would you agree with that? Mr. Johnson said he guesses. He tries not to worry about other municipalities but our own. Mr. Carocci said but there are other municipalities even around us, Fountain Hill and Hellertown, they rely solely on tax dollars and contributions but don't have landfills in those municipalities. Mr. Banonis said they rely on LST. Mr. Carocci said correct, correct, correct, and they rely on LST to the tune of 120 calls a year for the Dewey and 102 calls a year for Fountain Hill, 222 calls were Fountain Hill or Hellertown, who only rely on tax base to fund their volunteer fire services and our calls in the Township were over 500, so it's almost half of our calls, half of LST calls are also made up of Fountain Hill and Hellertown. Mr. Johnson said they weren't the only ones. Mr. Carocci said right, they weren't the only ones, but they are kind of the ones in close proximity, that again, only rely on increased tax revenue to fund high quality, volunteer fire services. He doesn't know how high quality they are or aren't. He knows ours are, he's familiar with ours being the fire services liaison for seven years. So, keep up the good work and he thinks if you want to do, you have to, we are going to need landfill revenue money to do what you want to do. If you don't have it, he thinks it's going to be very, very difficult to accomplish any of it. Thank you. Thank you Ms. Ray for not interrupting him and letting him speak. He appreciates it.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said thank you gentlemen and she apologizes for what has happened here this evening and interrogating you. She appreciates your volunteer time for being here, for putting your report together, again another volunteer effort and for all of your time in trying to raise you independent funding to help supplement our Township residents and she thinks it's tremendous we have a volunteer force. She thinks everybody should recognize that when there's a fire and when there's an emergency, that you are the ones that protect us. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci said he apologizes for Victoria talking over Jason, for her general behavior so he apologizes for her. Mr. Ray said so the next item is a developer item. A review and possible action on Bethlehem Landfill, Steely Lot Line Change.

Someone said they had a comment. Mr. Carocci said they already left. Ms. Ray said you can still comment. Mr. Carocci said he recognizes Mr. Boulin. Ms. Ray said they are trying to get Priscilla. Mr. Carocci said in the meantime, he recognizes Mr. Boulin. Ms. Ray said okay, you are not running the meeting. Mr. Carocci said go ahead, go to the microphone.

Mrs. Gorman said Priscilla, you are breaking up a little. Mr. Carocci said she spent four days in Hershey, PA at a PSATS conference on taxpayer dime and she can't make the meeting. She can't attend a meeting. Mr. Banonis said or get a phone that works. Mr. Carocci said or get a phone that works, right. Staying at the Hershey Lodge, he guesses on the Township taxpayer dime and she can't make it to a meeting. Ms. Ray said Tom, you are not recognized. Will you be quiet? It's Priscilla...Mr. Carocci said Victoria was never recognized and she talked over Jason all the time and you didn't do anything. You didn't gavel, you didn't gavel or anything. You didn't gavel or anything so why didn't you gavel...Ms. Ray said could you be quiet. It's Priscilla's turn to talk. Mr. Carocci said you never told Victoria to be quiet when Jason was talking. Mr. Banonis said that would have been nice. He would have liked that. Ms. Ray said okay children. Mr. Carocci said that would have been the courteous thing to do, the courteous thing to do. He recognizes Mr. Boulin, go ahead Dave. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said maybe we should take a recess until we can have people follow...Mr. Carocci said he recognizes Mr. Boulin, go ahead. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said take a five minutes break, maybe.

Mr. Boulin said Madam Chairman, Vice Chairman. Mr. Goudsouzian said we are still to speak up. Mr. Goudsouzian said we are having technical difficulties with the phone. Mr. Boulin sorry sir you have to speak up. Mr. Goudsouzian said we are having technical difficulties with the phone so just give us a

moment. Mr. Boulin said the phone? Ms. Ray said Priscilla is on the phone. Priscilla? Mr. Carocci said she may still be in Hershey, on taxpayer dime. Who knows?

Ms. deLeon said she'd like to go on record, can you hear me? Mr. Banonis said no. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said yes, Pricilla go ahead. Ms. deLeon said she'd like to go on record...Mr. Carocci said on record. Ms. deLeon said thanking all the fire company who are involved here and putting together (*Ms. deLeon not coming through clearly on the phone, all crackly.*)

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to pay double pay to the transcriptionist who tries to transcribe that garbled nonsense.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Banonis said there's a motion on the floor and a second. Mr. Carocci said there's a motion on the floor. Mr. Banonis said and a second. Mr. Carocci said there's a motion on the floor and a second. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks she wanted to say thank you and she appreciated what the fire company did for all of their time in coming here tonight. Mr. Banonis said can we have a roll on his motion? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said that's the most...Mr. Boulin said is he going to get a chance to speak here? Mr. Carocci said Victoria, let somebody speak, there's a motion. Mr. Banonis said he made a motion. He made a motion to double pay the transcriptionist for the nonsense. Mr. Carocci said yes, there's a motion. Ms. deLeon said what is the motion? Mrs. Gorman said the motion is to pay the transcriptionist double...Mr. Carocci said for having to transcribe your garbage. Ms. deLeon said her answer is no. Mr. Banonis said what was her answer? Mrs. Gorman said no.

Mr. Carocci said yes and it would really be helpful to have a cell phone in Steel City. He assumes Ms. deLeon is in Steel City and maybe this is why the cell service is so poor because we don't have a cell tower built there yet, but you know, it's obviously just shows the need so he hopes Ms. Kate Durso can use this as evidence in her appeal that Ms. deLeon you are calling from you home in Steel City and this is bad...Mr. Carocci said he voted yes. Mr. Goudsouzian said he apologizes. Ms. Ry said absolutely no, it's ridiculous so let's move on.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro, Ms. Ray – No) - Motion fails.

Ms. Ray said Mr. Boulin wants to speak on the fire presentation. Mr. Boulin said he's recognized? Ms. Ray said yes, for the fire presentation item. Mr. Boulin said thank you because he did read all of the documents and the numbers. He's sorry, go ahead. You want to talk. Mr. Banonis said now she's running the meeting, Diane Hollowell is running the meeting. Welcome to Council. Come on down, we have an extra seat, come on. Mr. Boulin said it looks like we have a couple of people running the meeting here. Mr. Carocci said yea. Mr. Boulin said he's waiting for the smoke to clear. He spent about an hour on this unlike other people he recalled when the fire committee was here the last time. They described in detail how they trained, how long they trained and he thinks it's fantastic. That's not the point. It really bothers him when people grandstand on the Council and they are really nice and warm and slushy and don't talk about the facts. They ask all of these questions that we already had answered for us in a previous meeting. So, he objects to that. What he's interested in is he thinks it's called the budget item here. The report by the LSFRR and the numbers, not how long they, how, whatever. There's no doubt about how good this fire company is. Their website is spectacular if you haven't been on it. So, he doesn't need people grandstanding. He's most interested in where the money is coming from, where it's going, how the performance of this fire company is doing and a lot of that, by the way, and he would love to poll the Council and ask them some simple questions, but he knows he can't get any answers to that and that is for you that don't know about the Gold Star Award, maybe you could just shake your heads if you know what that is. He sees no heads shaking, okay. Well, at any rate, the bottom line is if you go on their website, you will see they compete. All their financials are there. Mr. Solicitor are you with us? Mr. Banonis said no, he's doing work. Mr. Boulin said he was hoping he would pay attention because this is important and he will bring it up. Is this thing on? Okay. It is important, he will bring it up at the end. The bottom line is they had many, many pages, all their financials, what they are doing, where they are going, yep, here it is, all here. Right, here's their

financials, page after page, charts, everything else. Now, he would say there are other people in other towns that have 501(c)(3)s who do not, who do not report any of this information. So, seeing how open this fire company is and hearing the Council, some of the Council, ask detailed information about the financials is exceedingly important that says really care about it and for you of those, or you on the Council, that didn't understand what was being said, there are clearly several people that do understand the numbers and what the implication is, alright. He'd love to see everybody on the Council understand those numbers instead of looking like deer in the headlights for these numbers, alright. The other thing is he would say the public is supposed to have a right to be able to speak here and if we have certain people just absolutely talking over others, that's not going to work so well and by the way, he encountered this before with one of the Council members who sits up with you now and she saw her fit to speak for 20 minutes and then when it was his turn to speak, he got up and he got shut down because she was mad at something that was said and the meeting terminated so he never got a chance to talk and he see that's what is happening here, right. Person talks for 15 minutes, asks all what color is your truck kind of thing, and then finally terminates when someone else starts asking hard questions and they get shut down by the typical way that you shut people down, just keep talking. So, that's not so good. Anyhow, he would commend the fire company. Yea, there's their report, got it all, got all the numbers, really had a lot of questions to ask. For instance, have no idea why it is that there are so many vehicle accidents or and do we pay for them? Is it the accidents on Route 78 we pay for, all of that? Is it the train accidents? Does anybody look into that here? Does anybody care? He'd like to think you do because it's certainly a lot of money and yep, she's still here. He would ask for one more column, what did it cost you for each of these incident kind of things? He doesn't mean details, but he means total. In other words, we know how many hours it takes, how much money is it costing the taxpayer? They do a spectacular job. Thank you. Mr. Carocci said thank you Mr. Boulin.

Diane Hollowell said she was just curious Tom, she doesn't know where he's going, come on. You said that when he came on board that he met with the firemen and he discussed, can you tell us all where you met, when you met and what was discussed or does she have to put a RTK request in? Mr. Carocci said she can do whatever she wants, but they used to hold monthly meetings. Ms. Hollowell said did you let everybody know, do you know where they were...Mr. Carocci said he would update at the Council comment. They were usually either here or at a fire house and...Ms. Hollowell said do you have the dates? Mr. Carocci said yes the dates were, you have the dates. They were...Ms. Hollowell said she'll put a request in. Mr. Carocci said whenever they had a Council meeting after they had a fire services meeting, he would brief the rest of Council and the residents of what they discussed at the meeting. Ms. Hollowell said she'll confirm that, thank you. Cathy attended most of those meetings with fire services, she was kind of put as liaison. Mr. Banonis said Tom, that information was fantastic. It's very helpful and he appreciates his time. Mr. Carocci said if she just would have looked on the website she would have found.

Ann Marie Slavick said she lives in LST. She just wants to say she used to be on a non-profit board and every time they had a non-profit meeting, a board meeting, they'd have to have everybody go over the budget. She'd have to provide a report and she'd have to go over the budget and let everybody know where they are spending money. So, the people on this Township Council that are, she doesn't think it's a problem asking the fire company where they are spending money and asking about the budget. She thinks that important. As a taxpayer of this Township, she wants to represent the taxpayers that aren't here that might use their left brain to think and that's logic and that's numbers and that's how do they pay the higher taxes next year. Remember something for all of you people that wanted higher taxes on this Council meeting or the Council board, do you know of the fixed income elderly people in the Township that aren't going to be able to pay those taxes. Do you know anything about them? Did you poll them? Did you ask them? Did you go to their doors when you were campaigning? So, think about that when you are up here and you are saying, we don't want to ask the fire fighters too many questions about the budget. There's no reason, absolutely no reason, why they couldn't answer those questions and they were happy to do so. They are great and they are wonderful. They do a great job. Everybody's complimented them. There's no reason to shut down the questions about the budget. That's very important Victoria. If you were on any kind of non-profit board, if you were an Executive Director, for

a non-profit, you would have to answer those questions of where you spent money in that office. Thank you. Mr. Carocci said if she had a clue, if Victoria had a clue. Mr. Banonis said thank you.

Anne Marie Crown, a LST resident said she has great respect, admiration and appreciation for our fire service. She has had on occasion in her neighborhood to witness what they have done and it's absolutely astounding to her how great they are at their jobs. When she listens to the report, she says not only do they work odd hours and work with no pay, they are accountants and they are marketers and they are grant writers. They do so much. She wonders if there is any opportunity ever for there to be volunteers from the community who volunteer to help them. People who can't go out and fight a fire but maybe are excellent as a grant writer or maybe they are an accountant or something like that. So, she thinks it's something to be explored with them because they do so much and she thinks they deserve help from the community. Another thing she thinks about a lot is their annual appeal. We all get the letter in the mail and it asks for \$25.00 or \$50.00 or \$100.00 or whatever it is, and she realizes not everybody in the community can support that, but she also knows for certain, from knowing her neighbors and knowing her community that there are many people who don't even know this is a volunteer organization. They think their taxes will cover everything. So, she thinks the idea of public relations on behalf of fire service to have the community really understand what they do as volunteers would be incredibly important and also if there are some people perhaps who are graphic designers, for example to design what they send out in their annual appeal in a way that maybe will generate a greater response or people who will go out on their behalf and ask organizations for money for the fire department. She doesn't have all the answers. They are just suggestions but as a community member who really values them highly, she would do whatever they ask her to do. She would hope there are others in the community and she's pretty sure there are a lot of people who would. Thank you. Mr. Banonis said thank you. Ms. Ray said those are great ideas and they would gladly accept help from the community.

Russ Sutton said he has a couple of questions. He noticed every time there are questions brought up about taxes, Mr. Carocci and Mr. Banonis, their fallback is always the landfill. He'd like to know details of how much the landfill has donated to the fire company for the last 20 years. He wants to see an account, accounting of that, exactly what they put in and you know what, there's only two municipalities around here to have landfills. All the other townships are volunteer firemen too and they don't have landfills to support them but they still do their job and do them well. We have an excellent fire company. He appreciates everything they do but every municipality does not have a landfill to back them up so they are supporting their fire companies and they are functional so he doesn't understand why every other word out of his mouth is landfill or his mouth is landfill. That's not the end all. This thing is going to close down sometime and at that point, where's the money going to come for the fire department? He'd like to see an accounting of the last 20 years of what the dump has put in for the fire company. Mr. Carocci said since 1999. Mr. Banonis said the landfill pays to the Township roughly 35% of our revenue. So, you can estimate that roughly 35% of the money that the Township gives to fire services is funded by the landfill. It's a very simple...Mr. Sutton said he wants to see it in writing. He doesn't want to hear it from your mouth. He wants to see it in writing. He wants to see a statement. Mr. Banonis said okay. Mr. Carocci said the landfill has provided the Township with over \$30 million since 1999, and the reason, you're right, there are only two townships that have landfills in this vicinity and...Mr. Sutton said and their fire departments are still functioning. Mr. Carocci said it's one of reasons we have one of the best volunteer fire company in this area. Mr. Sutton said we do have a great fire company, and he's not questioning that. Mr. Carocci said and they do a great job. Mr. Sutton said that landfill isn't going to last forever so what are you going to do then? Mr. Carocci said how do you know it won't last forever. Mr. Banonis said it going to be there for at least another 25 years.

3. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BETHLEHEM LANDFILL – STEELY LOT LINE CHANGE #LL 02-23

Ms. Ray said, she didn't know she was expecting a presentation. Ms. Ray said the Bethlehem Landfill submitted a Lot Line Plan that proposes to transfer 1.46 acres from the landfill to the adjacent parcel at 2485 Applebutter Road.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved to approve the lot line adjustment unless there's something specific the landfill wants to present in addition.

Mr. Carocci said he object to Victoria making a motion on anything. Her parents have property near there. Theyve sued. He thinks she's conflicted out and she'll recuse herself from anything - anything.

Mr. Goudsouzian said number one, the choice of recusal, we've gone over this before, is done by the Council member. We've had this discussion before...Mr. Carocci said and he's asking her to recuse herself, Steve. He didn't say, he's asking her to, and it's done by the Council member, he's right. Mr. Goudsouzian said it's done by the individual Council member who allegedly has the conflict. She's making the motion to be clear, just so you understand this. Making the motion to grant the request. Mr. Carocci said that's fine.

Ms. Garber said so they are clear on this, that Bethlehem Landfill is not requesting that Ms. Opthof-Cordaro recuse herself from this particular project or proposal rather that is because it has nothing to do with landfill operations or the landfill expansion. This is simply a lot line adjustment so that they can give 1.46 acres of the landfill property to the Steely's and Mr. Steely is here, so to the extent that there is an objection based on a conflict of interest or a bias, they are not making that object here because it has nothing to do with the landfill expansion or landfill operations. Mr. Goudsouzian said so we are clear, there's a motion on the floor, we don't have a second yet. Mr. Carocci said he still thinks she should recuse herself.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. Ray said now we can have Council discussion. Mr. Kocher said can we clarify that's based on the draft motion that Council has in their packet? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said yes.

Ms. Garber said they have all the copies of the plans and mylars for signature by Council, so they can leave them here tonight. Mr. Banonis said that would be the Council President who is absent. Ms. Garber said okay, then does the Vice President sign in her absence? Mr. Goudsouzian said they can just leave them here and they will take care of it in one way or another. Ms. Garber said will you take care of the recording as well. Mr. Goudsouzian said they will make it happen one way or another. Ms. Garber said thank you.

Ms. Ray said she wasn't expecting a presentation because they did receive all the information in here. She only wanted to make one point of clarification which she already had made to her regarding, because it's a little bit unusual because when you combine the parcels, one - the piece that you are transferring over to the Steely's is LI, his property is RA, so we are going to have a piece of property that has two zones and it's going to remain two zones. So, that's all she needed clarified and just want to make that clear, correct? Is that correct? Ms. Garber said yes, she doesn't know what her questions were or she can ask her. Ms. Ray said there are two different parcels. They each have a different zoning designation, and they will remain their each separate zoning designations even though the lot is being combined. Ms. Garber said correct.

Mr. Goudsouzian said we're at Council discussion, to speed this along, does anyone have anything they want to add? Mr. Banonis said he would just point out congratulations to Priscilla, Victoria and Laura. They promised the public that they would reduce the landfill and they are apparently doing it here. They are reducing it by 1.46 acres so congratulations to all three of you, you delivered on your promises. Mr. Goudsouzian said anything else from Council? Mr. Carocci said he still thinks Victoria should recuse herself from all landfill related matters. Mr. Banonis said he agrees. Ms. Ray said yes. Do we have anybody from the public that wishes to speak on this matter?

Mr. Boulin said that's got to be a record, absolute record considering all of the other terrible things that have been said about this organization. Let's see how the rest of it goes now that you, now that it's been expanded, alright, that tells him the Council seems to be in favor of what's going on. Thank you.

Ms. Ray said anybody else? She said she guesses we can do a roll call. Mrs. Gorman called roll call. Mr. Carocci said what did she say (Ms. deLeon)? Mrs. Gorman said she said yes. Mr. Carocci said how can you tell. If they had that cell tower built, they'd be able to hear her. Mrs. Gorman said will you repeat that please? Ms. deLeon said yes. Her vote is yes. Mr. Carocci said if we had that cell tower, we'd be able to hear you Priscilla, right next to you. It's going in the lot right next to you?

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. SAUCON OVERLOOK – 1379 STATION ROAD – REQUEST FOR SECURITY REDUCTION

Ms. Ray said her pages are stuck together. Mr. Banonis said Tom, do you want to run the meeting. Mr. Carocci said Saucon Overlook, 1379 Station Road, request for security reduction. Ms. Ray said you are not running the meeting. Mr. Banonis said you clearly are not. Mr. Carocci said we are on 3.B.

Ms. Ray said and you clearly are not either. So, we have a zoning hearing board application for a variance 01-24 for 2014...sorry she flipped all her pages too far. Mr. Carocci said it's complicated. Ms. Ray said she's glad he never made a mistake in his life, and she apologizes that she wasted a minute of time here. Mr. Banonis said more than that. Ms. Ray said Saucon Overlook – 1379 Station Road, request for security reduction. The applicant is requesting a security reduction for Saucon Overlook (aka Spring Valley Estates). Hanover Engineering has reviewed the request and recommending a release in the amount of \$1,469,226.21. The remaining security balance will be \$1,319,388.00.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved to approve the recommended security reduction in the amount of \$1,469,226.21 based on the conditions in the HEA letter dated April 11, 2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Banonis said does Brien have any concerns? Mr. Kocher said no, that number is based on their evaluation by their inspectors who have been on the site inspecting the work.

Mr. Carocci said his question is though, he drove up there and he thinks it looks great, the roads and the drainage, they have that big retention pond basin at the bottom, and all that, and he's for the motion but how do we, is there any way at this stage to prevent anything from happening like has happened at other developments in the Township where when the actual building of the houses takes place, digging foundations, that they align with the soil and the runoff because this is the developer of the property who we are turning this money to, not the builder of the houses and we've had some residents in here earlier this year complaining about when they actually build the houses, what, if we give this money back, which is fine, it's roughly a little more than half of it, it appears, what leverage do we have to ensure that the builders actually build a house that corresponds to the plans that the Township passed specifically in regards to water.

Mr. Kocher said when the buildings are planned and they haven't received any grading plans yet, but they will be submitting grading plans for the individual lots showing the houses they want to build and the grading they want to do. They are now going to be required to put an inspection schedule on there and notify the Township Engineer when they are actually doing the work. There will be some oversight from our office in this development. Mr. Carocci said do you know any other municipalities that require money put into escrow by builders until the project is done so we have type of, like we do with the developer, some type of leverage to ensure that they are going to follow through with grading plans and such.

Mr. Kocher said the leverage usually used is the Certificate of Occupancy is not issued by the Township unless there's a sign-off on the grading plan. So, the times when that's not done, let's say they are ready to close in January and they can't do the final grading, the Township does require them to post money to ensure that the final grading is done correctly.

Mr. Carocci said right, in this other neighborhood, a third party was giving the certificate of occupancy, isn't that correct on behalf of the Township? What was the problem up there when Mr. Minilli was here and the others were? Because a lot of people may just be tuning in for the first time or here for the first time tonight.

Mr. Kocher said the internal process here regarding that final sign-off was not as detailed as we are now going to go moving forward he guesses is the best way he can explain that. The third-party sign-off is on the building code part of it, not the grading part of it. Mr. Carocci said okay. We are still going to do the grading code. Mr. Kocher said we are now going to take a more active role in grading. Mr. Carocci said you feel confident we can avoid problems that had played other developments with this development when they finally build a house. Mr. Kocher said it will be a more detailed process and if we still find problems, then they will go make adjustments but it will be better than what they have done. Mr. Carocci said alright, thank you very much.

Mr. Banonis said just to be clear, you feel that will be satisfactory without the need for this Council to enact any other ordinances such as have been suggested before? Mr. Kocher said right. Mr. Banonis said okay, thank you.

Ms. Ray said anybody else? Victoria? She said she had no comment. Ms. Ray said Pricilla? She said no. Ms. Ray said do we have anybody from the public who wants to speak on this?

Mr. Boulin said so Brien, obviously when you set things such as your sewers, and your sidewalks, etc., also the drains on the roads, those you can go back and inspect and make sure they are in the right place correct? Mr. Kocher said yes, if there is something that is going to be dedicated to the Township like in the case of a public road like this subdivision has, they have always played an active role in that. What Tom was referring to earlier was that, that sort of oversight on the private lot development wasn't to the same degree as it is on something that the Township is going to be responsible for. Mr. Boulin said that's okay. He understands fully, believe him. He has a family member who is in court over this, not here. The bottom line is does that also include, he heard him say grading plan, that's exceedingly important, no doubt about it because they heard about dry wells and other things located incorrectly. Will things such as the foundation of the home be located by your company, by Hanover saying yep, all four corners are squared up and that's right where they need to be according to the plan and including any dry wells that you may have. Mr. Kocher said the foundation is a different story. The foundation is covered by the grading ordinance. The developer's engineer has to go out and actually locate the foundation and submit a certification to the Township that the foundation is located where it is and elevationally and horizontally. Mr. Boulin said excellent. So, they come back to you and certify it with their license at stake, sort of speak. Alright, gee, that's really good, thank you.

Mr. Carocci said one more question. When they are digging, if they hit a spring or something, are they required to let you know? Mr. Kocher said not necessarily. Usually what will happen they'll, if they can, on a site like Saucon Overlook, they can probably deal with that with an underdrain and daylight that. Otherwise, they put it into their sump pump system usually and that's a building feature so they don't notify us. Mr. Carocci said they are not required to. Mr. Kocher said right. Mr. Carocci said thank you. Ms. Ray said do we have anybody else from the public? Seeing none, we can have a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

4. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

A. ZONING HEARING BOARD APPLICATION #VAR 01-24 – 2014 SPRINGTOWN HILL ROAD

Ms. Ray said the applicant is requesting a variance seeking relief from Sections 180-34 A & B in order to subdivide property which will not meet the minimum requirements for lot width and lot size. This property is located at 2014 Springtown Hill Road. It looks like we have the group here to talk about this plan.

Attorney Daniel Dougherty was present and said he represents Mark Gombosi. Mark Gombosi is on his left and to his other left is Steve Pany, registered civil engineer and licensed in PA.

Attorney Dougherty said we got a call from the Zoning Officer the other day on Monday and just said he is requesting them to make a presentation. They have a zoning meeting next Monday, so please introduce yourself.

Mr. Mark Gombosi said he lives at 2014 Springtown Hill Road. Attorney Dougherty said what kind of house do you live in? Mr. Gombosi said it's a small three-bedroom Cape. Attorney Dougherty said when did you purchase it? Mr. Gombosi said about 3-1/2 year ago. Attorney Dougherty said and how much money have you put into the house? Mr. Gombosi said definitely a couple hundred thousand. Attorney Dougherty said okay, and you plan on spending some more money on the house? Mr. Gombosi said yes sir. Attorney Dougherty said and your intent is to stay in the house, is that correct? Mr. Gombosi said yes. Attorney Dougherty said what was your idea about this proposed subdivision? Why did you come upon this idea? Mr. Gombosi said it kind of came to him one day when he was cutting grass. There's basically a big empty lot next to his house. It's part of the deed of his house. Attorney Dougherty said how big is your lot? Mr. Gombosi said he thinks it's a little over two acres if he remembers correctly. He was cutting just an acre of grass. It doesn't look like it's connected to his home even though it is by deed. He said to himself, somebody could put a nice home there and he wouldn't have all this grass to cut and he could continue to improve his property, you know, finish the improvements on his property. Attorney Dougherty do you know what your square footage of your property is, the house? Mr. Gombosi said the house, he really doesn't. It's small. He'd say 1300, 1400 maybe. Attorney Dougherty said 1300 or 1400 square feet. Mr. Gombosi said yes, it's a small home. Attorney Dougherty said you also have a garage? Mr. Gombosi said yes. Attorney Dougherty said that's separate? Mr. Gombosi said yes, detached two-car garage. Attorney Dougherty said your intent is if it was, you've subdivided, you would more than likely sell off the lot too, is that correct? Mr. Gombosi said that's correct.

Attorney Dougherty said he'd like to introduce Steve Pany. Can you identify yourself to the board? Steve Pany, he said he prepared the plan for the variance purposes. Attorney Dougherty said has the board seen the plan? Can you identify Mr. Pany so this is the plan we are going to be presenting to the ZHB? Mr. Pany said yes. Attorney Dougherty said can you show us what proposed, what Lot 1 is and what Lot 2 is? Mr. Pany said sure. Currently the lot is L-shaped, two acres per the deed, and they propose to...Mr. Goudsouzian said Mr. Pany can he ask you to speak in the microphone. Mr. Pany said currently the Lot is L-shaped and they proposed to subdivide it into a corner lot which would be Lot 1 and the interior parcel as Lot 2. The corner lot has substantial frontage but it would have less than 40,000 sq. ft. The Lot 2 would have more than 40,000 sq. ft. but less than the required frontage. The variance request is really de minimis on lot area and lot frontage. Attorney Dougherty said so the Lot 1 existing, where the house would be, is the lot area that we're a little short on? Mr. Pany said yes, it's currently developed. It's a small house. The existing amenities can easily fit on what we're proposing and that Lot 1 is 33,000 sq. ft. Attorney Dougherty said Lot 2, we have enough lot area but the issue is we're short on the width? Mr. Pany said correct. The lot area is actually 43,000 sq. ft. and just as a side note, the neighbor to the west, that is an undersized lot. Attorney Dougherty said what about the lots across the street? Mr. Pany said there's a modular home and they are small parcels. Attorney Dougherty said doing the minor subdivision here just to make them two lots, going two acres into the two lots, would that change any character in the neighborhood? Mr. Pany said no. It doesn't change anything. Attorney Dougherty said he has no further questions.

Mr. Carocci said he does. You have the names of the properties within 200' here, the perimeter, have you heard from any of them about, have you talked to your neighbors about this plan? Mr. Gombosi said yes. Mr. Carocci said and what do they say? Mr. Gombosi said nobody mentioned anything negative or just okay. He had one elderly across the street, he hasn't mentioned it to him. He's pretty sickly right now, but he's very friendly and he doesn't think he'd have an issue. The other neighbor across the street, he doesn't know and then he has another neighbor across the street and one next to him and they both know what he was interested in doing and they both kind of nodded their heads and that

was the end of it. Mr. Carocci said can you put that picture back up again, where the red line is? So that's your house. So, you said you talked to this neighbor right here to the left and they are fine? Mr. Gombosi said yes. Mr. Carocci said and then on the right, it looks like a neighbor or two right there. Mr. Gombosi said those people actually don't know; he was told that they were relatives of the original owner of all of that property. Mr. Carocci said okay. Well, he recommends letting them know. You are required to. They are going to get letters anyway about the ZHB. He always feels you can talk to your neighbor. His advice would be if you talk to your neighbor, you know, you can usually work something out. Mr. Gombosi said he did. Mr. Carocci said you get a letter from the Township and you're springing it on them and a lot of people don't read things that the Township sends them. Mr. Gombosi said there was a sign posted on his property for the neighbors to see. Mr. Carocci said okay, great.

Mr. Banonis said he just has a question. So, if you keep that picture up, the resulting Lot B it looks to him like it's going to be a very deep and narrow lot. Mr. Pany said 2:1, the width ratio would be 2:1. It's reasonable. Mr. Banonis said so it's R-40 so the width of the home that could be put on there would be 51' because it's 131? Mr. Pany said the home can be, they are proposing 136 minus 30 minus 30 so that home could be about 70' wide if it wanted to. Mr. Banonis said okay, that's a decent size. Then access to the property would be off of Springtown Hill Road, there would be a driveway installed? Mr. Pany said and they would propose public water. The area is served by public water. The existing house is served by public water so if this proposed lot is approved, they would serve that by public water. Mr. Banonis said he knows this isn't really pertinent, but just for his own edification, are there any issues with site lines? He knows Springtown Hill Road is a bit windy, and from what he sees here, it appears to be straight. He knows Mr. Gombosi's house has a driveway that's located here, he assumes there's adequate site line there? Mr. Pany said there are plenty of site distance for a 35 MPH speed limit. Mr. Banonis said thank you, that's all he has. He'll make a motion.

Ms. Ray said she just noticed so there's maybe a strange, tan spot there, is that just the garden or something or is there some other kind of building? Mr. Gombosi said it was a garden at one time, I mowed it over. Ms. Ray said she didn't know if there was some sort of structure there that would be kind of in the middle of this lot line. You said it's public water, but it's not public sewer there, correct, so we wouldn't know whether you could perk. Mr. Pany said the subdivision process is the next step. This just gets us to the ZHB. Once they would approve the variance, they would take the next step and see you again.

Ms. Ray said Victoria, do you have any questions? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said can you just reiterate again what is, and maybe our, we can get help from Mr. Kocher on this, what is the requirement for this area and what are you requesting the variance for again?

Mr. Pany said the minimum lot area is 40,000 sq. ft. and the minimum frontage is 150'. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay, then what are you requesting the change to be? Mr. Pany said Lot 1 would be 3,000 sq. ft. Lot 2, 43 and Lot 1 has plenty of frontage because it's a corner. Lot 2 would only have about 136' of frontage. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so the second resulting lot would not meet our zoning regulations and that's your variance request. Attorney Dougherty said that's what the variance is for, for width only. It meets area but it doesn't meet width. The existing property meets the width because they had a double frontage with the ROW with the road, but it doesn't meet the area. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so then by having this particular variance they would have two resulting lots that are non-conforming, is that right? One would be non-conforming for width and the other would be for square footage? Mr. Gombosi said yes, just like the next-door neighbors have. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said right now the lot is conforming as it sits with just your house? Mr. Gombosi said yes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay. So, she will say she does have a concern with creating two non-conforming lots. She says that not because she has any particular interest in your specific lot in your neighborhood, but she has to think about the entire Township and our zoning regulations and our zoning regulations have specific criteria that everybody has to comply with when they do development and so, from her concern, if we take a position on this, or we take no position on this, let her rephrase that. If we take a position to support you on this, it would be creating a precedent in our Township that would allow other people to

also feel like they could just come and change the dimensions of their lot to develop and she doesn't want to create a situation where the Township would be placed in to be dealing with a situation where we have houses that aren't conforming or lots that aren't conforming and she personally does have a concern with the perkability of this lot for your septic. We have certain areas in the Township where homes were built on very small lots or smaller lots and they have a septic system and the septic system has its life and then we have a situation where there's no other place for those people to put a septic system to replace the one that failed or that reached its life span and then there's a question of public sewer so that is the other concern that she has in this situation that we are going from a lot that is conforming to creating then two additional, two lots that would both be non-conforming. She can appreciate mowing lawns. She grew up on 2-1/2 acres and from the time she was 11 years old she was mowing lawns. She was mowing her parent's lawn and doing all that kind of stuff. She's not sure that would necessarily create a hardship for you to currently live in the home and that's her understanding when we have a variance, we have to have a hardship that couples it and if the hardship is that it is difficult to mow, she guesses approximately an acre, two acres, she's not so sure we have the criteria legally on a legal standpoint of whether that's a hardship.

Attorney Dougherty said the dimensional variance is different than a use variance and the lessen is lessen so therefore, that's the purpose of the ZHB so they make a presentation to the ZHB, the board then makes a decision then they move forward to the next step. So if it doesn't perk, then it isn't going to happen. So you have to act on it once the variance if it's granted, then you move to the next step but if it doesn't perk, then you have a problem and it's not going to go anywhere then you lose the variance and it goes away. So the point is you have to go through the step process but you keep talk about non-conforming lot. The one issue is, all it is, is area and this one becomes width, so it's not a non-conforming lot that all of a sudden, they are going to shove this big huge mansion on this small lot and now it's non-conforming. The point is all you are doing is looking at a simple dimensional issue here and a simple dimensional issue there. That's it, so it's not a big issue. Therefore, they look at the property next door, they look at these properties across the street. Their widths aren't here either. So, there's nothing Mr. Gombosi is going to be able to do and spread this out throughout the Township, but the ZHB listens to it on a fact case-by-case basis and they are going to make a presentation and the ZHB is going to make a decision.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said and you have every right to...Mr. Carocci said excuse him, she has trouble with logical thinking. She has trouble with logical thinking. He recognizes Jason. Ms. Ray said Tom, please stop. Mr. Banonis said what this Council will do in a situation like this is take no position on something like this. They can either support it, be against it or take no position. His motion that he was going to make before he was interrupted by Ms. Ray was he is going to make a motion as follows:

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to take no position on this application and all that does is it allows you to go to the ZHB and allows the independent ZHB to make their decision in consultation with their qualified solicitor as to whether or not this relief should be granted to you and that's his motion.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. Ray said okay, Priscilla do you have any comment? *(Ms. deLeon's comment was inaudible)* Mr. Carocci said get that cell tower, next door. Ms. Ray said yes, that cut out at the end. Mrs. Gorman said you cut out at the end, Priscilla. Mr. Carocci said be glad it wasn't an emergency call to the fire department. *(Ms. deLeon's comment was inaudible)* Ms. Ray said she should call a phone instead of whatever...Mr. Banonis said he thinks she did call from a phone that doesn't work. Ms. Ray said call a phone instead of whatever...Mrs. Gorman said can you repeat that again? Mr. Banonis said can you just get off this meeting as she is wasting everybody's time. He knows she wants to get her check from the Township, that's really important, but he means, come on. *(Ms. deLeon's comment was inaudible)* Mrs. Gorman said please repeat. Mr. Banonis said can we move along because obviously she's not responsive, it's like she's not here. Are we going to wait until she can find like a cell phone that works or a tower? Mr. Carocci said go near a tower, drive near a tower, it will work. Ms. deLeon said can you hear her? Mr. Banonis said no. Mrs. Gorman said they cannot hear her. *(Ms. deLeon's comment was inaudible)* Mr. Banonis said he made a motion and there was a second. Can we have a vote? You are

wasting this guy's time, he got two consultants, he's got an attorney and an engineer. Mr. Carocci said you are paying them by the hour and they are waiting your time. Ms. Ray said is there any public that wishes to speak on this matter? We don't want to skip them.

Mr. Kocher said may he make just one comment. Ms. Ray said let's have Brien go first. Mr. Kocher said he just wanted to, he knows this is more of a subdivision issue, but while you are here, just to save you some time. If you do get through the ZHB, and you submit the subdivision, obviously you are going to have to do sewage testing on Lot 2 but you got to do alternate testing on Lot 1 as well and a lot of these like this they get and there's no testing on the existing home and you waste a month because you have to go back and do the testing so he's just pointing that out now so that you do that alternate testing on Lot 1. Mr. Gombosi said you are saying if we do a perk test on proposed Lot 2, he should at the same time do it on his existing lot. Mr. Kocher said you'll have to identify two acceptable sites on Lot 2 and one alternate on Lot 1.

Mr. Dave Boulin said are sand mounds not allowed in this area? Just in passing? Mr. Kocher said they are. They require more lot area than the minimum lot size so if your sewage testing comes back for only sand mounds, you've got to have two acres so that can govern the lot size as well, but obviously that's just a feature of the subdivision so you are not going to get that lot if you can't show that, but you should look at the sewage ordinance for these types of things. Mr. Boulin said good, that clarifies that. Yea, you have one conforming and one non-conforming, you'll have, when you join them together. Unfortunately, he was on a Planning Board in another state when you joined them together it was the aggregate sum that determined not only the square footage but also the requirements for the facing areas, so anyhow he doesn't see that here. It seems to him that you are not creating a worse condition for this applicant. He would say in terms of holding up the meeting because we can't get an answer from some member, that really should be worked out beforehand. It's not fair to hold the entire public up to clock time just because somebody can't make the proper connections. The other thing is he'd like to point out yet again and it would be really nice if we had a pointer so the applicant could show on the screen his area and he would suggest it be put right on the table there for them to use to point out things that are essential for the public to know.

Kathy Pichel-McGovern said Victoria, she just wants to recognize her comments and she appreciates them as being a member of the community. You're right, you'd have to make variances for any person that came up to the podium, so she appreciates her support.

Mr. Banonis said Laura are you going to run the meeting or are you just going to sit there? Ms. Ray said anybody else? No other comments, so we will have the roll call. Ms. deLeon said will you repeat the motion? Mrs. Gorman said the variance relief is that Council will take no position. Ms. deLeon said no. Mr. Carocci said yes. Ms. Ray said she a little conflicted on this one. She is going to say....she doesn't know. She doesn't really like the idea of creating non-conforming lots either, so she'll say no. Mr. Carocci said it would be up to the ZHB. Ms. Ray said she doesn't think we would send anybody, she just would...Mr. Carocci said then if we don't send anybody, then ...Mr. Banonis said it's no position. Mr. Carocci said that's a yes vote. Ms. Ray said no, we could take a...Mr. Goudsouzian said let's stick with what's in front of us. Right now, the vote is no, we are still voting, correct, we are still not done. Mr. Banonis said yes, to take no position. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said no, as she indicated, she is not comfortable with creating two non-conforming lots and she would make an alternate motion that we just send a letter to the ZHB indicating that the Township Council, but not be in favor of creating two non-conforming lots. That's her motion. Mr. Banonis said we already have a motion that's pending. Ms. Ray said then she will second that. Mr. Goudsouzian said hold on, just to be clear....Mrs. Gorman said the first motion made by Mr. Banonis failed, 2-3. Mr. Banonis apologized and said he misunderstood, thank you.

ROLL CALL: 2-3 – Motion fails (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Ray, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro – No)

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved that we send a letter to the ZHB indicating that the Township Council be not in favor of creating two non-conforming lots.

Mrs. Gorman said a new motion was to send a letter to the ZHB to express Council's not being in favor of the applicant's request. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said it's specifically not to be in favor of creating non-conforming lots. That's her motion. Mr. Carocci said if we had a solicitor involved that knew what he was doing, it has to relate to this particular lot. Mr. Banonis said you can't create a policy for this. It's an application that was before us for two specific provisions of the zoning ordinance. Mr. Goudsouzian said he thinks what she's saying, correct him if he's wrong. Mr. Banonis said don't put words in her mouth. She can speak for herself Steve. Mr. Goudsouzian said you are arguing and characterizing what she said. He's trying to get clarification as to what she said. Mr. Banonis said he knows exactly what she said, he has two ears. He can hear her and a mind. Mr. Carocci said she wants the Township to have a policy of not...Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said, respectfully, you always mischaracterize what she says Mr. Banonis, so I appreciate..... Mr. Banonis said no he doesn't, he knows when she defames him, her husband gives him a double face and curses him up and down and he knows it very clearly, he's not stupid. Mr. Goudsouzian said why don't we do this. Can she ask her to clarify or restate the motion so we're on the same page. Ms. Ray said stay on topic please. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said her motion is to have the solicitor send a letter on behalf of Council indicating that they are not in favor, the Council is not in favor of creating two non-conforming lots in this situation. Mr. Carocci said in this situation, you had to add that. Thank you. Mr. Banonis said, you're welcome.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved that we send a letter to the ZHB indicating that the Township Council be not in favor of creating two non-conforming lots, in this situation.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. Ray said any comments? Mr. Banonis said his comments are he thinks it's ridiculous for this Council to take a position. We have an independent ZHB that was appointed by Council that is perfectly capable and tasked swath making these decisions and instead what this Council is trying to do is to put their finger on the scale to unduly burden this gentleman so that he can't get relief that he's seeking. It's perfectly reasonable but we are not taking any position in supporting it. We are letting the ZHB do what it's independently supposed to be doing and instead this Council is trying to tell the ZHB and influence the ZHB in that independent determination. He thinks that's wrong. Mr. Carocci said they also speak out of both sides of their mouth. They say we don't need to expand the landfill because we can have other economic development in the Township you know, and here this would put another tax property with a house on it so it would be more valuable. It would be assessed higher because there would be the building assessment and the lot assessment. Right now, there's just a lot assessment. So, it would be additional school taxes, additional Township taxes, additional county taxes to whoever owns that property, right? So, a little economic development. Very little one hours but still, something, right, but no, they say we don't need the landfill and that money which is 35% of our Township budget that keeps our taxes as low as they are because we can have other economic development. Here's a chance for one, a simple one, a simple one. You're not talking about rezoning 20, 30, 40 acres. You aren't talking about any of that. It's a simple thing and they can't even do that. They speak out of both sides of their mouths, they're frauds.

Mr. Banonis said he would add there's the potential for EIT if you were to use a local developer, a builder who lives in the Township. He's going to generate income off of that and pay taxes on it. Mr. Carocci said that lives there. Mr. Banonis said maybe he and his workers go to like a local business and they buy lunch at a local business which provides revenue there, but they don't see any of this. There's no second, third order effects of any of this. Money grows on trees. A fairy is going to carry out trash away, it's great. Mr. Carocci said yes please do, yes please do. He recognizes him.

Mr. Gombosi asked if he can speak. He said he's sorry, he believes Ma'am that you're mistaken. You said that by making it a non-conforming use or two non-conforming properties, that there might not be enough area for the septic. Okay, understanding that there is already enough on what he calls on his property which would be the first one. We know that. The second one is larger than what the minimum space is required. It's 43,000 sq. ft. verses the 40,000 that's required. There's more than enough area

and the only non-conforming issue would be that it would be 14' narrower on the street. So, it's not an issue of the septic safety or anything like that. This is really just a matter of the lot being narrower.

Mr. Carocci said like he said, she has problem with logic, logical things. Mr. Banonis said the attorney has talked about the hierarchy and dimensional variances here, so...Ms. Ray said okay, we will do roll call. Mr. Banonis said so you have to litigate this...Mr. Carocci said the only thing he can say is...Mr. Banonis said he's sorry you live in a Township that is run by fools. Mr. Carocci said he thinks he will get a fairer shake from the ZHB. The ZHB is independent and he thinks there are some good people on there, mostly the people that we appointed, over the past couple of years. He thinks you'll get a fairer hearing there than what you are getting here. Mr. Banonis said get it done now. They'll clear house and get rid of all those people on ZHB...Mr. Carocci said do it this year because they will replace them. Mr. Banonis said so nothing will get done. Mr. Carocci said this year because they will replace them. Ms. Ray said can we have a roll call. Mr. Carocci said with even less logical skill than Ms. Opthof. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said this thinks we have to allow the public to comment on this particular motion. Did we do that? Ms. Ray said we can. She tried before. Mr. Carocci said yes, he recognizes Ms. Slavick. Ms. Ray said no you don't.

Ann Marie Slavick said LST. She'd like to say that it's funny because she's pretty sure that certain people on this Council are trying to skirt around a rule about the interim solicitor. Is that correct? Mr. Carocci said yes. Ms. Slavick said he can't divulge his information about his business, is she correct? Mr. Carocci said yes, he won't tell us...Ms. Slavick said skirting around the rules and the laws for the Council members is okay but we can't let this gentleman go to a zoning board? Mr. Carocci said right. Ms. Slavick said are you on the zoning board? Do you know anything about building houses or building septic tanks? Let him go to the zoning board. This is what you get everybody. She knows you are all on the side of them, the liberals, but this is what you get when you vote for liberals. Ms. Ray said you have to address the Council. Ms. Slavick said this is what you get when you vote for liberals. If you ever want to do...Mr. Banonis said why don't you be quiet and let her finish speaking. Ms. Slavick said if you ever want to do anything, this is a precedent. If you ever want to do anything on your property in LST, this is the kind of fight you are going to get. Remember that, remember that. Let him go to the zoning board. It's not going to hurt you to let him go to the zoning board. Ms. Ray said they are going to the zoning board. Mr. Carocci said he can go but they are making a recommendation against it. He knows Ms. Ray doesn't use that gavel when Ms. Slavick is getting interrupted in her conversation but God forbid, God forbid someone else gets up there...Mr. Goudsouzian we had public comment, let's do the roll call. Ms. deLeon said what's the motion?

Mr. Carocci said and you are paying your attorney and you are paying your engineer to be here and she was at.....Ms. Ray said can you stop talking so she can talk? Mr. Carocci said she was at a Township paid taxpayer fund trip to Hershey for the past three days and stayed at the Hershey Hotel, or the Lodge and she wouldn't show up for a Council meeting for you, Sir, and you have to pay your attorney by the hour and your engineer by the hour and she won't show up and vote. Mr. Banonis said and she's getting paid. Mr. Carocci said she's getting paid. Mr. Banonis said with your tax dollars. Mr. Carocci said she called in so she would get paid for this meeting.

Mrs. Gorman called the roll. Mr. Banonis said can't miss a payment, get the government check.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 – (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – No) - Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she again incorporates what she said before. Her concern is that we would create two non-conforming lots and that her issues isn't with your specific interest it's about our zoning regulations and if they have regulations for one property, they apply to everybody. Attorney Dougherty said did you look at the zoning regulations? Mr. Banonis said probably no. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said if you complied with the zoning regulations, you would not be asking for a variance and respectfully she's just providing her comment. Her concern is that we have a situation of creating two non-conforming lots (*several people were speaking at one time.*) so that being said she would like to continue speaking without being interrupted. Mr. Banonis said why don't you cast your vote and stop talking. Mr. Carocci said you always talk over him. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she would like to finish. Mr. Carocci said

anyway you will be able to appeal to zoning and you say she didn't weigh on this particular property. She's voting as a policy on all properties. She's refusing to look at that which is what she was asked to do and what the ZHB will do, but if you lose at the ZHB, he thinks her comments are grounds for appeal. He would ask the attorney who has more expertise in it than he does, because she's not weighing an individual property. She's just saying she's against this as a policy not looking at the individual property and you paid all this money to have an attorney and engineer here for this specific property and she won't even give you a hearing on your property. She's saying she's against it no matter what. You didn't even have to come in here Sir. She's against it no matter what. That's the logic you are dealing with. (*Several people were speaking at one time.*) Mr. Banonis said they don't listen to the public but maybe the ZHB will listen to the public. Mr. Goudsouzian said it's Ms. Opthof-Cordaro who has the floor...Mr. Banonis said because right now there's nobody in the public that spoke out against this at all. Mr. Carocci said Susie is running the meeting now, not Laura. Mr. Goudsouzian said Victoria, are you done? Mr. Banonis said who is running the meeting? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said because she was interrupted, she will finish her statement that she's not in favor of creating these particular...Mr. Banonis said you said that six times, move on. Mrs. Gorman said motion passes.

Ms. Ray said and you will go to the ZHB. That was...Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so the public is aware he will go before the ZHB and they make their decision and that's what stands before them moving forward, so they do not have a say...Mr. Carocci said now she's an expert, now she's an expert.

B. 2023 FIRE FUNDING AUDIT – RELEASE OF ANNUAL FUNDING

Ms. Ray said they saw the report earlier. This is the consideration of the Township's Annual Donation to Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue (LSFR) for 2024 which is \$225,000.00. We also do a Township Annual Donation to Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue Recruitment and Retention Program for 2024 is \$10,000.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve the annual donation to LSFR for \$225,000.00 with the additional \$10,000.00 for recruitment and retention.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci said roll call. Ms. Ray said do we have discussion? You do not call roll call. Mr. Carocci said roll call. Ms. Ray said do we have discussion at all. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she just wants to say if she can, she appreciates the fire company. Mr. Banonis said we all do. She appreciates everything they did. She thinks this...Mr. Banonis said she already told them that you appreciate them. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks that the retention and recruitment...Mr. Carocci said roll call please. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said what they do...Mr. Carocci said roll call please. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said and the extended needs that they have. Mr. Carocci said roll call please. Ms. Ray said Tom will you stop talking. It is not roll call. It is now open to the public if all the Council has spoken. Mr. Banonis no one for the public has stood up to speak. Ms. Ray said okay, we didn't even ask that. Mr. Banonis said you just said it's open to the public. Ms. Ray said she said nobody from the public was asked to come up yet, we didn't even finish if Council had comments. Mr. Carocci said roll call. Ms. Ray said we did not and it is not roll call and you are not calling roll call. Priscilla, do you have any comments to make?

Ms. deLeon said no, but she'd like to ditto what she said before on the other agenda item. They are much appreciated. Ms. Ray said okay, thanks. Mr. Banonis said you can thank Priscilla for getting closer to the cell phone tower so her connection is better, that's fantastic. It only took two hours. Mr. Carocci said that's the least she can do for Township residents. Attorneys and engineers to be here...Ms. Hollowell said she just wants to make a clarification for members of the audience. Resolution #31-2024, No. 13 says, members of the audience may not address other members of the audience or argue...Mr. Banonis said you are not on topic. Ms. Hollowell said it doesn't matter when he talks, it's never on topic or yell back and forth at each other. Mr. Banonis said are we talking fire funding about paying the fire company? He didn't hear fire service. He didn't hear fire once in her words. Ms. Ray said okay, let's do a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

C. AUTHORIZE PAYMENT #4 TO CH&N CONSTRUCTION FOR EASTON ROAD BALLFIELD PROJECT

Ms. Ray said the Township has received the fourth payment request from CH&N Site Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield Project. This payment request has been reviewed by Hanover Engineering Associates, and they are recommending payment in the amount of \$380,723.68.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for approval to pay Payment No. 4 to CH&N for the Easton Road ballfield project in the amount of \$380,723.68.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci said roll call. Ms. Ray said that's not how you do it. Do we have Council discussion? We'll say Jason and Tom are no, do you have anything Victoria. She said she just has a question or maybe she's not sure who has the question, she's going to ask it. There are some change orders in the request for this particular payment. What is the total increase in the change orders? Mrs. Gorman said \$80,867.83.

Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said so just to be clear that the payment request is not only the additional amount that was budgeted by the Township but also includes an additional \$80,000.00 to do some site issues. She understands from water, so she doesn't know if Mr. Kocher could explain what happened there with the \$80,000.00 increase.

Mr. Kocher said what he'll detail so Council understands. The actual change order amounts, what you would conventionally consider a change order is about \$65,000.00. The way the contract works is if the Township actually pays for any on-site testing that's done because we don't know ahead of time how much testing and how many times of testing is going to be done so that amount is still about \$16,000.00. Then we did not encounter any rock on the site, so we had rock contingencies in the contract price in the amount of \$20,000.00, so the change orders are \$65,000.00. If we take the rock out of that, the change orders are really about \$45,000.00. Now the vast majority of those change orders are related to the very wet weather we had over the winter and getting suitable material as structural backfill behind the retaining walls, mostly among the three, excuse him, Route 78 side. So that really is the bulk of the change orders. Mr. Banonis said thank you Brien.

Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said so she just wants to for her understanding, there is \$16,000.00 in Township cost that we would always have because of our responsibility and obligation to do the testing. Mr. Kocher said yes. Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said so that's something we hadn't previously accounted for, she's understanding...Mr. Kocher said that's not in the contract price because that was not...the contractor had to schedule the testing but the Township had to pay for it because it's not an item that he was able to bid because you don't know that. Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said right. So, the Township has its own cost on top of what we pay the contractor. She just wants to, that's the \$16,000.00 and then you said we saved some money with not having rock encounter, not encountering any rock but then ultimately there were the additional cost because of the wet area. Mr. Kocher said yes. Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said \$44,000.00 did you say that was? Mr. Kocher said \$45,000 and change. Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said so just she understands from the solicitor's perspective, we, in this scenario when there are change orders, do we have any opportunity to ask that the contractor come before us before they do the work on the change order or is it customary that we get the bill after they do the work.

Mr. Goudsouzian said you can ask the contractor to come before you but from a legal standpoint, from a practical standpoint, you are often dealt with change orders on the field meaning at the site, which require a fast decision which require, he thinks traditionally in LST, it's been reviewed by the engineer and if it's an appropriate staff or the engineer with consultation with solicitor, they will move forward with the change orders because you can't wait two weeks to make a decision on site. Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro said in this scenario, these particular change orders the site conditions and the necessity to move

forward were the result of why we have this here now, right? Mr. Kocher said yes and we do have an engineer on site. He doesn't want to say all 8 hours of the work day because if they are just unloading pipe, they are not watching that, but during all aspects of the construction, the engineer is there and the discussion takes place between our engineer and the contractor to whether a change order is warranted and then he reviews that with the Manager. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said okay, thank you very much. She just wanted to provide the public that information that there is some increase in cost but as you can see we can't predict that ahead of time that the cost is going up.

Ms. Ray said she had a quick question then too. Would we say are we past all the water problems now, the wet soil stuff? Mr. Kocher said the bulk of the earth work is done and the retaining walls are done so most of these change orders occurred during the construction of the retaining wall. He can't guarantee there isn't going to be another change order but these types of change orders hopefully now should be done. They did have to put in an under drain to hopefully correct this and protect the retaining walls which we will see on a future bill but that really had to be done. Ms. Ray said alright, Priscilla did you have any comment? Ms. deLeon said nope, she's good, thank you.

Kathy Pichel-McGovern said she listened to Jason's temper tantrum two weeks ago about the tot lot. Mr. Banonis said are you going to gavel her for attacking him, his character and the way he conducts himself? Are you going to control this meeting? Ms. Pichel-McGovern said you called her Lynn Hill and Andrea Wittchen a jack-ass. You said "where are all the jackasses, Kathy Pichel-McGovern, Lynn Hill, Andrea Wittchen" because he was upset about the tot lot, so as a member of, being a resident, she doesn't appreciate that and second of all...Mr. Banonis said he doesn't appreciate her telling him that he's related to two members on Council having no basis for it. If you are going to...Ms. Pichel-McGovern said that's fine. Mr. Banonis said do you only talk out of your ass when you come to a Council meeting or do you do it all the time? Ms. Pichel-McGovern said there you go. That was classic. Mr. Banonis said he knows because she is too. You're a classy lady so he talks to her the way she treats him. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said so what she really was offended about besides that, was the fact that you failed to mention that you devalued everyone's home on that street first. You changed the zoning. You devalued their homes and then you decided to put a ball park there, and that is not something that anybody should appreciate. Mr. Banonis said what is your basis for devaluating...you were not here at meetings when people came in and they were thrilled that their properties were rezoned and they were thrilled that they were rezoned because they are getting out from the boot of oppression of having warehouses across the street and an interstate highway in their back yard so you are saying their properties are devalued but yet...Ms. Pichel-McGovern said she was standing there as well...Mr. Banonis said they've been offered values of 20, 30, 40% greater than the...Ms. Pichel-McGovern said...Mr. Banonis said you don't know what you are talking about. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said not to do it. She was here. Mr. Carocci said January 1st...Mr. Goudsouzian said let her talk. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said thank you. Mr. Carocci said he doesn't. In January, Ms. Ray proposed that we zone Easton Road back and she hasn't brought it up since because of the public outcry. Ms. Ray said in early January, he thinks one of the first meetings in January...Ms. Ray said it's not his turn to talk...Mr. Carocci said that she wanted to rezone Easton Road back, back - and she that hasn't been brought on a Council agenda and...Mr. Banonis said she's telling him he's devalued those properties...Mr. Carocci said all those people came in and...Ms. Pichel-McGovern said actually you...Mr. Carocci said and their home values went up...Mr. Banonis said to his point about talking out of your ass, okay, to his point. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said twice. Mr. Banonis said twice, he'll say it three times, you are here talking out of your ass. You did it about when she said he was related to other people on Council which is insane. It's insane to suggest that. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said the about the code of conduct that we have...Mr. Banonis said to suggest this. There is no credibility, why do you waste your time? Ms. Pichel-McGovern said value their homes...Ms. Ray said okay, everyone...Ms. Pichel-McGovern said one person here...Mr. Carocci said Priscilla is related to Ozimek, we know that. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks we should just start with five and let Ms. Pichel-McGovern speak without interruption...Mr. Banonis said get it off your chest and give her five minutes. He won't listen. Say whatever you want, it's garbage, whatever. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said she can't hear him, she apologizes. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she just thinks Ms. Pichel-McGovern should finish her comment without being interrupted. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said her comment is over, thank you, she appreciates it. Thank you.

Ms. Diane Hollowell said her comment is just about the ballfield. She went to the Parks and Rec meeting and she was very impressed with what went on there, but she did find out the ballpark, they did 300 loads of soil there and then they have to lay the grass down. How are we watering that? Like are there underground...Mr. Kocher said it's the contractor's responsibility to water it and they've already made arrangements with the City of Bethlehem for the fire hydrant across the street. Ms. Hollowell said like how often is that going to be watered? Mr. Kocher said that's going to depend on the weather. Ms. Hollowell said it's an extra cost that's going to be added on or is that in the...Mr. Kocher said it is in the contract that it is the contractor's responsibility. Ms. Ray said anybody else, alright seeing none, we'll do a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said regrettably yes because of the increased cost but understanding the legal obligation to vote yes)

D. RESOLUTION #42-2024 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CAPITAL

Ms. Ray said Resolution #42-2024 has been prepared transfer of funds to Capital and following review of the Council video and staff notes, it was discovered an initial motion was not made at the April 3, 2024 meeting. We do require a resolution to be discussed and approved by Council. This was to move the funds from the General Savings Fund over to the Park Capital Fund for the ball park project.

Mr. Carocci said so we have to do this again, again because...Ms. Ray aid well it wasn't done before because there's always so many disruptions by...Mr. Carocci said it's always...Mr. Banonis said not the competent people that run the meetings. Not the solicitor who is supposed to be paying attention and making sure we are legally compliant, it's certainly not him, dear God.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved to transfer the funds from the General Fund to the Park Capital Fund in the amount of \$2,008,646.48.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Carocci said he still doesn't understand why we couldn't have done this at the last meeting and why it wasn't done at the last meeting. We have a the solicitor who is asleep at the wheel. He thinks he is double billing us down there, but he'll leave that for someone else to talk to, he's always on his laptop and charging us \$180.00...Ms. Ray said is this your comment regarding this motion? Mr. Carocci said yes, yes, why it wasn't last time. Alright, that's it.

Mr. Banonis said he'd like to be heard. Mr. Carocci said he recognizes Jason. Mr. Banonis said thank you Tom. He's looking at Mr. Goudsouzian's resume and he doesn't see anything on here where he touted having any credentials and missing items like this that should have been brought to our attention and addressed to promptly. He thinks it's unfortunate. We talked about his conflicts he has with Hellertown. We talked about the knowingly inaccurate budget that was published and approved while he was our interim solicitor. We talked about the illegal budget. We talked about the secret executive committee topics...Ms. Ray said none of this is on the topic...Mr. Banonis said that fall within the purview of the Sunshine Act. Those meetings that took place back there where you tried to talk about non-personnel and non-litigation matters. You know, he refused to ID, identify who he was negotiating with in Hellertown and he was trying to negotiate a settlement using taxpayer money, and he missed this motion to transfer funds...Ms. Ray said okay, we are on transfer of funds to Capital...Mr. Banonis said what's he doing? What's he doing, you appointed him. You appointed him as the interim solicitor. He'd like an answer as to why, he thinks the public deserves an answer as to why, we are now talking about this again. Township staff had to identify this. Township staff had to take time and energy to put this together. Why wasn't this dealt with in the manner that it should have? He tries to run the meetings. Why didn't he do it? He's not going to get an answer. He knows he's not going to get an answer. Ms. Ray said it's your disruptive behavior. Mr. Banonis said it's not disruptive. It's a legitimate question as to why this wasn't done. It's not disruptive behavior. It's a question, why...Ms. Ray said do we have any public comment? Mr. Banonis said why isn't he doing his job? Why isn't the public...Ms. Ray said do we have any public comment? Mr. Banonis said why can't the Council President who can't

even get to a meeting who would rather be somewhere else...Mr. Ray said okay, well we have had other cations here...Mr. Banonis said why can't she pay attention to these things and make sure they are handled promptly? He'd like to know that. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she is ready for roll call. Mr. Banonis said Cathy were there any ramifications from not transferring this money? Obviously, funding had to be delayed, right? Mr. Carocci said that's a legitimate question. Mr. Banonis said that's a legitimate question, right? Mrs. Gorman said not at this time. Mr. Banonis said well we dodged that bullet, let's hope we don't have to do it again. Mr. Carocci said we let Mr. Goudsouzian double bill us. He's doing his work there on his laptop at the same time charging the Township \$180.00 to attend these meetings and then we don't even take a vote on a motion. Mr. Banonis said he guesses we are getting billed at half rate probably Tom, right. He's sure the taxpayers only pay half the rate. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said are we ready for roll call? Ms. Ray said do we have any public comment on this resolution? Okay, seeing none, then we'll do roll call. Mr. Carocci said he sees one right there. You are always trying to shut him down.

Mr. Boulin said he's really surprised here. Look, you got a great staff here, not to have these things appropriately and timely on the agenda he complained about previously, okay. Your staff is super. You just got to give them a little time. Again, the arguments that he's hearing from certain people here are ones that really relate to the fact that they have not studied the material. You don't believe this Ms. Ray, would you like him to question her about some of those things? Ms. Ray said she studies the material very much. Mr. Boulin said you people just don't understand things and when they come in front of you with their attorneys, even the attorney here made comments about it. That's really embarrassing. The bottom line is back to the topic here and that is not paying attention to what's really going on. It's absolutely akin and right on target with you people, certain of you people, not reading what's in front of you and understanding it and going to the other meetings and understanding what other boards do. It's quite apparent that wasn't happening here and now it's apparent that these things are not showing up on the agenda in a timely manner. You got to pay attention. You're in control now, unfortunately. So, he'd ask you to do that. Mr. Carocci said thank you Mr. Boulin. Ms. Ray said anybody else? Alright, seeing none, we'll do roll call.

ROLL CALL: 4-1 (Mr. Banonis – No)

E. ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER SALARY

Ms. Ray said Council will discuss additional compensation for our Acting Township Manager. Cathy has been assisting us with the Manager duties in addition to her Finance Director duties since Mark's resignation. We feel it's appropriate to pay her an additional amount to compensate her for her assistance in this matter. We thank her for all the help and all the work that she's doing. She would like to make a motion.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved to approve Cathy Gorman's prorated salary in the position of Acting Township Manager, which would be set at \$135,795.20. Mr. Banonis said he'll make a motion to put Cathy Gorman's prorated salary in the amount of...Mr. Goudsouzian said there's a motion on the floor. Ms. Ray said retroactive to the March 28th...she's still talking...retroactive to the March 28 and effective until a full time Manager as appointed.

Mr. Banonis said he'll make a motion to approve Cathy Gorman's prorated salary in the position of Acting Township Manager, which will be set at \$150,000.00 per year. Mr. Goudsouzian said there's a motion on the floor. Mr. Banonis said there's no second. Mr. Carocci said he'll second it Jason. Mr. Goudsouzian said there hasn't been an opportunity...Mr. Banonis said he's making a motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said it doesn't work that way. Mr. Banonis said he's making a motion. Mr. Carocci said he's seconding it, Jason. Mr. Goudsouzian said is there a second on the motion on the floor?

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Goudsouzian said okay, now we'll have discussion because we all know the rules and we all know how it's supposed to be done. Now we have discussion.

Mr. Banonis said he thinks you are gauging; he thinks this motion is designed to harm Cathy. Cathy's doing multiple jobs. She is the Assistant Township Manager. She is the Director of Finance. She has jumped into this role without hesitation. She certainly didn't request this role, and now she's acting as the Township Manager. So, she's serving multiple roles. The Township, residents, and taxpayers are getting benefit from her in this role, but yet this Council is attempting to underpay her for the service that she's providing. She's doing the role of three positions and they are intending to pay her for the role of one position. He thinks she's worth more than that. He thinks that this Township Council should recognize that she's worth more than that. Certainly, the residents of this Township recognize that she's worth more than that and appreciate her willingness and ability to jump in and keep this Township afloat despite all of the nonsense and incompetence of the majority of this Council. So he thinks it's appropriate to set her salary at \$150,000.00 a year prorated effective back to March 28th and until a new Township Manager, new permanent Township Manager is selected and he would hope this Council would consider her as a permanent Township Manager certainly in light of her competency and also to take into account her willingness to jump into this role to keep the Township afloat when it's totally rudderless because of the incompetence we have on this Council.

Mr. Carocci said he agrees. He thinks she should be paid more, \$150,000.00 is fine with him. She's doing a great job. She always has done a great job and you know, he would hope she is seriously considered for the permanent position as he thinks she deserves it and she's more than capable of handling it and also the best that we can do and he doesn't mean that as a slight, he means it as it's a challenging position. He doesn't think it's for anybody or even people with a lot of Township managerial experience under the current rudderlessness of the Council.

Ms. Ray said do you have any comment, Priscilla? Ms. deLeon said there's two motions, which...Mr. Goudsouzian said no. Ms. Ray said there's one motion on the floor. Mrs. Gorman said there's one motion on the floor at the moment. Ms. Ray said and that was ...Ms. deLeon said did somebody second your motion? Ms. Ray said Victoria did. Ms. deLeon said okay, she didn't hear that. Mr. Carocci said you need a cell phone tower. Ms. deLeon said then Jason in the middle of it, made a motion. Ms. Ray said well he tried to, you can't have two motions at the same time. Ms. deLeon said no, no. Mr. Carocci said she voted no. Ms. deLeon said no. Mr. Carocci said she voted no twice. Mr. Banonis said he heard no twice. Ms. Ray said we didn't do a roll call, ha, ha. Ms. deLeon said and there has to be public comment, so. Ms. Ray said we are doing our comments. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Priscilla do you know the motion on the floor is to approve the salary for acting manager at \$135,000 and change which she understands to be the salary of Mr. Hudson at the time he resigned, so that's the motion that's on the floor. Ms. Ray said we're not doing a roll call yet we are just doing comment. Ms. deLeon said she did hear that. Ms. Ray said yes okay. Ms. deLeon said thank you. Ms. Ray said do we have public comment? Mr. Carocci said roll call. Mr. Goudsouzian said we don't have public comment okay? Ms. Ray said she's asking for public comment. Tom wants a roll call. Mr. Carocci said yes.

Mr. Boulin said are you not the President, Vice President in charge of this? Ms. Ray said yes and she called for public comment. Mr. Boulin said thank you, can he speak? Ms. Ray said yes, that's why she...Mr. Boulin said yes, he would say very simply if you want her to leave, you give her \$135,000.00. If you want to stay you give her \$150,000.00. There's nobody that sits between the desperate two sides of the Council that's going to put up this long if it's going to be \$135,000.00. She demonstrated her competence again and again and again and he wishes some of these people on this board had done the same or will do the same going forward. So, yes, that's his comment as a member of the taxpaying public. Mr. Carocci said Mr. Hudson left for a job that pays \$160,000.00 in Hanover Township so you know, and they didn't have a solicitor here. He's got a solicitor in Hanover Township. When Linc left, he...Mr. Banonis said that's your speculation Tom? Mr. Carocci said no, no, he can confidently say that if Linc Treadwell was still our solicitor, Mr. Hudson would still be here. I can confidently say that. Ms. Ray said she doesn't agree. Is there anybody in the public that has to make a comment, would like to make a comment? If not, Cathy asked if she could make a comment.

Mrs. Gorman said she truly appreciates Council providing this or offering this, but she does have a small request. She would like to recognize Mrs. Werkheiser and Mrs. Schneider as they have done...she couldn't do this without them and they've taken on additional work load in many respects and if Council would be inclined to consider reducing the amount that you would be prorating her, so a certain amount could be given to Mrs. Werkheiser and Mrs. Schneider.

Mr. Banonis said he thinks she deserves every dollar of it and he thinks they do as well. He thinks we can make a separate motion. Mr. Carocci said he thinks it should be in addition. He'll make a motion that it's in an addition to...Mrs. Gorman said can we just do this one motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said one, there's a motion on the floor. Number two, we all should know that if we go to incur cost for the Township, you just can't vote on it now. We'd have to put it on the next agenda. Mrs. Gorman said she wouldn't want Council to approve anything more for her that would cost more for the Township. Mr. Banonis said Tom could make a motion because the motion is pending, Steve you just said that. Mr. Goudsouzian said you can make a motion to spend the money. Mr. Banonis said there's a motion that's pending to be voted on. He can't make a motion. You wouldn't allow him to make a motion when he tried to. *(Several people talking at one time.)* Mr. Goudsouzian said you are absolutely right, there are two reasons why he couldn't do it and he pointed out both of them, but anyway, he thinks what Cathy is saying, if he may. Cathy is suggesting that, correct him if he's wrong, you'd rather not have Council make a decision on this today, but look at both you as well as other people and bring this back again and consider it then, is that what you are saying? Mrs. Gorman said yes, if that's the way it needs to be. Mr. Carocci said he'd rather handle Cathy tonight and then put on the agenda the consideration of Stacy and Carol and compensating them at our next meeting. Why can't we just, he thinks \$135,700.00 is just fine. He thinks it should be more but he can go along with \$135,700.00 for Cathy and then to him, it's separate. He doesn't like lumping people together like that. He thinks we have to pay our Acting Township Manager what she's worth and then there can be additional. He understands everybody on the staff has picked it up. He thinks we should vote on the motion on the floor and then reconsider it at our next meeting these additional items.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said if she may be recognized. Ms. Ray said sure. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so if she's understanding this, Mrs. Gorman, she understands you would like us to reconsider compensation for you and for the other two of our staff who are very appreciated for what they do and without having that information ahead of time, she thinks now that you've said that, she definitely feels she needs to reconsider and she would like to actually consult with you to figure out what would be the most appropriate way for us to compensate the other staff members that have been going above and beyond, so she don't think it would be appropriate to vote on the motion as was stated in light of Mrs. Gorman's comment and what she has requested which was that her salary not be considered without the other two and how that would factor into our budget. So, she thinks she would she would rescind her second.

Mr. Goudsouzian said so the idea would be if that's what Council wants to do, let him walk this through, we then withdraw the existing motion and essentially we table the motion until the next time we meet and then separately we can put on the agenda the salary issues with regard to the other individuals. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she would be comfortable with that. Mr. Goudsouzian said so are we clear that you are withdrawing the motion. Ms. Ray said do you have comment Pricilla? Ms. deLeon said no, she's good with it. Ms. Ray said okay, she'll rescind her motion or table her motion whichever it needs to be. Then we consider it at the next meeting as an overall view for the staff. Mr. Goudsouzian said and the second has been rescinded. Ms. Ray said yes.

Mr. Banonis said he'll make a motion:

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to pay Cathy Gorman \$150,000.00 prorated back to March 28, 2024, until the time that a permanent Township Manager is hired and begins working for the Township.
SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Banonis said thank you Tom. Ms. Ray said do we have comment up here? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she'll just incorporate what she just said...Ms. deLeon said she has no comment. Ms. Ray said

okay, go ahead...Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she incorporates what she had said prior. She thinks this is inappropriate at this time in light of Mrs. Gorman's request. Mr. Carocci said he thought Priscilla was going...Ms. Ray said Priscilla said something. Mr. Carocci said Priscilla said he had a comment. Mr. Goudsouzian said Priscilla said she had no comments. Ms. deLeon said she said she had no comment on this. She's comfortable what we did before. Ms. Ray said can we have public comment on this motion? Okay, seeing none, we'll do a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Ray, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro - No) – Motion fails. Mr. Banonis said he's sorry Cathy that they don't value you as much as you should be valued and it has nothing to do with Carol or with Stacy. He's going to make a motion:

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved that on the next Council agenda that we include an item to also look at their compensation in light of the additional duties that they have taken on in their respective roles to help keep this Township running and their assistance that they provide to the Acting Township Manager, Cathy Gorman.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we already...Mr. Carocci said he seconded it. He said well, who knows if you will put it on the agenda or not. Ms. Ray said that was the idea of what they were going to do anyway. She doesn't know if we needed a motion to put it on the agenda. Mr. Banonis said he made a motion, call the roll. Mr. Carocci said it should definitely be on, if you don't have a motion, it cannot get on. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said yes it can. Mr. Carocci said it might be an oversight like...Mr. Banonis said he made a motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said he understands that. He's not...Mr. Carocci said we have to vote on that motion. Mr. Goudsouzian said what he's saying is that you don't need a motion to put something on the agenda; however, if there is a motion to put something on the agenda, then there's a motion and a second and you can vote on it and we can put it on the agenda that way also. There's also obviously an informal way we that we put things on agendas, but...Mr. Carocci said somehow they don't get on to agendas like the Easton Road re-re-zoning that they wanted to do, remember that one? Mr. Banonis said he does. Ms. Ray said do we have any public comment on this, seeing none, do we want to do a roll call?

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Ray, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro - No) - Ms. Ray said she will say no, but we are having it anyway. We were discussing it. We just don't need motions to put things on agendas. Mrs. Gorman said motion fails 2-3.

F. RESOLUTION #43-2024 – APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP LABOR ATTORNEY

Ms. deLeon said Resolution #43-2024 has been prepared appointing Hoffman and Hlavac the Township Labor Attorney at the hourly rate of \$225.00.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to retain Michael Miller's firm as the Township Labor Attorney.

Mr. Banonis said he's not aware of him ever having been terminated. He provided competent labor attorney services to the Township for a number of years. He negotiated a number of contracts very favorably to the Township residents and taxpayers and he's not sure where this is coming from to appoint a different firm as the Township Labor Attorney.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci said we had a competent labor attorney prior to this. They are just trying to penalize him because he guesses he worked on the library thing too. He's actually the labor attorney that the County has used for years and has done a good job according to people he knows at the County. He's done a good job. Mr. Banonis said he's going to amend his motion:

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to amend his previous motion to actually adopt Resolution #43-2024 but to amend the first sentence where it says WHEREAS the Council of LST appoints Hoffman and Hlavac as the Township Labor attorney” and instead substitute in Michael Miller and his firm.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci amended his second

Mr. Goudsouzian said do you understand his question, because for the purposes of this.....Mr. Banonis said yes, it's in the Township records. We know, because he was our Township Labor lawyer. It's not McNeese Wallace, it's...Ms. Ray said she doesn't think we have a resolution...Mr. Carocci said we don't and that's concerning with Mr. Goudsouzian hanging around the offices because of things that he's heard. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said is there a reason we are on our phone right now? Mr. Banonis said Eckert-Seamans is the name of the firm. His motion is as follows:

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to amend his previous motion and to adopt Resolution #43-2024 but to amend again the first sentence where it says WHEREAS the Council of LST appoints “Eckert Seamans and/or Michael Miller Esq. as the Township's Labor attorney. Also, the second sentence would also be amended to reflect Eckert Seamans and/or Michael Miller Esq. as Labor attorney.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci amended his second

Mr. Banonis said thank you. Mr. Carocci said he thought he already did, he's sorry. Mrs. Gorman said there are different hourly rates. Ms. Ray said that's true. She said so we can have our discussion and that is correct that their rate was different, she believes it was a lot higher if she remembers. Mr. Banonis said what was it? Mr. Carocci said she thinks so. He thinks it was lower. Ms. Ray said \$290.00/hour. Mr. Banonis said there's value added in that because he's efficient. He understands the Township personnel and the issues. There's no need to get up to speed on the issues so there's value added in that. Mr. Carocci said he remembers in that deal he would not charge for travel time. Do they charge for travel time at \$225.00 an hour or where are they located again? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks they are a lot closer than Harrisburg. Mr. Carocci said but where are they located? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks Allentown. Mr. Carocci said okay. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said pretty close and last time she checked the Eckert Seamans bill for the library hundreds of thousands of dollars. Ms. Ray said Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown. Mr. Banonis said he thinks South Whitehall Township, not Allentown.

Mr. Goudsouzian said is there anything for Council on this? Mr. Carocci said Victoria just said that she just referenced it and he'll repeat it because she mumbled it, that he charged us too much for the library litigation and that's why she doesn't want him hired. Mr. Goudsouzian said he thinks we are in public comment then, there's no more. Mr. Carocci said it has nothing to do with him being a good labor attorney. So, she's not trying to hire the best labor attorney. We had a very good labor attorney. She's trying to punish our labor attorney for his actions in the library litigation. So, again, right, she's putting taxpayers at risk. We had a fine labor attorney but it's not about that, it's about politics. That's why we don't have our solicitor here, Mr. Treadwell, it was about politics. That's why we don't have our Township Manager, Mr. Hudson because he left because of Mr. Treadwell not being here to have his back and to settle all this stuff. Again, it's this Democratic majority playing politics. He doesn't know what the political inclinations of Mr. Hoffman or Hlavac are but it shouldn't matter. Ms. Ray said and we don't either. Mr. Carocci said shouldn't matter, it's the fact of the matter, but he's sure they know. He's sure they know. Ms. Ray said she's sure they don't. Mr. Goudsouzian said public comment is next. Ms. Ray said does anybody have comment?

Mr. Boulin said if that's true, Eckert Seamans was part of the HAL library scenario and you don't want to rehire him, that sort of does speak of, he has not heard anybody say about however is getting replaced currently that is in the position why you do not like them and why we should replace them with somebody else. It would be really nice to know aside from a few dollars or whether it's travel funds or not, why you want to replace this particular firm aside from the fact they were opposed to HAL and did that work, and yes, he's going to speak about HAL a little bit later in the public section. So, he would like to have the nays tell us why this firm is not capable of doing what they have been doing apparently very effectively. He's sorry, you going to sleep, you okay? Ms. Ray? Okay, got your attention, thank you. For the bottom line for the rest of the years okay let's understand why they are not good and why

you need to get rid of them. Mr. Banonis said crickets. Ms. Ray said this is for labor attorney specifically so it has nothing to do with the library or those cases. Mr. Carocci said why do you want to replace them? That was the question, why do you want to replace them? Ms. Ray said we are doing the roll call. Mrs. Gorman said roll call for Eckert Seamans.

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Ray, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro – No) – Motion fails

Mr. Banonis said a leopard never changes his spots. Mr. Carocci said nope.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved to approve Resolution #43-2024 as it is written to appoint the labor attorney for 2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Carocci said Ms. deLeon was President of Council when Mike Miller's firm, Eckert Seamans, was hired. She hired them. Mr. Goudsouzian said there was a motion made, was there a second? Mrs. Gorman said there was. Mr. Goudsouzian said okay, Council discussion, he thinks that's where we are. Mr. Banonis said what are the qualifications of these attorneys? Ms. Ray said his letter was in here. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said it was in the packet. Ms. Ray said can we do roll call? Mr. Goudsouzian said Council discussion. Ms. Ray said if you read your packet, the information is there, so there you go. Mr. Banonis said here's what it says. Steve Hoffman has experience handling various commercial disputes. He represents employment discrimination, harassment cases, he's litigated restrictive covenants and trade secrets, he represents clients in insurance defense litigation, auto accident claims, slip and falls, assault claims, construction site accidents, he's defended manufacturers and retailers and product liability cases and governmental bodies, he's represented doctors, lawyers, and other professionals in malpractice claims. That doesn't sound like labor law to him. It sounds like a guy that's a jack of all trades. He may certainly be a competent lawyer in the matters that he handles, but we're going from a guy and firm that had a discreet practice that was focused on labor law that serviced this Township to a local attorney whose name just magically appeared here before us who represents a lot of different types of cases. That's just one of the two attorneys. He didn't get any other ones.

Mr. Carocci said Michael Miller negotiated our last police contract, which was a 5-year contract that everybody seemed to be happy with and our last non-police union contract everybody seemed to be happy with. He negotiates contracts for the county but they want to go with someone with no experience, which is right in line, again it's a political, just like they went with Mr. Goudsouzian, who has no experience as a Township solicitor because he was a political hire. The same thing. It's all about politics, not who can do the best job for the Township and for taxpayers. We have a solicitor with no Township soliciting experience at all.

Mr. Boulin said being recognized he would respond to that, if he may. Ms. Ray said did you have a comment, Priscilla? Ms. deLeon said...Mr. Boulin said that was rude. Ms. deLeon said no, she's good. Ms. Ray said we're at Council discussion.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she thinks he's appropriate. It was nice of him to send in the letter of interest and she had the opportunity to view his credentials. She understands the firm represents multiple entities with respect to their union and non-uniform labor issues. Mr. Carocci said which Township's do they represent? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she believes that the firm represents Lehigh County. Mr. Carocci said believe or are you sure? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so it's her understanding so that's what she's saying. She thinks it would be appropriate, she thinks at this time she had not seen anything from Eckert Seamans but she does want to point out again in this particular interest we're looking at \$290.00/hour at Eckert Seamans which is the firm of Eckert Seamans, not a specific person. Then we also have this, that is what it used to be and now we have this firm who is from what she can see is very highly qualified at \$225.00/hour so she's in favor of this.

Mr. Carocci said do you understand that \$290.00/hour and then \$225.00/hour or whatever we're giving these guys, it's peanuts when you are talking about these guys that negotiate our police contract which

is 5-years for 16 officers. We're talking about millions of dollars, millions of dollars. You want somebody good to do that. You want somebody knowledgeable. Somebody that's done that many times. You haven't even told us whether you know they do labor for Lehigh County? You said they do some work for Lehigh County. What type of work? What labor contracts have they negotiated for Lehigh County? Have they done a police contract? Have they ever done a police contract? Have they ever done a non-union police contract before? We don't know any of that. We don't know any of that and that money is so minimal for what a bad labor attorney can cost you in negotiations with employees. That doesn't even, whether its benefits or salary and he remembers, Jason can talk about what we went through the last police negotiations because Jason was liaison for that, but Eckert Seamans had all of this information from around the state what, departments our size, smaller, larger, what they were paying, what the cost of living was in the area, all of this information so that when they started negotiations, we knew exactly what kind of range we would have to stay in and you know, he's not sure you get that out of this two-man shop here in South Whitehall, are they Jason? Mr. Banonis said they are in South Whitehall. He's trying to understand, he's being sold to us as being local. He's in South Whitehall, which is the other side of Lehigh Valley and yet we were going to have a relationship with the library that was right down the street and God forbid that be in Lehigh County, he means it might as well be on the other side of the Mississippi River. So, it's convenient in one breath, but not in the other, so, just shows again the hypocrisy of these people.

Mr. Carocci said we know they are not either telling us about these guys on purpose for political reasons or they don't know and they are incompetently hiring someone which they don't even know whether they've ever negotiated a police contract or any other type of contract with a union. They have no idea. You cannot tell him, nobody sitting here, Victoria, Laura, or Priscilla can tell him if they have ever negotiated a police union contract or any union contract. Mr. Banonis said or even our interim solicitor, but he won't answer any questions for us but...Mr. Carocci said so they are going to vote. They are going to vote to hire a labor attorney, who have to deal with, not just contract negotiations but any complaints filed by police officers or anybody in the staff and all that and we have no idea of their experience level in that, but they are just going to hire them. He thinks we should make a motion to table this until we find out more information about these guys. Mr. Goudsouzian said that's not the motion that is before you at this point. Mr. Carocci said that's his recommendation, Steve. We'll need one with you around.

Mr. Goudsouzian said we are at public comment now. Ms. Ray said Priscilla did you have a comment or did you pass? Ms. deLeon said no, she's good with the resolution. Ms. Ray said okay, public comment then.

Mr. Dave Boulin said yea he thinks the old saw about pennywise and pound foolish really applies here. You don't want to get a second-rate attorney when you are talking about millions of dollars. People with knowledge, background, been there, done it, etc., etc., year after year, after year, are invaluable especially when it comes to the negotiations. If you don't understand that, and yes, he does read the packet, yea, he knows that they are from Whitehall Township and yea, there's two in the big firm, so, yea, what you just said earlier he doesn't get your packet. If you want to send that to him, he will read that gladly, all of it or maybe he's wrong, Cathy is all of that Council here sees, what he sees on the web? Mrs. Gorman said there's some executive material that is not presented to the public due to the information that's on there. Mr. Boulin said good, he trusts her. As far as not seeing executive material, he thinks that's perhaps worse, alright. Now, he also saw that this fellow does litigations. Does this say he's strictly going to...he sees that faraway look in somebody's eyes again. If that's not true correct him but he doesn't want to see an attorney that's supposedly an expert in negotiations starting to do litigations also. Alright, he didn't look into this guy's background at all. It's not on the web. It's not something he's going to easily find out. So, he would like to think that maybe one of the attorneys on the Council whose for this person could have given us a complete rundown, all the cases, cited all of the work that this person has done in order to bolster his potential as a hire. Instead, it's I think, I recall, that's not good. That's no good. That's really second rate, so, he'll leave it at that. He'd like to think that maybe some of this impinges upon you people. Mr. Carocci said if we had a real solicitor, all of

that would have been done. We would have been briefed on the types of cases and clients they have and what they have done for those clients, but we don't have a real solicitor.

Ann Marie Slavick said the thing she's concerned about with this Council that she sees more and more as she attends these meetings is the fact that, like for this situation, you are just picking willy nilly, an attorney. You've no, neither one of you again, she said this last time she was here, she means you've spoken, you just sit there and basically you are like a check mark. You're like yea, whatever they want. So, the question is who brought this attorney into someone's attention? This Council...Ms. Ray said our former Manager. Ms. Slavick said okay the former Manager, so he recommended him. Mr. Carocci said he wrote a letter to the former Manager, that's all. Ms. Slavick said oh, okay. No, see in her opinion, because again, remember you are working for the government here, taxpayer dollars pay for everything here. Everything here is taxpayer dollars, right, so it seems like you should put bids out for this kind of job like who wants to apply, lets send your resume, send what you've done, let's see what you've done. That's the kind of responsible Council she would expect but as a taxpayer in this Township, what she sees is shady stuff. It's shady going from interim solicitor. We don't need his information. We're going to waive it. Why are you waiving it? Why are you wanting to...you can't even, you can't even allow a gentleman to put a home to sell his property. It's 14', did you do the calculation? It's 14' is the difference, right? She means and you're like rules, rules, rules for thee, not for me. Rules for thee, not for me. So you are not following any rules. You aren't following any ethics. You are just willy nilly hiring an attorney and then you say this gentleman here can't put, can't sell his property or change, he can't put a variance for his, he wants to sell his property because it's 14' of a difference and you have a problem with that? You don't have a problem hiring an attorney that doesn't know what he's doing. You don't have a problem with that. Shady, shady, shady, shady.

Mr. Carocci said Susie, did we ever advertise this position? Mr. Goudsouzian said we did not advertise it. Mr. Carocci said well why not? Mr. Goudsouzian said it was not advertised. Mr. Carocci said do Townships usually not, not that you've ever been a Township solicitor before, but let's pretend you are one. Do Township's ever advertise labor attorney positions? Mr. Goudsouzian said sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. Mr. Carocci said you are saying that as a pretend Township solicitor. Mr. Goudsouzian said no, he's saying that in response to his question. Mr. Carocci said what about boroughs and others, they also advertise it? Mr. Goudsouzian said sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. Mr. Carocci said how often would you say, 50%. Ms. Ray said okay, can we do a roll call. Mr. Carocci said when your solicitor is an attorney and he's defended by a non-attorney. It's hilarious. Ms. Ray said you are stop wasting more time on the comments. Mr. Carocci said it's hilarious. She needs to defend you Steve. You're so unprepared. Mrs. Gorman called roll call.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she mis voting yes in this, and wants to reiterate to the public that both the resume and the letter she thinks were part of the public content, which is what they have. She thinks every member of Council had the opportunity to speak with this attorney and call him and ask him the questions they have this evening, so if they haven't done that, it's on them. She's comfortable with the information she received and she's comfortable with hiring this particular labor attorney so she votes yes.

Mr. Carocci said he's going to have a comment on that. She accused us of not calling and you're right, he did not call him, but he did call a Chad Saylor whose supposed to be hiring a new Township Manager and he won't call him back, so he assumed the majority said don't call him back, so he kind of feels what's the point of call him so they're already told these guys not to call him or Jason back. That's how they operate. That's who they are or Mr. Goudsouzian told them, told them to not call us back, but he'll vote no.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – No) – Motion passes

G. SEIDERSVILLE HALL ELECTRICAL UPGRADED QUOTE

Ms. Ray said Council will consider approving a quote received to upgrade the electrical work in the Seidersville Hall Building. The quote received is in the amount of \$22,440.00. The Township received a grant in the amount of \$75,562.00. This is one of the upgrades falling under the grant award.

Mrs. Gorman said they are a Costars vendor. They are our current electrical inspector for our emergency server. As she stated before, the quote is for \$22,440.00 and this is part of the grant that we received from the Northampton–Lehigh County Local Share Grant and one of the upgrades to the buildings across the street. If you are inclined to approve, she will call them. Ms. Ray said she will make a motion.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval of the Seidersville Hall electrical upgrade quote from Albarell in the amount of \$22,440.00.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Ray said any comments? Any public comment? Mr. Carocci said roll call. Ms. deLeon said public comment. Ms. Ray said nobody came up. Did you have a comment, Priscilla? Sorry, she skipped her. Ms. deLeon said nope, she's good.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

F. SPECIAL EVENT APPLICATION – SAUCON VALLEY CONSERVANCY/HELLERTOWN-LOWER SAUCON HERITAGE DAY

Ms. Ray said Council will review the attached Special Event Application received from Saucon Valley Conservancy for "Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day" event to be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the Heller Homestead House.

Mr. Banonis said he has a question about this. His question is and it's certainly a worthwhile event. Why is it called the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day? Why isn't it called the Lower Saucon-Hellertown Heritage Day? He asks that because historically this area was originally Saucon Township. Saucon Township was established as part of Bucks County in 1742, again Saucon Township, not Hellertown Borough. 1750 the population was 350 people. Saucon Township then became a part of Northampton County in 1752, and Saucon Township was divided into Upper and Lower Saucon Township so again, that goes back to our relationship to Upper Saucon Township historically all the way back to 1753. Upper Saucon then became a part of Lehigh County in 1812. Priscilla you may remember that war. South Bethlehem used to be part of Lower Saucon Township, but that split off in 1865 and most people may not know this but Hellertown was part of LST until it decided it didn't want to be part of LST until 1872 apart from wanting our money. So, when you look at that history, it's a question to him as to why we are not recognized as being first because historically we were first. Maybe if we approve this, he thinks he'd like to add an inquiry as to why we don't recognize Lower Saucon's deep roots in this area and history of this area.

Mr. Carocci said because these three are in the pocket of Hellertown. Ms. Ray said probably because it's in alphabetical order. There's no priority of one is better than the other as far as...Mr. Banonis said we are talking about heritage here. Conservancy is history. Heritage is history. So he's talking about history here. He's not talking about alphabetical order. He knows she's having trouble with the alphabet here, 1, 2, 3, 4, A, B, C, D, E, F and G on the agenda. He's talking about history.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval Special Event Application received from Saucon Valley Conservancy for "Hellertown-Lower Saucon Heritage Day" event to be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Heller Homestead House.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Ray said Priscilla do you have any comment? Ms. deLeon said no, approve it. Ms. Ray said do we have public comment?

Mr. David Boulin said he has to agree. Always wondered about these titles that people have, I'm a Russian-American, or I'm a French-American, or whatever, right, but we're American's. We are Saucon's too and our roots do really go back. Actually, he finds the resistance to what you had just said Ms. Vice President, astounding, given the fact that now you know that our roots are Saucon. They are not Hellertown. Couldn't you call it Saucon-Hellertown? The problem is you've got this clash with the other side and you will not give in no matter what. That's his opinion now. That may not be right and he sees that out of the three people here that are new to this organization but maybe to the people that live in Upper, Lower Saucon that makes a lot of sense. They are not Hellertonians. They are from Saucon, okay. They are bigger. They pay more and he doesn't care what it is. Here it is. We are second class. Mr. Banonis said Mr. Boulin you bring up a good point. As he's looking at him, he's looking at the podium, and you can't see if where you're standing but if you come to the front side of the podium, there's the LST plaque is there and it says right below it, Incorporated 1743. So, it reflects our historic roots and that's all he's talking about here. We broadcast it right here for the public to see but yet we are not willing to stand behind it when it matters most. Mr. Boulin said does that mean that now we're going become Hellertown? Is that the drive here? Mr. Banonis said if they have their way, they'd love that. Mr. Boulin said...Mr. Carocci said they just want to fund it, they don't want to become it, they want to fund it. Mr. Boulin said okay that's neither here nor there, maybe you ought to think about that. A lot of people, his phones are really starting to ring off the wall, it's really great. Yea, he still has the crank phone on the wall. He's old and he can't afford anything more. Mr. Carocci said because of your taxes, right?

Ms. Ray said she will just say they did not name the event and there are both Hellertown and Lower Saucon organizations involved in running it, so it is both areas. Mr. Boulin said can he interact for a minute? Mr. Goudsouzian said we are ready for our call. Mr. Carocci said he didn't use his full five minutes. He didn't use his full five minutes there. Ms. Ray said she didn't tell him to go away. Mr. Boulin said actually it might be enjoyable to have a little two-way dialogue instead of a one-way dialogue, okay. So, perhaps we could talk about that and ask the following question. Do we have other events with Hellertown and where it's known as Lower Saucon/Hellertown? Do we see that? Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said this isn't our event. This is an event by the applicant. The applicant has the name, we don't have any control over what they name themselves. Mr. Carocci said even the library is the Hellertown Area library. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said this is an application to use, to get approval from the Township to run their independent event. Mr. Carocci said it's called the Hellertown Area Library not Hellertown-Lower Saucon Library...Mr. Boulin said that he understands. Mr. Carocci said historically we provided most of the funds. Mr. Boulin said what he's saying is if we just let these things go, we cease to exist in effect, okay. He's talking to you. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she disagree with him on that, but again this application comes before us. The applicant creates their name. It's not our job to tell them how to name their event. Our job is to review it and decide whether it's an appropriate application under our guidelines. Mr. Boulin said excellent so why don't we then suggest hey, you are asking for our approval how about we switch the name around? That's all. He doesn't think that's really hard. Hey, you guys want to have, you know close relations with them, let's see what they might do for us. Just a simple thing like a name switch. It's a suggestion. Ms. Ray said let's have a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro wants to thank the organization for bringing this before us. She thinks it will be wonderful event and she is proud to support it.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to direct the Acting Township Manager to write a letter to the President Protemp of Saucon Valley Conservancy, Roger Jurczak, bringing to his attention the historical time line that he just provided in his comments and inquiring as to the name of the Heritage Day and ask to why it is named that way and whether Lower Saucon's historical primacy and significance to the area would make it more appropriate to name it the Lower Saucon-Hellertown Heritage Day.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. Ray said is that a comment? Mr. Goudsouzian said that's a motion. Ms. Ray said it's not the Conservancy's event itself. There are three organizations involved. It's ridiculous to ask people to change the name of their event. Mr. Banonis said he's not asking to change the name. That wasn't his motion and he was the one that provided the indemnity and hold harmless agreement on behalf of the Conservancy that's attached to the special application, special event application, he's the name of the Chief Officer of the organization on the application if you read this, that's the person who is identified as being the point person for this application that has been presented to us. So that's why he's asking that the letter be directed to him because he put himself out there as being the face of this. He's identified himself as the President Protemp of the organization. He doesn't mean to add to his burdens in any way, but he seems to be the person in charge. Who are we going to author it to? Maybe the same people who are going to magically take the trash away. Ms. Ray said let's do roll call. Mr. Goudsouzian said we need public comment. There's no public comment, now we do roll call. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said he's sorry for the interrogation for this organization. Mr. Banonis said it's not an interrogation, they are not even here.

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Ms. deLeon, Ms. Ray, Ms. Opthof-Cordaro – No)

Mr. Banonis said erasing Lower Saucon history. Right there before your eyes, it doesn't matter. He said there's a gentleman muttering out in the audience, can you please get him to quiet him down he can't hear her. He said again, he can't hear her. He can't hear her. Can you get control of the room?

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2024 COUNCIL MINUTES

Ms. Ray said the March 6, 2024 Council Minutes previously tabled are ready for Council's review and approval. Page 31, lines 11 through 29, have been reviewed and are attached.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval of the March 6, 2024 Council minutes, with corrections.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Carocci said he'd like to point out. They were right, there should be a question mark there. For people who were saying there's quite a few changes. There's about 14 or 15 words added and four removed or three removed, four removed, so people are like well the transcript is a transcript, and what do you do. It was obviously inaccurate and that's why they made a motion to table it last meeting, which some people took objection to but he thinks it's important to get minutes right and he knows Diane does her best but it's tough with Ms. Opthof interrupting all the time and talking over people but she does a great job in spite of the rudeness. So, thanks for having these redone. He'll vote yes.

Mr. Banonis said first he'd like to thank for pointing out the discrepancies here, clearly, they are discrepancies. There are comments earlier when he had suggested sending a letter to Roger Jurczak about questioning Lower Saucon being listed second on this despite its historical significance to the area and that's a waste of time and energy. It's a waste of the staff's time but to simply put a question mark in where we suggested it was needed, that's not a waste of Township staff time. That is something they should be burdened with, waste their time when they are short staffed because they don't have a Township Manager. That's what's the priority of these people, so those are his comments. He agrees. He's thankful that this was corrected. He knows that Diane does a really good job generally and these meetings are very long and sometimes very difficult to understand what's being said with some of the rudeness of people talking over, the lack of control of the meetings by the Acting Council President, the interim or Vice President, so she gives her credit for what she does and he still feels she's worth twice as much particularly when we have a Council person who can't even be at a meeting and is who garbles nonsense. He can't wait to see the next minutes and how burdensome that's going to be for her to complete.

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Ray said the March financial reports have been prepared for Council's review and approval. She asked if anybody had any corrections, deletions, additions. If not, is there a motion for approval.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval of the March 2024 financial reports
SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Ray said any comments from the board? Ms. deLeon said no comment. Ms. Ray said anybody in the audience, any comments, hearing none, we'll do roll call.

ROLL CALL: 4-1 (Mr. Banonis – No)

6. COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

A. ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER – Cathy Gorman

- She said first she wanted to let everyone know the yard waste collection facility will be open for drop off yard waste this weekend, April 19th and open Fridays and Saturdays until November and they are open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They are continuing the same operations as we did last year.
- She met with the Bethlehem Landfill to discuss the spring-cleaning day identified in the host agreement. That day has been determined to be June 1st. They will have coupons available at the Township for the day so we can ensure residency and be able to give the operators of the landfill a number of residents that are scheduled to be there. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said Cathy, can you describe what that is, the spring yard cleanup. Mrs. Gorman said in the new Host Agreement there's a day in the spring and a day in the fall that's scheduled where the landfill will take home trash for free, any garbage that's acceptable to them and that's permitted. It is on their website they do have unacceptable items listed on the website so she would have the residents take a look at that to make sure that they are not trying to throw out things that the landfill is not permitting. Mr. Banonis said like TVs and things like that. Things that need to be recycled they can't take in. Mrs. Gorman said things of that nature and actually the landfill does have, if you do have those certain items that they are not permitted to accept, they do direct you to a local companies or vendors that do take those type of materials. Mr. Banonis said for a fee. Mrs. Gorman said for a fee yes, but for this particular event, it's free for the residents. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said so you would have between now and June 1st to get a ticket from the Township. Mrs. Gorman said they will have the tickets here, the coupon is available here, which the Bethlehem Landfill is providing it and they'll have everything detailed on there as to what to do. The landfill has operators that will be on site to assist the people that are coming in and they are doing it by coupon method. It's a good way of trying to track how many people are going to be utilizing the service. It's also we can ensure that residency is being adhered to. Mr. Carocci said right, LST residents only. Mrs. Gorman said correct. Mr. Carocci said they are not going to let Lehigh University take their asbestos over on that day like they have in the past like on the Form U's. Mrs. Gorman said we'll develop a system in-house to make sure that we are collecting ID's. That will be on our website. It will be on the coupons that are available here. We'll get it out on our newsletter as well.
- She also wanted to let everyone know that the PW department is working on the Reading Drive culvert. They are on schedule by the week of May 6th to be complete. The only items that would expect delay would be due to weather. She also wanted to advise Council that back in June of 2022, they entered into an agreement with Northampton County (NC) Conservation District to help fund this product under their dirt and gravel roads program. The amount provided was \$262,298.00. She's happy to report that NC or NC Conservation District had additional funds in their program and they approved an additional \$95,816.04 making the total amount available of \$358,114.04. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said that's additional money that's coming to us from...Mrs. Gorman said to us from NC Conservation District. That's wonderful. Our PW is performing or doing the work and using municipal vehicles, that's our in-kind contribution which is required of the grant. We estimated after reviewing that the total amount of this project was \$531,167.89 and the total cost to the Township would have been \$173,053.85 but in actual physical dollars it's \$47,810.96. The rest of it is in-kind contribution.

- She also wanted to let Council know they are working on the newsletter and that should be coming out soon.
- The ZHB meeting was scheduled on Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Our offices are closed on Election Day, the 23rd, please go out and vote.

B. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Banonis

- The Township received, was copied on a letter, this is April 16, 2024, from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. This letter was addressed to Dave Pannucci, the Regional Engineer of Bethlehem Landfill Company (BLC). This talks about the engineers meeting that was held at the BLC on Wednesday, March 20th. It talks about the pending permit applications. There was a minor permit application, minor permit modification that was submitted and there was an investigation that took place by DEP. They noted that there were total of 29 monitoring wells, a total of 10 active abatement wells, there were 104 vertical gas wells that were installed, 34 horizontal collectors in place, it talked about the BLC SEM report showing the readings of the existing hot spots, the SW corner had decreased and were below 500 ppm actual limit. Everywhere else was below 100 ppm. It talks about the leachate flow, the site observations, litter fencing was deployed. There were no issues that were observed. Odor, there were no off-site odors that were detected. There was a slight gas odor detected near the SE corner. The daily cover there were no issues observed. The intermediate cover, there were no issues observed. Liner system, no issues observed. Storm water, the sediment trapped in the maintenance building was prepared. They talked about including site operation monitoring, radiation monitoring, truck safety, leachate management, and report submittals. The report goes on and has some more details to it but essentially there were no problems that were found by DEP during that investigation despite all the hysteria you may hear otherwise. Then we have the BL Odor Complaint Log from January 5, 2024 to April 16, 2024, and of course, there are dozens and dozens of complaints that were made and this is a 10-page document and most of the addresses are very similar. There's Johnston Avenue in Steel City, there's Applebutter Road, Country Side Lane, Johnston Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Applebutter Road, Sherry Hill Road, Johnston Avenue, unknown, Redington Road, driving by Kings Mill road. He wonders who that is. Redington Road, Johnston Avenue, Wilson Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Lower Saucon Avenue, Johnston Avenue, Riverside Drive, Hickory Lane, Redington Road, Riverside, it goes on and on and on. So, you can see here that the landfill odor complaint log machine has ginned up its reporting. We've talked previously at prior Council meetings about the decreasing number of complaints that were reported month over month and what's striking here is these complaints are in the winter months, January, February, and March when you would expect most people, although we did have a few nice days in there when most people would generally indoors so we can expect that these trends will likely continue, credit to those who find the time to go out and concoct this kind of nonsense to try to slur the operations of the landfill, but otherwise, according to DEP, it seems to be perfectly fine. That's it for his Council report. He thought it was important for the public to have some awareness of those details and how this anti-landfill machinery operates and what the real facts are that are out there. Mr. Carocci said he'd like to add you know they are the same properties because there's a column with the distance from the landfill. It's down to like a tenth of a mile, sometimes 100th of a mile and it's the same people complaining. It's the same people. He thinks the one on Kings Mill is over one and a half miles away but nobody else between like the half mile and one mile, there's no complaints and there's like one a mile and a half away. Amazingly ginned up nonsense but that's just, he guesses what they are relegated to at this point.

Mr. Carocci

- Cathy mentioned the newsletter. You usually get an email asking Council members if they have any suggestions for articles for the newsletter. Were you told not to send that out? Mrs. Gorman said actually this newsletter is being worked on for quite some time. She doesn't know if an email went out to, she'll have to research it and get back to them. Mr. Carocci said were you given direction by anybody? Mrs. Gorman said no. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she received an email asking for content. Mr. Carocci said he didn't. You see you keep them off the email.

She received one, she didn't say she wrote on. She received one. Mr. Carocci said right, right. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said from the Township. Mr. Carocci said and the President Ms. deLeon probably told them to keep us off. Probably told us to keep Jason off. He didn't get one either. That's what they mean. He guesses they continue with the RTKs so they get information that they should be able to get by asking for it, apparently not, not with the cover-up here. Mrs. Gorman said she will get back to them. Mr. Carocci said he will make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Ray said no, we're not making a motion to adjourn. Mr. Carocci said all in favor. Ms. Ray said the meeting is not adjourning. Mr. Carocci said alright, he tried.

SECOND BY: No second – motion fails.

Ms. deLeon

➤ She has nothing for a report.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

- First, she wants to highlight our Saucon Rail Trail (SRT) if you all didn't know, the rail trail had been working hard on getting special signs created that would highlight the historical history of the rail in the different sections of the SRT. Those signs are now complete and so she thinks the Township is in the process of working with the SRT in getting the Bingen Road sign installed, which will be wonderful. She thinks it will add to the SRT. She knows a lot of people use it so she wanted everybody to look out for that sign when it comes up. The other signs will also go in so she thinks it's going to look great when it happens.
- She said she had the opportunity to attend the PSATS conference. The conference is sponsored by the PA State Association of Township Supervisors that also applies to Council people and it's a state-wide event where Councils and supervisors from all over the state come to Hershey to learn about different matters involving Townships – Zoning, Planning, Parks and Rec, EAC, also you get the opportunity to hear from state representatives on legislative updates, fire services also. There are two and a half day of classes that you can partake in that everybody gets the opportunity to partake in but there's also networking. She had the opportunity to meet with our neighboring Township, Williams Township supervisors and that was wonderful as well as Hanover Township as far as networking goes as well as state representatives. Classes that were very informative on various topics. One thing she thought was very insightful related to fire services was the idea that right now in the State budget there is a proposal to increase the amount of grant funding available to volunteer fire companies to receive funding for their various apparatus and things and typically the amount that the state considers is \$30 million, and the proposed budget is an increase to \$60 million. So, it would double the amount available to fire services like ours to receive state grant funding so she would encourage everybody to contact their representatives, State representatives, to encourage that they support the budget as proposed to help our fire services specifically. In addition, her questioning tonight to the fire company was very enlightening about how much time that they spend to support us, not only to get trained and actually respond to fires, but also the amount of time it takes for them to create their reports and do things and something that she became aware of especially at PSATS is the idea that we can have a paid Fire Chief in our township that would help support and offset the amount of man hours that our fire company is spending to do these reports and other administrative tasks so that our fire company isn't so burdened and that they would have the opportunity to spend their time volunteering for the Township but also spending time with their families and work time so they aren't burnt out. She's sure many of you heard about how much time it took for the fire company to get trained and to respond to fires, but they also have all this administrative time. It's a tremendous amount of volunteer time and she wants to encourage our volunteers to remain volunteers and to continue serving our Township. She thinks it would be appropriate for the Township to look into seeing about us providing a paid Fire Chief for our Township so that we can encourage and promote our volunteerism and enhance the services to

our Township moving forward. So, I was hopeful that the Township could look into seeing what we can do about a paid Fire Chief if we can. That is her report. Mr. Carocci said how would one paid Fire Chief promote volunteerism? He doesn't understand. It doesn't make sense, or logical sense.

Ms. Ray

- She said she also attended the PSATS conference. She attended many sessions. She doesn't have her notes prepared to talk about those things, but she is going to talk about some of the other meetings she went to recently that she's liaison to. One is the LST Historical Society meeting. They are one of the groups participating in the Heritage Day. They operate the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse but because of its location way out they decided it would be best if they consolidated and did their location near the other two sites that are involved, so they are actually sharing space with the Grist Mill in Hellertown. So, they have enough building space there and parking space to accommodate them. So, they will be there. They have all kinds of things happening down there. She knows they said the farm is bringing in some oxen because she knows in the one building there, they have all sorts of farm equipment there, so that's part of the heritage they will be highlighting is the farming. They are also looking into working on a project to get some historical markers so that's an upcoming project for them.
- She also attended the Parks and Rec meeting. Quite a few thoughts here. Let's see, one suggestion they had made maybe was possibly if we might want to have suggestions boxes out in our parks, and they had an idea of how we could do that and make it waterproof that people could put their comments and cards into, she thinks it was old ammo boxes, and they are waterproof so they could attach it to a pole or a pillar on the end of the pavilion and just have people put in comments if they see a problem in the park or something that needs to be repaired or fixed or something like that. People could leave comments that way. They also discussed, they had a bunch of ideas here, one thing that came up was there was an idea thrown out to have a fun softball game with Hellertown vs LST and it would just be a fun game, probably mostly older folks. They would do it at Community Day so they are just getting started on working on that idea but she thinks there are quite a few people that are throwing out ways we can do it. The Mayor is interested. She thinks the former Police Chief was interested, thinks it was a great idea so they are going to get together some more details and let us know. Mr. Carocci said the former police chief. Isn't he indicted? Ms. Ray said no our former police chief, Guy Lessor. So, he thought it's a great idea and he has a suggestion on equipment that we could use that would make it safe for people that really don't know how to play baseball, like her. So, she thinks that will be a fun thing to do.
- She also attended the EAC meeting. She knows at that meeting there were a number of residents that actually came forward with some storm water issues, so they'll have to, they should look at that as Council but a lot of them were along Lower Saucon Road out in the end going towards Williams Township so one in particular is like off the old golf course there. The road is really severely being undercut with the washout so they wondered if maybe they could do the park there do to help prevent that or keep our roads from getting washed out there. There was also some interest in possibly looking to see if we could expand our Adopt-a-Road Program more. It seems like the roads that we have are always adopted out so if we have more residents in adopting a road, we wanted to see if that would be possible to do. We also want to re-establish the Open Space Committee. We did select members so she guesses they can put that on for their next agenda to discuss that and she thinks that was all from that. That's all she has.

C. **SOLICITOR** – No report.

D. **ENGINEER** – Not present.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – 5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – OPEN TO EVERYONE**

- Maryanne Garber said she represents the Bethlehem Landfill. Two days ago, they were notified that the Township Solicitor filed papers with the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas in one of the five lawsuits that are pending against the BLC and the Township related to the expansion of the BL. That filing was made in the lawsuit that challenges the legality of the Township's release of certain contractual restrictions on some of the property that's proposed for the expansion. Although the Township is a defendant in that lawsuit, the solicitor has filed what is entitled a "Joinder Brief to

Plaintiffs and Interveners Preliminary Objections to the Preliminary Objections of Bethlehem Landfill". This essentially means that the Township has jumped to the other side of the V in this litigation. Joining with the plaintiffs in the legal arguments being made by individual resident objectors like the Petries, St. Luke's, Bethlehem Township and the D&L Heritage Corridor to undo the prior Council's release of the contractual provisions and restrictions contained in 1994 documents. We know that it's Council's plan to reverse the prior Council's position in this lawsuit and the four other lawsuits and join with the opponents in their challenges to stop the expansion. We know this because Ms. Opthof and Ms. Ray have said that in writing in documents that they discovered as a result in RTK requests. Monday's court filing is the first public step that's been taken by the new Council majority to accomplish that goal; however, remarkably, this decision to direct the solicitor to make this filing and essentially change legal positions was not made or not even announced as a public meeting. Presumably, but she doesn't know this to be the case, a majority of Council directed the solicitor to file those papers to join in with the opponents during the Executive Session that proceeded the April 3rd Council meeting. Mr. Banonis said that did not happen. That did not happen. Mr. Carocci said that did not happen. Ms. Garber said which is an issue because if the solicitor made the filing without direction from Council given at the Executive Session that in and of itself would be a violation of the Home Rule Charter. Mr. Banonis said it is, it would be. Ms. Garber said with respect to items discussed in Executive Session, although litigation strategy can be discussed during such a session, any official action that's resulting from such discussions must be voted on at a public meeting, which it was not. The Township's decision to fundamentally change their position in the litigation and direct their solicitor to file papers accordingly is an official action under the Sunshine Act that was required to be voted on at a public meeting. The Township's failure to do so is a clear violation of the Sunshine Act. She would like the record to reflect Bethlehem Landfill's objection to that action. Had the decision to change course in litigation been appropriately voted on at a public meeting on behalf of Bethlehem Landfill, she would have objected to the propriety of Ms. Opthof-Cordaro's participating in that vote because of her clear conflict of interest in the matter and would have demanded that she recused herself. Here are just some of the facts evidencing her conflict of interest. Her parents, Lawrence and Margaret Opthof have claimed under oath that a proposed landfill expansion will decrease the value of their property. Ms. Opthof has publicly taken the position that proximity to landfills has a negative impact on property values. Her parents were parties to three separate lawsuits to stop the expansion of the landfill, one of which is still pending. Ms. Opthof, who is a lawyer, worked directly with the attorney retained by her parents, Mr. Gary Asteak, to fight the expansion. Upon information and belief Ms. Opthof did substantive the work in those cases including legal research and fact gathering. She worked with Attorney Asteak to develop legal strategy. She assisted with the retention of experts. She acted as a liaison between her parents and the other individual opponents and Mr. Asteak. She sat at counsel table with Mr. Asteak during numerous proceedings. In fact, the court reporter in the Conditional Use Hearings listed her as well as Mr. Asteak as Council of record for the opponents. She was the founder and the spokesperson and media contact for "Citizens for Responsible Development", a grassroots landfill opposition group whose tagline on their website is "Fighting LST Landfill Expansion". She has raised funds to fight the expansion including for the payment of legal fees and expert fees in the various pieces of litigation both currently pending and in the past. Public officials are prohibited from using their authority for the private pecuniary benefit of any member of their immediate family, which Ms. Opthof-Cordaro knows because she recused herself from an issue that involved a development in which her sister lives just a few weeks ago. The use of the authority of that office is not limited merely to voting, but it also extends to any use of authority of office, including but not limited to discussing, conferring with others, and lobbying for a particular result. It is well settled that a municipal officer must disqualify herself from any proceeding in which she has or an immediate family member has a personal pecuniary interest that is immediate and direct. Ms. Opthof has taken, and continues to take, countless actions to stop the expansion, which she believes based on her statements about the impact the landfill has on property values, will financially impact her parents. On this basis alone, she should recuse herself from participating in any decisions regarding the expansion of the Bethlehem Landfill. It is also well settled that in quasi-judicial proceedings a public official must recuse herself if there is even an appearance of bias, prejudice, any potential for non-objectivity. Ms. Opthof's cumulative actions over the last 17 months clearly demonstrate her bias in this regard. The public's interest in the continuation of landfill operations that result in one-third of the Township's revenue source must not be jeopardized by the acts of Ms. Opthof-Cordaro who has a direct

pecuniary, personal, and private interest in stopping the landfill from expanding. She cannot be allowed to make decision about litigation against the Township and the landfill in which she directly and actively participated in as a lawyer and as the daughter of parties to such litigation. She should not be permitted to vote on any actions related to the expansion of the landfill because it will directly affect her parents, and therefore her, pecuniarily and she has exhibited a pre-disposition and has taken cumulative public actions demonstrating her bias against the landfill. Therefore, on behalf of BLC, Bethlehem Landfill Company, she is demanding that she recuse herself from participating in and voting on any actions related the expansion of the BLC, including but not limited to, decisions regarding the pending litigation against LST and the BLC. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci said there was an Executive Session. There was no vote in Executive Session for that and she was there, Jason was there. Cathy, they brought into the room even though their solicitor tried to keep her out of the room for this particular purpose he believes. We insisted she be there and he finally relented so you have some witnesses.

Mr. Banonis said he'll concur with what Tom said. This is shocking and stunning and the reason why he's sitting out here at the table looking back because he wants to see the looks on this despicable people that have undertaken these activities, ethical violations, he means as an attorney she should know better. You should know better, you wouldn't even tell us who you were negotiating with. You undertook filing a joinder brief without any authority from this Council. It was never discussed, not one time and you filed it and you didn't even serve a copy of it on Council. Explain that. He hopes, he hopes that the landfill reports both of you to the Disciplinary Board and that you get what is deserving of you. The Township taxpayers and residents deserve much more than this. To act this way, to act in secret, to do these kinds of things. He won't even sit with on that Council with you. He will not lower himself to a low ethic that you people have. Unbelievable and you just think you can do these things. You can just do them without any consequence because you sit there, because you've been elected, and because you've been appointed an interim solicitor. You people have no ethic whatsoever. You are deplorable. You should resign and he's going to make a motion right now.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved that we fire Steve Goudsouzian as the interim Township solicitor. To undertake actions like this without direction on top of everything else that has happened in the two months that you've been the interim solicitor, beyond the pale, it is truly beyond the pale.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci said please if there's a public comment, he has other things to say about...Ann Marie Slavick said she'd like to work with this woman. She'd like to say, to reiterate her comment. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said we have to have Council discussion on the motion before public comments. She's sorry. Ms. Slavick said just let her know.

Mr. Goudsouzian said before we do anything, it's his recommendation to the Council members that have not already spoken when we talk about Executive Session, as concerns for reasons why we want to keep that private and why we do not want to provide strategic information or other information. He suggests you keep that in mind.

Ms. deLeon said also, they can't put a motion with the new agenda law. Mr. Carocci said no one instructed Mr. Goudsouzian to do anything in that Executive Session, nothing and he did. That's the problem. He should have come out if we are going to do something, he should have come out and announced what we are going to do and vote on it publicly because it was decided what to do. That's why as he said it's a Sunshine Act violation, Home Rule Charter violation.

Mr. Banonis said and the taxpayers will pay. They will pay for this malfeasance and they should be outraged.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she's inclined to vote no against firing our solicitor. She thinks that's the motion on the floor. Ms. Ray said she didn't think we could do a motion. She's not sure. Mr. Banonis

said sure we can. Ms. Opthof-Cordaro said she doesn't think we can. Ms. Ray said you're not really not supposed to. Mr. Banonis said he wants it on the next agenda firing and/or acceptance of resignation of Steve Goudsouzian as interim solicitor. Mrs. Gorman said you are amending your motion. Mr. Banonis said he'll withdraw his motion. He wants it on the next agenda. Tom, I withdrew my motion. The next agenda will be an item firing and/or accepting the resignation of Steve Goudsouzian as interim solicitor. He also wants to include discussion on reimbursement for any amounts that have been billed to the Township for him undertaking activities that were not approved by this Council. Mr. Carocci said he'll second it. Ms. deLeon said that's again another motion. Ms. Ray said it wasn't a motion but Tom's making a second. Mr. Carocci said he seconded Jason's motion. Ms. Ray said he's not making a motion. Mrs. Gorman said he's directing. Mr. Banonis said he's not going to make a motion like discussed earlier to put things on the agenda, he'll just ask it to be put on the agenda. Mrs. Gorman said are you withdrawing your second. Ms. Ray said there's nothing to second. Mr. Banonis said it's just going to be on the agenda as he requested it to be on the agenda. Mr. Carocci said he didn't know if he needed a second. Mr. Banonis said he appreciates that, Tom.

Ms. Ray said public comment on anything.

Ms. Ann Marie Slavick said she's reiterating that there's no clarity on this Council. People were voted in and people, the voters who probably voted for you probably don't even know what's going on here. They probably don't understand it unfortunately. As she's said the last two times she came to the meeting, this is very, very, you can't be trusted. You can't be trusted. You wanted him to be the interim solicitor. You insisted on it. You said we're waiving all the normal, whatever you did. She's not well versed in all of this but she understands. Mr. Carocci said they waived the conflicts. Ms. Slavick said you waived the we don't want to know his background, we don't want to know his business, but why? See people need to ask you why? The taxpayers need an answer. Now this kind of thing happens. Again, she reiterates her comment earlier, you are not to be trusted. You are shady and now we know why. Mr. Banonis said he would add to what she pointed out. When this first came up, it was said to us, well there are no conflicts and then subsequent to that, there was a request to waive conflicts. So, if there were no conflicts, then why was there a need to waive conflicts, that's the answer why? They knew there were conflicts and they tried to cover up the conflicts until we exposed the conflicts then they had to deal with it. Now everything is after the fact rather than be transparent and open and honest and forthcoming about this and agreeing that there is a conflict up front, they instead try to hide it. Here's another example of them trying to hide things. Over and over and over again. They've been in the majority for 3-1/2 months and it's countless, the amount of times of the cover-up is countless. Ms. Slavick said from now on, anything that you propose or anything you fight against, which is why she says, you are always fighting against everything and you are complaining and the audience complains about Tom and Jason constantly questioning everything and you wanted to just shut it up. Basically, you want to shut up anybody who questions the government. How much money is the HAL spending? What's the money for? We need to see financial statements and there's no reason why we shouldn't and there's no reason why you should cover for them. There's no reason for it. Let it happen. Ask the questions. We want to know where the money's going and we should know and this is a perfect example. No transparency, both of you three people should be voted off next time and that goes for deLeon who is on the phone.

Mr. Carocci said he's also point out that Ms. Garber pretty much insinuated there's going to be lawsuits over the incompetence, right, of what happened in Executive Session, what happened when we came out, filing without public knowledge and her being able to question. So Mr. Goudsouzian's incompetence is going to cost Township taxpayers probably hundreds of thousands of dollars before it's all said and done. Just on those procedural issues that he didn't know to follow or willfully neglected to follow and that's just what we have. We have the pleasure of paying \$180.00/hour for this type of legal advice if you can even call it that.

Ms. Ray said anybody else? Mr. Boulin said absolutely floored. Although he must say while he was looking at the LSFR documents here, he mentioned that they had what is called the gold seal and that's part of their reporting process and they are outstanding. Their financials, there's at least, he doesn't

know, 8, 10, 12 pages of financials from the LSFR right here, right open to the public, right. And you know it's funny because he just thought wow, they are so open and it's all here, maybe there are errors, maybe whatever but it's here. You can challenge it. So, then this was today, yea, he knows another day out of his life gone, looking at what, he doesn't trust the Council. At least he doesn't trust certain people on the Council, he trusts the staff implicitly and others. The bottom line is he then went and looked for Hellertown Area Library, right to see how they were doing on their gold seal. Well, let him tell you, they have a mission statement. They have blanks for everything else including program results, so they didn't even measure what they do. The financials, here it is on the last page, and it's easy, you guys can look it up on the web. Yea, you got to unlock the financial insights. You got to pay for that if they even have them and his understanding is there are a couple of lawsuits and he endlessly talked about Judge Daly's ruling about this but some clowns on this Council just absolutely blow it away, smile at you and keep going on. Well guess what, in terms of the landfill which you guys like to call it a dump. You don't even, you talk about the smells yet you do nothing about the Bethlehem Sewage Facility. Then he hears we got all this water runoff and it is running out in the roads all the time, well every time that happens, guess what, raw sewage into the river. Has anybody on this Council ever said maybe it's that? He guesses they don't have noses because you drive by that place and it stinks to high heaven but everybody else seems to smell, yea, I can really tell it's coming from the dump. Baloney, and these two guys ask the tough questions and you get mad at them and Ms. Opthof-Cordaro is an attorney, please. She doesn't know even this conflict of interest and Sunshine Laws and she was the one, by the way, that stood up at the landfill meeting and said, and Jason was running the meeting, and said yea well it turns out that all that sewage is getting dumped by the Bethlehem Sewage Authority, thank you very much for that statement, boy, he's glad you are not his attorney and yet you hire other people like this fellow over here, Now, by the way, he only has a little bit of time left, but the bottom line is he's looking up things and he's looking up HAL, actually the area library, and what does he see. There's someone he sees by the name of Goudsouzian there. Lara, he thinks it was. He doesn't have that right in front of him. Wow, that was just a couple of years ago. There's no conflict of interest there. Then he remembers somebody saying gee, when we supposedly hired this new solicitor that he didn't have any conflicts of interest and then he heard other things that said, no the agreement was that the Council wouldn't look at any conflicts of interest, we can bury all of those and boy did that rip him off when no sooner did the three-two thing go down, then he hears Victoria Opthof-Cordaro say and I make a motion we hire him under the agreement. Now, he'd really like to see that agreement Sir. You can look down at your phone, or your computer and all, yea, he can do for you and he guesses he will along with the 10,000 others and now the rest of you people that are on the Council that don't know what 4 is 4, you are going to find out and the Council is going find out and the Council is going to get sued and we the taxpayer are going to pay for it all and he doesn't see all the nattering nabobs of negativity, to use an old phrase, in the audience, he doesn't see a lot of press here, the Morning Call and all the others that just love to throw other things around. They better get their teeth in their hands around this one, it's real. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci said it is rotten. That is for sure.

Mark Ozimek said first thing he's going to say is the way he takes Mr. Banonis comment when he walked away from his chair up there is that he just resigned from Council, so somebody needs to look into that. Don't talk, he's talking, shut up. He listens to you. Ms. Ray said Mark say your name too. Mark Ozimek. He's going to tell you right now, he wasn't happy with the things that the old Council did, what Banonis did, the way he ran things, the way he wasted Township money on the hearings over at Se-Wy-Co with the out-of-town lawyer and then when it came to be the others sides time to put on witnesses, he just kiboshed them and shut it off, so you are no better than what you are complaining about these people for. You're not, you're not, and to be honest with you, he ain't happy with both sides. He thinks you girls are getting walked all over and you are getting tanked. Banonis is smart. He's a dirty player and he knows what he's doing and he's tanking you. He's stomping you and a lot of people are probably watching so whatever you did or whatever Goudsouzian filed with the dump, because he doesn't know, you better have a good plan and he hopes there's some kind of backup that you come out with a surprise and you are all in the right because as far as he's concerned, the entire thing is looking like it all needs to be changed. Completely, everybody, in whole. He's not the only

one who thinks this or feels this way so you are aware of it. Mr. Carocci said he doesn't get any credit Jason, just you. His feelings are hurt. His feelings are hurt.

Ms. Ray said anybody else, the time is 10:28 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 10:28 p.m.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci – No)

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A.** Zoning Hearing Board: April 22, 2024
- B.** Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: April 22, 2024
- C.** Planning Commission: April 25, 2024
- D.** Landfill Committee Meeting: April 30, 2024 (5:00 p.m.)
- E.** Council Meeting: May 1, 2024
- F.** Parks and Recreation Board: May 6, 2024
- G.** Environmental Advisory Council: May 14, 2024

Submitted by:

Cathy Gorman
Acting Township Manager

Priscilla deLeon
Council President