



**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**  
**Lower Saucon Township Council Agenda**

**6:30 PM**  
**Lower Saucon Township**  
**General Business and Developer**  
**3700 Old Philadelphia Pike**  
**Bethlehem, PA 18015**

**1. OPENING**

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

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

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**3. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

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- A. Resolution #38-2023 - Recognizing International Firefighters' Day - May 4, 2023
- B. Resolution #39-2023 - Recognizing National Police Week - May 14 to May 20, 2023
- C. Resolution #40-2023 - Recognizing National Public Works Week - May 21 to May 27, 2023
- D. Lower Saucon Fire and Rescue Annual Report Presentation

**4. DEVELOPER ITEMS - None**

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**5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

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- A. 2022 Fire Funding Audit - Release of Annual Funding
- B. LSFR Request for Release of Grant Writing Funding
- C. Resolution #41-2023 - Authorizing Budget Adjustments
- D. Resolution #42-2023 - Budget Transfer
- E. Easton Road Ballfield Replacement Project
- F. Saucon Valley Community Center - Summer Recreational Program Agreement
- G. EAC Backyard Composting Workshop - Resident Reimbursement
- H. Wagner/Holum Farmstead - Historic Sign
- I. Letter of Support for Upper Saucon Grant Submission to install a bridge over Preston Lane

**6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

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- A. Approval of March 22, 2023 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of March 2023 Financial Reports

**7. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

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- A. Township Manager, Mark Hudson
- B. Council/Jr. Council Member

C. Solicitor

D. Engineer

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

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**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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A. Move to Adjourn

**10. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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A. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: April 24, 2023

B. Zoning Hearing Board: April 24, 2023 - Cancelled

C. Planning Commission: April 27, 2023 - Cancelled

D. Parks and Recreation Board: May 1, 2023

E. Environmental Advisory Council: May 9, 2023

1. **OPENING**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. with Mr. Jason Banonis, presiding.
- B. **ROLL CALL: Present:** Jason Banonis, President; Mark Inglis, Vice President; Priscilla deLeon (speaker phone), Sandra Yerger and Thomas Carocci, Council Members; Mark Hudson, Township Manager; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Cathy Gorman, Assistant Manager & Director of Finance; Stacy Werkheiser, Administrative Assistant; Rudra Thakkar, Jr. Council Member.
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – Mr. Banonis said Council did not meet in Executive Session this evening.
- E. **PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE** – Mr. Banonis said he will remind everyone of Resolution #31-2023 which is a resolution of the Council of LST adopting the agenda policy and code of conduct for Township meetings. He will read it into the record.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1. Public participation including public comment relating to agenda items shall occur at the beginning of the meeting and shall be listed on the agenda as a public comment - agenda items - residents and taxpayers only.
- 2. Public participation including public comment will not be allowed after the commencement of Council's business meeting or during any other agenda item.
- 3. Public participation including public comment shall be within the discretion and under the discretion under the direction and control of the Council President or Acting Council President.
- 4. Public comment shall be made only by LST residents and taxpayers.
- 5. Persons wishing to make comments to Council must put their names and addresses on the sign-in sheet to be used by the Council President to allocate the available time among those wishing to speak.
- 6. Residents and/or taxpayers of LST shall announce their name prior to addressing Township Council.
- 7. Public comment may be made only by a resident or taxpayer who has been recognized by the Council President.
- 8. Comments about items on the agenda will be limited to no more than three minutes per person.

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9. The Council President or Acting Council President shall, in his or her sole discretion, be permitted to expand the individual comment period by no more than two minutes upon request from the individual. Thereafter additional time may be allowed only upon motion approved by a majority of Council.
10. Organized groups of people attending the meeting to present a comment position or idea to the Council shall designate no more than two members of the group.
11. No speaker will be allowed to surrender his or her time to any other person or to call upon other persons for comment.
12. No resident or taxpayer shall obstruct in any way the entrances or exits to the Township Council meeting room.
13. The resident or taxpayer shall address Township Council from the lectern situated in the center of the Township Council meeting room unless the resident or taxpayer is physically unable to do so.
14. All public comment will be addressed to the Township Council. Nothing herein shall require any Council member to answer questions or engage in debate.
15. Members of the audience may not address other members of the audience or argue, speak, or yell back and forth at each other.
16. To facilitate the business of the Township and to maintain order there shall be no foul or vulgar language used or gestures made during the meeting.
17. Comments should be substantive and not include any defamatory comment and/or person on the integrity of others whether or not present.
18. Letter shall not be read during the public comment unless such letter can be read within the allotted three-minute time limit for individual public comment. No extension shall be granted for residents or taxpayers reading a letter during public comment. Any letter cited or read may be submitted to the Township Manager.
19. Copies of any documents be reviewed or discussed during public comment shall be made available to Council at all times each attendee of the Council meeting shall respect the point of view of others.
20. At all times, each attendee of the Township Council meeting shall respect the point of view of others. No comment disagreeing with another's point of view shall involve a personal attack on the character of others with a different viewpoint.
21. Any conduct disruptive of the Township Council meeting and interfering with the business of the Township, such as talking when not recognized by the Council President or Acting Council President, talking beyond the allotted time and/or the use of a cell phone shall not be tolerated.
22. The Council President or Acting Council President will rule out of order any speaker or comment which is defamatory, contentious, scandalous or impertinent, redundant or disruptive to the proceedings of the meeting.
23. If the conduct and order of the Township Council meeting is no longer maintained, the Council President or Acting Council President may recess the meeting to restore order so the business of the Township may be conducted when the meeting resumes.
24. Public comment shall not contain personal text of any nature directed toward or against any Council person, employees of LST, members of the audience or any other persons.
25. A period of public comment will be placed at the end of each agenda item for comments regarding non-agenda items. The rules and regulations contained herein shall apply to this public comment period as well.
26. The purpose of the public comment shall be for residents or taxpayers to comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before Council prior to official action being taken. Council will not respond to comment made by the public portion of the meeting unless it is necessary to ask or clarify a question, correct factual error or provide specific information. The purpose of public comment is not for residents or taxpayers to engage in argument or debate with members of Council, the administration or other residents and the Council President shall maintain order in accordance with such purpose.

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This resolution shall repeal and replace Resolution #31-2022. This resolution was adopted on January 3, 2023.

Mr. Banonis said the Public Comment procedure is available on the table. We have a three-minute comment period for residents and taxpayers. If anyone would like to speak on any agenda items, please come forward and identify yourself.

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

- Bob Blasko started to speak on a non-agenda item. Mr. Banonis excuse me, this is for agenda items only. Can you identify which agenda item you are speaking to? Mr. Blasko said he's sorry, he thought this was for non-agenda items. Mr. Banonis said we're at the agenda item portion of the meeting, is there an agenda item you'd like to speak on? There's a number of resolutions here honoring International Firefighters' Day, National Police Week, and Public Works Week, is there any you would like to speak on? Mr. Blasko said he will wait for non-agenda items.
- Andrea Wittchen said she has three items to cover. The first is Resolution #41-2023. Does she understand correctly that the total legal fees that will now be budgeted for the current year is \$435,500.00. Mr. Banonis said Resolution #40-2023 is recognizing National Public Works Week. Ms. Wittchen said no, Resolution #41-2023. Mr. Banonis said he's sorry, he thought she said #40-2023, okay. Ms. Wittchen said does that correctly state that the amount set aside in the budget for the current fiscal year for legal and special legal fees totals, is a grand total of \$435,500.00. Alright, she believes that correctly represents 5% of the budget of this entire Township. She finds that appalling. Secondly, in the budget amendment that accompanies that resolution, each of the items is identified in a separate paragraph; however, in the resolution there is only one vote on three clearly disparate items. She believes that this does not well serve the residents of this Township who have a right to know if their Council members have any objection to one or more of those resolutions, instead you force them to vote on all three when they have really no reference to each other. She believes it would be in the interest of transparency for you to use separate resolutions when you are going to do budget transfers on highly disparate items. The third item is the item to be considered for the EAC backyard composting workshop that you will be considering subsidizing a portion of the fee for Township residents. She would suggest that if you can budget \$435,000.00 or 5% of our budget for legal fees, you can probably afford to pay 100% of the \$70.00 compost fee for every resident who wants to show up. Thank you.
- Laura Ray said she has two items to address. The first one is 5. C. the budget adjustments as well also caught her eye. She knows we were heading there anyway because of where we were with that budget amount, so originally, we budgeted \$211,180.00 and additionally, she sees \$240,880.00, so she came up with \$452,060.00. That's even if we stay within this budget which is maybe not too likely, so that's almost a half a million dollars that we're spending on legal fees, which is incredible and it's saddening and outrageous. She wondered on some of the things we are doing on the legal cases, is there any cost benefit analysis to determine if it's even worthwhile pursuing and specifically, that would be the case against OCL. She's wondering if that gets won, what exactly are we winning. She means is it just a victory. She doesn't see that there would be any service provided out of that or reimbursement for your fees or anything like that. The other item she has is 5. I. and that was the letter of support for the Upper Saucon Township grant for the Rail Trail Bridge over Preston Lane and she fully supports that. She thinks that's great as she loves using the Rail Trail, so she does support that. She's expecting that it would be a unanimous vote but then that would be a little confusing because in March we had a letter of support from Bethlehem asking for a letter of support they are applying for a grant for the trail gap that exists between the Bethlehem greenway to Hellertown, and you opposed that, so she didn't understand that vote at all. There was no obvious explanation and it just highlighted the ridiculous bias that exists against Hellertown. She guesses because they were the other end part of the Rail Trail but it all goes right through LST and we all use it, so please support that.

**3. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

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**A. RESOLUTION #38-2023 – RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS’ DAY – MAY 4, 2023**

Mr. Banonis said he knows we have some firefighters here so he will share with the public the language that’s in Resolution #38-2023 (*see attached Resolution #38-2023*).

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to adopt Resolution #38-2023 recognizing International Firefighters’ Day on May 4, 2023. He thanks all the firefighters for all their selfless service to the Township for the many years and we look forward to a continued strong relationship with them as we move forward.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. RESOLUTION #39-2023 – RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK – MAY 14 – MAY 20, 2023**

Mr. Banonis said Resolution #39-2023 has been prepared honoring peace officers for their bravery, dedication, and heroism and designates MAY 15, 2023 AS “Peace Officers Memorial Day” with May 14 – 20, 2023 designated as “Police Week” in Lower Saucon Township. He said he will read the resolution (*see attached Resolution #39-2023*).

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to adopt Resolution #39-2023 recognizing National Police Week from May 14 – 20, 2023. He wants to thank our police officers for all their selfless service to the community and it’s remarkable what they do for us on a daily basis.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Banonis said he knows Chief Barndt is not here and he doesn’t know if any of our officers are here, but Mark if you would extend our thanks to the members of the police force when you see them tomorrow and throughout the week. Mr. Hudson said he will.

**C. RESOLUTION #40-2023 – RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK – MAY 21 – MAY 27, 2023**

Mr. Banonis said Resolution #40-2023 has been prepared to recognize the Public Works employees for their hard work and dedication and to recognize May 21 – 27, 2023 as Public Works Week in Lower Saucon Township. He will read the resolution (*see attached Resolution #40-2023*).

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of Resolution #40-2023 recognizing National Public Works Week from May 21 – 27, 2023. He wants to thank Public Works workers or their selflessness and dedication to maintaining our community.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Inglis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Banonis said Mark if you would share with Roger and the other members of Public Works our appreciation for their efforts, and Ty Johnson who is here as well. Mr. Hudson said he will.

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

Mr. Banonis said LSFR will present their annual report to Township Council. He said Chief Ty Johnson is here as well as Scott Krycia and others from the department.

Scott Krycia said on behalf of himself and LSFR, he would like to present their 2022 operational report to the Township. Basically, it’s what they presented the last couple of years. They can go through it page by page or if you have any general questions. Mr. Banonis said we’ve had an opportunity to look at it. If there’s anything you want to highlight for us, please do. He doesn’t know if the public has read this report, so maybe you want to highlight some points so the public understands what you’re doing and how important it is.

Chief Ty Johnson said there was a steady increase in calls every year. He thinks they are up 8% this year from last year, 792 calls is what they ran and then again, it’s all volunteers so the guys are really putting in some time, along with Monday night trainings. In fact, they have a crew of guys training tonight up in Catasauqua, so it’s not just on a Monday night. The run sheet in the back will tell you

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how many calls they ran of specific types, and it's pretty self-explanatory. Does anyone have any questions?

Mr. Banonis said the only question he has is when we look at the mutual aid response for 2022, there's BC and NC and various numbers that are there and there are communities next to some and one that he sees is NC F13 Dewey, that's Hellertown, right? Chief Johnson said Northampton County (NC). Mr. Banonis said so NC would call you to go into Hellertown to provide support. Chief Johnson said correct. Mr. Banonis said you provided 103 mutual aid responses to Hellertown. Chief Johnson said yes. Mr. Banonis said and LC F34 would be Lehigh County, right? Chief Johnson said right. Mr. Banonis said and LC F34 is Fountain Hill. Chief Johnson said correct. Mr. Banonis said and you provided 87 calls of support to Fountain Hill as well. Chief Johnson said correct. Mr. Banonis said so almost 200 of your mutual aid response calls have been to our immediate neighbors. Chief Johnson said correct. Mr. Banonis said thank you.

Mr. Carocci said with the aid to Fountain Hill, is that for St. Luke's Hospital? Chief Johnson said yes. Mr. Carocci said he asked for the numbers from 2017, how many calls you had where you dispatched to St. Luke's Hospital in Lehigh County, in Fountain Hill, how many was that? Mr. Krycia said 87. Mr. Carocci said so 87 times you went to St. Luke's in Fountain Hill. Have we ever received any donations from St. Luke's? Mr. Krycia said no. Mr. Carocci said okay. When a call comes from St. Luke's, he would imagine it goes to Fountain Hill first. Chief Johnson said it goes to Lehigh County 911 Center and then their center calls our center and dispatches us to give them mutual aid. Mr. Carocci said what about the City of Bethlehem with the paid fire force, are they called? Chief Johnson said not to his knowledge, no. Mr. Carocci said why is that, can you explain that? Chief Johnson said generally the City of Bethlehem doesn't respond outside of the City of Bethlehem unless it's specially requested. They had an incident the other day where they called for an engine from them. They do not want to be on a structured dispatch, which is an automatic dispatch that we provide to County. Let's say for an automatic fire alarm, you want A, B, and C there; they don't want to be on that type of structure dispatch. Mr. Carocci said so when St. Luke's calls, it's basically you and Fountain Hill. Chief Johnson said correct. Mr. Carocci said do you know if they donate to Fountain Hill? Chief Johnson said he believes they gave money towards the purchase of an engine last year or two years ago. Mr. Carocci said but nothing for us? Chief Johnson said right. Mr. Carocci said did you ever consider sending them an invoice? Mr. Krycia said no. Mr. Carocci said well maybe you should. Chief Johnson said we are trying to curb going over there as much as we do. They've been pretty successful if you look at their other reports they provide, they're down quite a bit on calls that they've done in Fountain Hill. Mr. Carocci said he wouldn't object to sending a donation request for \$500.00 every time you go. That would have been about an extra \$40,000.00 or \$45,000.00 for you, just for the times you went since 2017. It's a very profitable hospital. Do you know if they pay property taxes in Fountain Hill? Chief Johnson said he didn't know for sure. Mr. Carocci said Linc do you know if they pay property taxes in Fountain Hill. Attorney Treadwell said he didn't know for sure. Mr. Carocci said hospitals generally don't. Mr. Krycia said they don't as he's a resident of Fountain Hill and he knows they don't pay property taxes. Mr. Carocci said sometimes they'll do a payment in lieu of taxes, such as possibly helping to pay for a fire truck. Can we talk about the responders and these top 15 responders?

Chief Johnson said its mutual aid responders and top responders. Some of these top responders here pull double duty. Kyle Mertl is one of our Captains. He's also a training officer so he coordinates all of the training along with three other members, so they are quite busy just coordinating that. James Rayner, he's also a Captain. He's sitting here to his left. He's also the treasurer, which is a full-time job in itself. Scott Krycia, sitting to his right, is a Captain and also the President of the fire company. Eric Billimoria is the Deputy Chief. Robert Gearhart is the Fire Police Captain. Ty Johnson, Fire Chief. Jan Doddy is our Investigator for the fire department/fire marshal. He is sitting in the back. Dave Kemmerer is one of our Lieutenants. Gail Metzner is out of our Leithsville Station and an EMT. Abby Gress is a Jr. Firefighter. Tony Medei is one of the Battalion Chief's. Jason Mingora is a Fire Police Lieutenant and William Reccek is an Assistant Engineer and also works at our Water Authority.

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Mr. Carocci said first of all he wants to thank those 15 people in particular, and he wants to thank all 58 of your 2022 members that are listed. For those 15 in particular, it's an outstanding volunteerism for 2022. We thank you very much for all of them. On the other page you have 93% of our members are Fire Fighter 1 Certified and 3,680 training hours completed. Can you tell the public how kind of special that is and what that is.

Chief Johnson said Fire Fighter 1 Certified is a national certification that will follow you through the country. If someone would move from the state of PA and move to Texas, that certification will follow them. A majority of our guys are even Fire 2 Certified. The State does a program that recognizes that and if you see our trucks, you see a Keystone label on it. We're in the 75 percentile of that. He hasn't run the numbers lately, but the last time they did, it there was only like 2,200 or 2,300 fire departments in the State that were at the silver level which is 75%, which is where they are at. They are on the cusp of having the gold level, which would be 100%. The problem is they have some older members that just don't want to continue the training, which they don't blame them at all for, so that's where it's holding them back a little or they would be there. So silver it is. Yes, the training they do, they try to do all pro board certs. Last year the majority of them completed specialized vehicle rescue pro board, which is a pretty big deal. They figured it was a good class to take because of the type of incidents they run on their roads in the Township and on the interstate that they have a national certification of the majority of our members. They all had specialized vehicle rescue through the State but they wanted it so it would follow them through the country.

Mr. Carocci said it's great that you have silver and congratulations on that, that's great. Mr. Krycia said if he could add to that, the Fire Fighter 1 Certification is important for their response on fire calls but it's actually important to the State of PA because they do the Fire Commissioner's Grant every year, and they only accept members in our organization for that grant that are Fire Fighter 1 Certified. You have to have 25 qualifying Fire Fighter 1 Certified members to get the max amount we get from the State of PA. We have that covered in our roster and that's how we are able to get the max amount every year. Then while they are on that topic, since our merger with Steel City is complete, they are going to file for their portion of their grant now for the next ten years, so there will be additional income through that, so it's just something to add in there.

Chief Johnson said it also helps with the ISO rating which is a benefit to the taxpayers of the Township. Mr. Carocci said right, if people remember last year there was a big concern, or two years ago with the ISO rating with Steel City not kind of cooperating by not providing numbers and that is what insurance companies use to decide on home insurance rates, fire insurance rates for homes, so you want a high ISO rating, a good ISO rating and fortunately we have one because of the hard work of LS-16 in coming up with the numbers when the Steel City was somewhat negligent in that. We get rated again in a couple years, every five years. Chief Johnson said yes. We can also contact them and have them make an addendum as we change some things. One of the things they've been working on is that they said would count greatly towards our score is a mandatory training for our fire officers, so we are pretty much doing that now. We just have to reach back out to ISO and see if that's sufficient for them and then they will regrade us.

Mr. Carocci said it's good for the public to understand that supporting the volunteer fire companies is expensive, the equipment is expensive, but it's worth it. If we didn't have a volunteer fire services company, or not a good one, or a highly rated one, there would be a tax on every property owner in the Township, who would pay much higher insurance rates on their homes and every property owner would pay more, so that's good. If you want to, you can go over the income and expenses for 2022 and also talk about the gold transparency certification.

Mr. Jim Rayner said this is page 11, so every year we do a budget. This is showing our 2022 actuals where we add it up for the calendar year, then our budget for 2023. You can see for 2022 income was a little over \$1.4 million. A big chunk of that was we did have a couple of big grants last year. We made a large radio purchase, so we had a radio grant for \$365,000.00 and change and we also



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had an air pack grant from FEMA, which was over \$146,000.00. The Township also contributed some money to help us make those air pack purchases. On the expense side, we were at \$1.55 million, so pretty much kind of a balanced budget, a little bit over spent but again the big parts of that were again the radio purchase, which was over \$500,000.00 total and again those air packs were the big purchase in there too. We also appreciate the Township continuing to make the payments toward our ladder truck that we purchased a couple of years ago. We have a few more years of payments to go on that, but we are making progress, thanks to your support. We did spend a significant amount on truck maintenance as well just because of all the calls we are running. It's just expensive to maintain the equipment to keep it running and functioning properly.

Mr. Carocci said the Township operating allotment was \$225,000.00, which is a direct allotment. The apparatus allotment comes from the fire tax and it's for the ladder truck \$134,000.00, and then the incentive funding is \$10,000.00 and then there was a grant writing. Mr. Rayner said there was. The grant writing was \$3,500.00, is that right Scott? Mr. Krycia said he thinks it's \$3,500.00. Mr. Carocci said there was a financial asset transfer from Steel City merger of \$168,688.60. Mr. Rayner said correct. When the merger was completed, then we transferred that funding into our account and the last little bit will come in this year which is \$7,800.00. Mr. Carocci said that was a big thing you guys got done last year and the numbers look great.

Mr. Banonis said he appreciates this page in particular, what you are doing on the operational side is fantastic, but the financial side, he really appreciates the transparency. You are showing exactly your income levels that are coming in. You are showing us what you are spending, and he sees you have this gold transparency designation, which he assumes is the highest standard or close to the highest standard. These things are important because you are receiving taxpayer dollars for a lot that you do and it's important for the public to know exactly how their money is being spent. He doesn't doubt that you guys are spending the money wisely, but it's still nice to see it on a piece of paper so we can relate to that if we have questions.

Mr. Rayner said exactly, and GuideStar we do that every year, which is a separate organization that for any 501(c) 3 they can get registered with GuideStar and then there are different levels. The top level is actually platinum. Maybe we'll get there one day, but for now we are gold which is second from the top. We have to go out every year and update information about our financials and answer some different questions about the makeup of our board and things like that.

Mr. Banonis said this GuideStar, this is available to any non-profit organization that can be certified by GuideStar? Mr. Rayner said that is correct. Mr. Banonis said GuideStar would provide you with guidelines on how to be as transparent as possible to meet their different criteria? Mr. Rayner said that's correct and there's also different avenues like folks who want to donate to non-profits, they will simply use GuideStar as a research tool to go research the types of organizations that are out there that they might want to donate to and then they can use these different levels as an indicator in terms as to how well the organization is financially.

Mrs. Yerger said it's really good to be at the gold standard. That's really good because as you know she wrote grants for a non-profit. Mr. Banonis said that's something we should look at more closely for any 501(c) 3 that receives taxpayer money regardless of whatever it is to make sure they are GuideStar certified and at least following those protocols because then it's gets really important.

Mr. Carocci said we had our first meeting of the Subcommittee to talk about putting the 5-to-10-year Capital Plan together for fire houses and fire apparatus, so we don't have anything to report yet. We only met once so far and we are having another meeting, so that is something to look forward to, hopefully something in next year's report. Do you guys have anything else? Mr. Krycia said no we are good. Mr. Banonis said he's looking forward to the outcome of the committee, the meetings you are currently having and will continue to have. It's going to be important for us to have a road map going forward so we can do some capital planning and continue to provide support and maintain the quality fire services we have.

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Mr. Carocci said just a little on some of these stations. Leithsville was originally built in 1968 and was rebuilt in 2012 obviously, but the Se-Wy-Co, the original fire station was built in 1890 and was added on to in 1932, 1969, 1980, 1991 and 1997 and the social hall was added in 1984. The Southeastern Fire Company was built in 1887 and was updated in 1954; the social hall was added in 1971. Then the Steel City was built in 1986 and then a two-bay pole barn was added in 2018, so we have some old buildings that have been added on to and that are functional, but we have to come up with a long-term plan for these properties and what fire stations will look like or need to be for the next 20, 30, 40, 50 years and start planning for that sooner rather than later. Mr. Banonis said he agrees. Mr. Carocci said thank you for your volunteerism and all you do for the community.

Mr. Banonis said he doesn't know if you guys want to hang around for the next few items we have coming up which are the fire funding audit and grant writing funding, so Cathy let's move on to those and if we have any questions, maybe we can direct them to you. Mr. Krycia said sure. Mr. Banonis said unless you need to go for family or whatever else.

**4. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**5. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. 2022 FIRE FUNDING AUDIT – RELEASE OF ANNUAL FUNDING**

Mr. Banonis said the Township annual donation to LSFR for 2023 is \$225,000.00. Township annual donation to LSFR "Recruitment and Retention" for 2023 is \$10,000.00.

Mrs. Gorman said Mr. Rayner provided her with all the documents she requested. She is charged with auditing the funding the Township provides them on an annual basis. She found no deficiencies. They complied with everything on the 501(c)(3) policy. Mr. Banonis said that's great. Mr. Carocci said you are recommending we release the fund? Mrs. Gorman said yes.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the annual donation to LSFR for 2023 of \$225,000.00 and for an additional Township annual donation to LSFR Recruitment and Retention for 2023 of \$10,000.00.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. LSFR REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF GRANT WRITING FUNDING**

Mr. Banonis said Mark had provided us with a memo. LSFR is requesting to reimburse the cost of hiring a grant writer, Firehouse Grants, LLC to file for a grant on their behalf. Funding was budgeted under 02.411.710 Fire Consultation. The invoice we have here from Firehouse Grants, it's Invoice No. 2251 from February 17, 2023, in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the fee for the preparation of fiscal year 2022 fire grant application. He doesn't have any questions about it.

Mr. Carocci said he wants to point out this grant writing is what you use to get the FEMA air pack grant for \$146,104.76 and for a FEMA radio grant for \$365,714.28, so we basically got over a half of a million dollars in grants for spending \$4,500.00 and as he said before, we want them to apply for as many grants as possible. If you run out and \$4,500.00 is not enough, certainly let Council know and come back mid-year because we want to apply for as many grants as possible. It pays. For \$4,500.00, we got over \$500,000.00 in grants. It's a great investment and if you need more, let us know, but let's start with the \$4,500.00. Mr. Banonis said perhaps we could put you on the Pension Committee if you are getting returns like that.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of LSFR request for release of the grant writing funding in the amount of \$4,500.00 to Firehouse Grants.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

C. **RESOLUTION #41-2023 – AUTHORIZING BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Banonis said Resolution #41-2023 has been prepared authorizing the budget adjustments. Mrs. Gorman said as she brought to Council's attention last meeting for the CAFR Report...Ms. deLeon said can you talk louder; she can't hear her. Mr. Carocci said then you should be here. Mrs. Gorman said as she brought to Council's attention at the last meeting for the CAFR report, there were certain items that crossed years where Council had approved them last year and we recognized the expenses or have already in 2023. Other items on there were the Council approved police officers that we need to amend the budget to add additional funding in the police budget and also the legal fees that were previously discussed.

Mr. Banonis said he doesn't have any questions, Mark, Sandy? Mr. Carocci said he will make a motion. She will have to speak up, he can't hear her. Ms. deLeon said first of all, she would like to support this whole resolution, but unfortunately, she's outraged at the legal expenses. The first two items for the modified budget at \$283,500.00 and then the special legal at \$152,000.00 as the modified budget. She fully supports the expenses and the budget transfers for the full-time officers, their benefits, uniforms, all that stuff, and the vehicles, but she's disappointed that this is all combined into one because like she said, when is this going to stop, when is the end with these lawsuits. How much more money are we going to spend? Where are we going? What's the outcome? She has all these questions and no answers.

Mr. Carocci said he made a motion to authorize the budget. Mr. Banonis said he has to ask Linc one question. Just to be clear here, some of the legal fees that were incurred here, a substantial portion, were related to land development issues over which we have no control as to what comes in the door and what a developer or property owner may ask us to do or not do, correct? Attorney Treadwell said he thinks maybe some of them are land development issues but he thinks a lot of them are a Right-to-Know (RTK) act requests. We get a large number of RTK act requests. Mr. Carocci said we don't have any control over that. Attorney Treadwell said we don't have any control over that. Mr. Carocci said and we actually respond to ours.

Attorney Treadwell said in terms of the litigation items, the Federal litigation with the OCL, is the only one that LST initiated. Every other litigation we have, came in the door and was filed by someone else. Mr. Banonis said we are obligated, by law, to participate in that litigation as we have either been named as a party in it or the Township has an interest in it. Attorney Treadwell said yes, and we attempted to settle the Hellertown Borough Compost Center litigation and they didn't want to settle it. Mr. Carocci said so we've been sued and that's why we have higher legal costs this year.

Ms. deLeon said she'd like to request a breakdown of all the RTK act requests, like break it down by categories to come up with those figures and the status of the lawsuits. Attorney Treadwell said Priscilla, you can call me at any time and ask me about the status of the lawsuits. Ms. deLeon said she understands that, she'd like it in writing please. Attorney Treadwell said if we are complaining about legal fees, you are now going to increase the legal fees by him writing...Ms. deLeon said she's not asking you to do it she's asking the Township. Mr. Banonis said Priscilla, he's responding to your question, so please don't interrupt him, Linc please finish. Attorney Treadwell said he was done. If the complaint is that the legal fees are too high, asking him to spend some time summarizing the lawsuits in writing as opposed to just telling people on the phone what it is, is more expensive.

Ms. deLeon said if you are finished, her question would be to Cathy, to put it in and she has to categorize it in the budget format, so she's asking for that. Mr. Banonis said okay, are you done? Ms. deLeon said am I done, well I'm waiting for my answer, is that okay, can Cathy do that and separate it into RTK requests and whether it was a developer thing or whatever the lawsuit was. She has to keep track of it in our financing. Mr. Banonis said Priscilla, why don't you pick up the phone and call her tomorrow or even before this meeting if you have these questions and concerns. Mr. Carocci said yes, you could have had those numbers for tonight. Mr. Banonis said you are asking questions, Tom did you make the motion? Mr. Carocci said yes, he has.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for approval of Resolution #41-2023 authorizing budget adjustments.

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**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

Ms. deLeon said just be rude publicly, that's okay, Jason. Mr. Banonis said he can't hear you. Ms. deLeon said it's not a problem. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't know what you are saying, Priscilla. Ms. deLeon said yes, she knows you don't. You wouldn't understand it anyway.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-1 (Ms. deLeon – No – she would like the record to reflect her split as stated above, Mr. Carocci said why you are voting against the police)

Mr. Banonis said just to make it clear, there could have been a motion to separate them out individually, individual votes, but there was no separate motion. Mr. Carocci said there was no motion to separate them.

**D. RESOLUTION #42-2023 – BUDGET TRANSFER**

Mr. Banonis said Resolution #42-2023 has been prepared. Mrs. Gorman said this again was brought up at the last meeting during the CAFR presentation where we had excess revenue over expenditures. We had discussed that we would want \$1 million to be transferred to the Capital Fund for the Steel City road project and \$500,000.00 to the Park Capital Fund and the remaining that was left, which was a little over \$800,000.00, would be transferred into the Operational Reserve, which doesn't require a resolution. Mr. Banonis said he has no questions or concerns about the transfer. This is something we discussed previously and this is just formalizing it.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of Resolution #42-2023 budget transfers.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

Ms. deLeon said she has a question. She supports the paving of Steel City using the amount of money that was stated, what Park Fund is it going to? Mr. Banonis said it says the Park Capital Fund. Ms. deLeon said she knows, but which park? Mr. Banonis said the Park Capital Fund, which is the General Fund for the park system. Ms. deLeon said she knows, so it doesn't have an identified park? It's just going into the Park Fund? Mr. Banonis said that's what it says. You do have a copy of the packet, right? Mr. Carocci said maybe you should have reviewed it.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-1 (Ms. deLeon – No – she said she's splitting her vote because she supports the Steel City paving but she doesn't support the \$500,000.00 so that's why she's voting no and she'd like the record to reflect that please)

Mr. Banonis said just so it's clear for the record, the allocation of the \$1 million is to the Capital Fund without any specific earmarking to it, and the allocation of the \$500,000.00 to the Park Capital Fund is to the General Park Capital Fund without any allocation to it. Mrs. Yerger said right and when it comes time for allocation, it will come before Council? Mr. Banonis said that's right.

**E. EASTON ROAD BALLFIELD REPLACEMENT PROJECTS**

Mr. Banonis said as he recalls, this may have been in December or January, we had authorized Township staff to request bids for the Easton Road Ballfield when we got responses back for some State grants that were pending. We expected we would have received those grants perhaps January or February, but we still have not received any response and there's no indication as to when any response may be forthcoming. Mr. Hudson said correct. Mr. Banonis said he doesn't think there's anything that prevents us from sending it out to bid to continue to move the project along? If the grant money comes in, we can apply that grant money to the project when it arrives, correct? Mr. Hudson said he doesn't want to say yes, but they will look into it and will make sure with the grant.

Ms. deLeon said she would say there's different stipulations for different grants, and we would maybe not be able to start the project. He should look into that. Mr. Hudson said we definitely can't start the project until we have the grant money. He'll have to do a quick review to see when we can go out to bid. You can authorize us to go out to bid. Once we determine that, he and Brien and Linc will make sure that they determine that before they move the bid process forward.

Mr. Banonis said this is something we've been talking about for over two years and he doesn't want it to be another project that stalls. He'd like to continue to move it forward unless there are any questions or comments from Council. Mrs. Yerger said she trusts Mark on the bid process and as long as that is the stipulation within this, then she's fine with it and she knows you will be too. You know how grants work; they've been doing this for years. Mr. Banonis said he'll make a motion.

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**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the advertising for Easton Road Ballfield Replacement project out to bid when Mark confirms that we can send it out to bid and not affect the pending grants, and again, if we can send it out to bid and get the bids in, we at least have something to work with and maybe in the meantime the grants come in and we're ready to move forward.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Inglis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**F. SAUCON VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (SVCC) – SUMMER RECREATIONAL PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

Mr. Banonis said the agreement for the SVCC 2023 Summer Recreational Program has been prepared for Council's review and approval. The program is structured similarly to previous years and maintains the nominal fee of \$10.00 for one child and \$5.00 for each additional child. This year, Steel City Park has been added to the program. He remembers that Donna Louder had requested that and we appreciate her efforts in that regard. He doesn't have any questions about the agreement. It looks like the standard agreement we have had in past years, he will make a motion, unless there are any comments or questions from Council.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the execution of the 2023 SVCC Summer Recreational Program agreement, not to exceed \$31,116.00.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**G. EAC BACKYARD COMPOSTING WORKSHOP – RESIDENT REIMBURSEMENT**

Mr. Banonis said the EAC will be hosting a Backyard Composting Workshop on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. There will be a \$70 cost to residents. The EAC is asking Council to consider subsidizing a portion of the fee for Township residents. The workshop will be open to the first 25 people who register. The workshop will be held at Lower Saucon Town Hall. Up for discussion is considering subsidizing a portion of the fee for Township residents. It may be appropriate to subsidize \$50.00 of that fee. We require individuals to pay a portion for library services. We require residents to pay a portion for the public pool and we also require residents to pay a portion for the summer recreational program. He thinks that \$20 per resident is not too onerous for people who may be interested in learning about backyard composting. If anyone feels differently, feel free to comment.

Mr. Carocci said he just wants to make it clear that the workshop is open to the public, but the reimbursement will only go to Township residents. There will have to be verification that they are a Township resident. If there's a non-Township resident that comes, we will not subsidize that, they will pay the \$70.00 if they are one of the first 25. Mr. Banonis said he completely agrees.

Mr. Hudson said the way it will work is they will pay the full amount as they are going to register with another company to do the program and then once they come to the program and they attend, then we will have a form for them to fill out for the reimbursement if it passes, of \$50.00 per Township resident. Mr. Banonis said that's a good point Mark that they have to actually attend the program. We are not going to pay for people to sign up and not show up for it. Mr. Carocci said that's right, and sorry to give you more work Cathy, but you might have to write up to 25 checks for reimbursement. He's sure it won't be that many for actual Township residents. He said what is that, \$1,500.00? Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Inglis said \$1,250.00 he thinks.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the EAC backyard composting workshop whereby the Township will subsidize a portion of the fee of \$50.00 to Township residents to participate in the workshop on Saturday, June 3, 2023. The remaining balance would be owed by the resident. The resident would have to pay the full \$70.00 up front and then they come back to the Township for a maximum reimbursement of \$50.00 upon proof that they completed the program. That number shall not exceed \$1,250.00 total reimbursement.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**H. WAGNER/HOLUM FARMSTEAD – HISTORIC SIGN**

Mr. Banonis said Council will consider a request to add a Historic Sign/Marker for the Wagner/Holum Farmstead, which was added to the list of National Register of Historic Places on July 23, 2020.

Mr. Hudson said we had a request from Mr. Holum to do a sign like we have done in the past. We have one at Ehrhart Mill District and one at the Meadows Bridge at one time. We put together a brief summary to go on the sign. The Wagner/Holum Farmstead was the first private residence in LST to be accepted on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of only 17 farmsteads listed in the state. The property was owned by an affluent family; the Wagner's until 1971. The Wagner's were successful German farmers and prosperous entrepreneurs owning a limestone quarry, a grist mill, and a threshing operation. The farmstead is an excellent example of a Germanic farm that existed in our area, the "Great Valley Agricultural Region." The property currently owned by the Holum's consists of an early Victorian period brick house. The property's center piece is a large stone barn built in 1849, six smaller outbuildings adorn the picturesque property, complete with a stone springhouse. They will try and put a QR code on the sign to link to their website for additional information. He spoke to Mr. Holum and he gave quite a long write-up that he tried to summarize with the paragraph he just said. Mr. Holum had seen this and he was okay with it. He likes the idea of a QR code and they will also put the date it was listed, July 23, 2020 on the sign as they did with the other signs.

Mrs. Yerger thanked Mark for working with Mr. Holum and working up the sign. It's a beautiful farm and it's a historic piece in our Township, so she thanks him very much for that. Mr. Banonis said Mark when you talk with Mr. Holum, his farm is really a treasure when you are on the Rail Trail. It's just a beautiful open property and he's done a remarkable job preserving it. Mrs. Yerger said yes. Ms. deLeon said she was making a motion to approve the purchase.

- MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved for approval of the purchase of a sign for the Wagner/Holum Farmstead in the amount of \$1,675.00.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**I. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR UPPER SAUCON GRANT SUBMISSION TO INSTALL A BRIDGE OVER PRESTON LANE**

Mr. Hudson said we received a request from Upper Saucon Township asking for a letter of support for their DCNR grant submission to install a bridge over Preston Lane since there is a break in the Saucon Valley Rail Trail at that point, so they are looking for us to support their grant application to install the bridge and get rid of the break in the trail.

Ms. deLeon said she thinks this is really great. This was part of what we did for Bethlehem a couple of meetings ago, so she totally supports this letter. Mrs. Yerger said it's a really pretty section of the trail, so this will be a real positive for residents of both municipalities.

- MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval to send Upper Saucon Township a letter of support for a DCNR grant submission to install a bridge over Preston Lane.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2023 COUNCIL MINUTES**

Mr. Banonis said the March 22, 2023 Council minutes are ready for Council's review and approval.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the March 22, 2023 Council minutes.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Inglis  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mr. Banonis said the March 2023 Financial Reports are ready for Council's review and approval.

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**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the March 2023 Financial Reports.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**8. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

**A. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – MARK HUDSON**

- The Township staff and the Saucon Valley Conservancy met with a mason to discuss the stone arch and wall at the Heller Homestead. They are waiting on a quote for those repairs.
- The Landfill Committee meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow, April 20<sup>th</sup> is now rescheduled to Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- LST is joining with Upper Saucon Township (UST) to host two electronic recycling events this year. The first will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> in UST at Hopewell Park, 4695 West Hopewell Road, Center Valley, PA 18034, which is right next to Hopewell Elementary School.
- The Township had two bids out and we had a bid out for the Heller Homestead windows restoration. We did not receive a bid for that. The Township is going to put that bid back out immediately on the street. We also had a bid out for the Reading Culvert and we did not receive a bid for that project. That's a concrete culvert to be produced.
- Just letting everyone know, please be advised that the PA Department of Environmental Protection will be using a helicopter to spray for black flies along the Lehigh River tomorrow, April 20<sup>th</sup>. They will start on the Delaware and work their way up into Allentown. If you see a helicopter spraying stuff, that is what is happening.
- The Yard Waste Collection Facility on Polk Valley Road will be open on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will also be open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**B. COUNCIL/JR. COUNCIL**

**Jr. Council**

- Rudra Thakkar said Saucon Valley's Mini-THON Club is going to be holding a fundraiser at the Inside Scoop to help combat pediatric cancer. The event is going to take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and 10% of the proceeds are going to go to the \$30,000.00 goal at the end of the year to again help fight against pediatric cancer.

**Mr. Inglis**

- We have a Rail Trail meeting on Monday down at Coopersburg if anybody has any comments or thoughts about the Rail Trail or wants to interject anything. They are usually pretty productive meetings. There is a good crew there that runs that committee. They are energetic and it goes pretty productively.
- We have a Parks and Rec. meeting on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and he was asked yesterday about Pickle Ball Courts and they have been talking about that for the last three meetings. They are trying to find a place to put them. They have a couple of options, so they are just trying to dial that down a little bit.
- He spoke to Mark Hudson about possibly looking into cutting down the outfield fence at the Steel City baseball field. We don't want to remove it; we just want to make it lower. We feel it's too high and it just looks like a prison down there, so they are talking about options as to what they can do about that. They want to plant some more shrubs and trees just to make it park-like rather than prison-like. That's in the works, but most of that they are looking to do it in the fall most likely but they started the process now.
- Mark mentioned the Heller Homestead. He was there when they met with the mason and they are looking at a couple of options with that, whether they knock the grade down in the back and just make some 3' knee walls and do some seeding, some sodding in the courtyard area to make it a nice place for pictures. They want to try to remove the fence is what their goal is. How can we stabilize the Heller Homestead to keep its integrity and also make it available to the public to get in and around. That's their goal with that and at least they got the ball rolling on that. The Public Works guys did a great job cleaning up the inside so now we can see what we have.
- He attended the library meeting last night at Southern Lehigh and basically a couple bullet points from that were he believed they turned down our offer. It got a little weird at times. A lot of discussions went on for a long time. They had a couple of residents go down and

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speaking. They were very respectful, which was nice to see. They learned a couple of facts that came out during the meeting that it's not a problem to cross over county lines because as of right now Southern Lehigh is in a partnership with Lehigh and also Carbon County. They did mention the library system we have out west that Linc brought up at one point. Mr. Banonis said the Northland Library system. Mr. Inglis said it's the one around Erie that includes four counties and that's considered a model and works very, very well, which are some of the things we talked about in the past. Candi Kruse, the Library President, brought up an option of regionalizing all the local libraries to get together and have one big library system realizing that as of now, the small library model is not doing well. We basically have SLPL is not doing very well financially and neither is HAL. She realized or recognized that a regional library might be an option to look into. Unfortunately, she got voted down, but regardless, at least it was brought up in conversation. He believes it was eventually in the paper this afternoon or will be in tomorrow morning, they eventually decided to have a public hearing with all their funding partners to discuss what they want. He believes there's three of the four funding partners wanted to accept our offer and Coopersburg he wasn't sure where they stood based on what was said. The library board wanted to have a hearing to discuss everything in public and talk about some of the options. That's pretty much what he took out of the meeting last night. There were a lot of other things going on but those are pretty much the bullet points. They did learn also from Mark Sullivan, the Library Rep, that the OCL is very hard to get answers from them. Their rules are not very clear on a lot of items. He waivered back and forth on a lot of things. He tried to give an honest opinion, but he's not sure he was able to give an honest opinion. He doesn't think he really knew. He thinks some of us there last night would agree with that statement. So that's pretty much where the library came in last night. Mr. Banonis said on that regional library concept, that was something that we specifically discussed with HAL in a meeting with Hellertown Borough Council President Tom Rieger, Hellertown Mayor Heintzelman and that was when Jen Zavacky was on Council going back almost two years and they were not in favor of that modeling concept. He's just sharing that with everyone based on historical information. Perhaps their position changed over time, he doesn't know. Mr. Inglis said according to Candi last night, they were willing to talk about it. That's what she said. Mr. Banonis said that's progress. Mr. Inglis said it was progress he thought. Mr. Banonis said he thinks they have some awareness, which is great.

**Mrs. Yerger**

- She asked Mark about the placement of the historic sign and said it would be nice if you could work with the property owner for the farm that they can see it from the Rail Trail. Mr. Hudson said that's where he wants it. They have had emails discussing it. Mrs. Yerger said once it goes on the road you won't be able to see it and that's a really good educational piece. Mr. Hudson said if his memory serves him correctly, Mr. Holum did want it on the Rail Trail. Mrs. Yerger said great, thank you so much.

**Mr. Banonis**

- We received notification from DEP that they approved the Landfill's Air Quality Program Plan, which is significant and provides additional reassurances and protections in terms of air quality. The other letter we received, which is a very significant letter, is that DEP approved the major permit modification for the Northern Realignment (NR) so that NR has been approved and the financial ramifications of that to the Township are significant. As everybody knows, the Township receives millions of dollars every year and if the landfill is going to remain open for another 4 or 5 years, as he recalls based upon that NR, that's an additional \$8 to \$10 million or more that will be coming to the Township in host municipal fees, so that's really important for us as a Township to maintain a sound financial position going forward.
- We also received from Hanover Engineering their inspection report from April 18, 2023. The Host Engineer went out and took a look and there were no glaring problems reported and was consistent with past reports.

**Ms. deLeon**



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- She was also at the SLPL meeting last night, it was a very long meeting, back and forth on a lot of things. No decision like Mark said despite the May 4<sup>th</sup> deadline but she did learn more and more about how a library is supposed to operate in PA and it's funny how she learned all that stuff outside of Council. It's a very complicating and intertwined process and she wants to publicly thank the SLPL Board for their review and patience during the meeting although she's still not in support of the request.
- Moving on to the Greater LV Chamber of Commerce - on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. the GLVCC is holding a Get Down and Dirty with the affiliated chambers. That's an event you can sign up for. On April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. the Hellertown-LS Chamber is holding a celebration in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hellertown Post Office. Refreshments will be served after the ribbon cutting, we should all try to support the local post office. May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. there will be a memorial bench dedication for the Kaufman family sisters who unfortunately passed in that fire. There's also on May 24<sup>th</sup> an Honors and Hors d'oeuvres Event which is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund and that's going to be at Dimmick Park.

**Mr. Carocci**

- There are some crazy library numbers floating out there from the HAL which we are used to dishonest information from them. Basically, the Township has made 219 reimbursements for a total of \$7,420.00. That's 152 family memberships for the HAL and 67 individual reimbursements for \$1,340.00 and 152 family memberships for \$6,080.00. Mr. Banonis asked what the total dollar amount was? Mr. Carocci said \$7,420.00. If we would have funded them at their take it or leave it offer in December 2021, that would have been \$502.28 per card, per membership card. We've paid a total of \$7,420.00 in reimbursements. The reason why people are saying 600 or 700 is that we got word that all children are being offered cards, which is fine, but they are not separately reimbursed, in fact children older than 6 months old are being offered cards so they can get the numbers that they are promoting publicly. Children under 18 aren't allowed to sign contracts to basically agree to pay late fee on books or anything like that, but it's good that at least teenagers have library cards and younger. Seven months old is not too early when you are trying to pump up numbers.
- Also, residents received in the mail, bethlehemlandfill.com/facts. If anybody is looking for some information on the landfill, he would look at that and all the sources but this is definitely one source. They provide \$2 million in host fee payments to the Township, funding 25% of the Township budget; over \$100,000.00 in local giving to student and community organizations; they have a strong environmental track record as the DEP just approved their NE realignment so they got DEP approval for a realignment. He doesn't think anyone with a bad environmental track record would have got DEP approval and that's their main regulator. They don't take hazardous waste, it's forbidden. They are saying if there is any proposed expansion, there will be no increase in traffic and no increase in the days or hours of operation and no change to the entrance of the facility. Just another resource when people make their decision on the landfill.
- The EAC met and they will be glad that the \$50.00 reimbursement is forthcoming.
- The Planning Commission meeting was cancelled this month for lack of business.

**B. SOLICITOR – No report.**

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

- Ann Marie Crown said her comments reflect being at the hearing today when the District Manager of the landfill testified. The "About" page of BLC's website mentions serving five PA counties. It does not disclose anything about the number of trash trucks that come in from NJ. The "About" page also mentions "Disposal for residential, commercial construction, and demolition waste". You go to the "Facts" page and there it says "Our permit only allows us to accept household and commercial waste" so which is it? Does BLC accept demolition waste now or in the past and what's in that waste? BLC did indeed send us this direct mail piece, which is much like their "Fact" page on the website. For groundwater safety, it mentions 29 individual monitoring wells. It does not disclose anything about the 10 abatement wells that they had to build because of water quality deficiency in the unlined area that goes back to 1940. Neither on the website or the direct mail piece do they ever

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mention odor, litter, a muddy roadway, noise, the number of trash trucks per day, the 1,600 tons of trash per day, or some types of radioactive material that they have accepted and reported to DEP. From their home page “At Bethlehem Landfill, we believe in building a better tomorrow”. Well, this tomorrow started about 1940 when Bethlehem used it as a dump. Present day residents believe the existing landfill would close in the next several years. Let’s assume a 2030 closing, we still have 30 more years to go of off gas and decomposition. So that takes us out to 2060. The proposed expansion site has an estimated disposal lifetime of 30 years and another 30 years of decomp and off gas. Assuming the expansion would go forward in 2030, add another 60 years onto that, we are practically in the next century. So, for LST’s part of this, she regarded this as quite a legacy of doubt for a Township billing itself on its own website with a video and these words” ...Mr. Banonis said Ma’am you’ve hit the three minutes time limit, so you may wrap up this thought, okay, thank you.

➤ Bob Blasko said he has noticed when somebody stands here and compliments you and flatters your ego, you let them go an additional two minutes. If somebody has anything to say poorly about you or contest you, immediately at three minutes, you tell us to sit down. He was not going to speak after speaking out of turn earlier, he does apologize for that because he thought it was his turn. Now you’ve really kind of ticked him off with some of this stuff. Last committee meeting, Mr. Banonis you made sure you asked Mr. Treadwell if there was not a Township Borough in PA that had been sued for not having enough LM zoning to justify the changes in the zoning of three areas of our Township. Does anyone in this courtroom believe that you were afraid or shy of lawsuits, he doesn’t think so. At the procedural hearing on Monday, Mr. Treadwell told the judge that if you watched the meeting videos you would see people cursing and some even crying. Yes, Mr. Treadwell some have cursed, perhaps that’s not allowed in meeting protocol but if those attending these meetings were trying to shove a landfill up your side of the Township, you’d probably curse too. As far as crying is concerned, for you to use it in court in the manner that you did, was in his humble opinion, an obscenity in itself and he dropped his respect for Mr. Treadwell a notch or two at that point. At today’s hearing Astor Lawson, the Supervisor for the landfill was asked by Attorney Garber if any citizens of LST attended Landfill Committee meetings. He didn’t even know there was such a meeting, they are quarterly; however, the implication was that because of an attendance, no one cared. Why would someone attend such a quarterly meeting when Council will not listen to, will not respond positively to the request at a full monthly Council meeting, and act accordingly to what the citizens want? Why would attending 100 meetings change Council’s mind, with 1,000 people attending meetings change Council’s minds, not by the record that we’ve witnessed. And why is Hellertown suing us. They must have a good reason especially after such a good long-standing relationship in the past. If it is because of something we did or didn’t do that we were supposed to or not supposed to do, you can say that money is going out because they sued us when in actuality if it’s something because we did or didn’t do that we were supposed to or not supposed to do, LST did indeed induce that lawsuit. Mr. Carocci just sat there and said they don’t accept any hazardous waste...Mr. Banonis said Mr. Blasko...Mr. Blasko you’ve hit your three-minute time limit, thank you. Mr. Carocci asked if the Landfill Committee meetings were on the website? Mr. Hudson said they are on the website and they are on the calendar. Mr. Banonis said and they are on every agenda we have. Mr. Blasko was talking while sitting in the audience. Mr. Banonis said where’s the police. You’ll have your opportunity to speak Mr. Ozimek.

➤ JoEllen Thompson said she’s been a resident of LST for over 40 years. She’s attended these meetings for over the past year and a half and commented at many of these meetings. When she’s spoken, she always tried to base her opinions on verifiable facts and not take things out of context or misrepresent anything. She’s always been proud of what she has said and what she tried to do. She’s a graduate of the University of PA School of Allied Medical Professions and has been a Physical Therapist for over 40 years. She’s been part of the national organization and been a member of national boards of the American Physical Therapy Association Hospice and Palliative Care section. She’s lectured locally and nationally but despite these accomplishments, she is most proud of her job as a parent of three children who are all graduates of the SVHS. For they are part of the future of our world. She and her husband have always tried to teach them, by examples, being good citizens and volunteering in our community and church to make things the best they can be. We have tried to treat all people with respect and be considerate of their needs. We’ve tried to work for the betterment of our community and acting in a manner that we can always be proud of and that our children will always

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be proud of. She's witnessed all the disruption that the majority of this Council has caused and the exorbitant legal fees that have been incurred regarding issues that the residents of LST do not support, among other things. Although you may all consider yourselves successful in your individual professions, and your jobs as Council members, she wonders how you can justify your actions to your children and if they are proud of you and how you continue to divide the LS community.

- Andrea Wittchen said she noticed that we have a You Tube channel that is livestreaming the meeting tonight. Now her question is how long will it be before you turn that into a two-way channel, which is, in fact, what the residents have requested so that the people who are watching can also participate in the meeting, so do we have a timeframe for that, do we know when we are planning on doing that? Crickets, that's what she expected. She works with at least four municipalities in Chester County, not one of them is nearly as large as this municipality. They are working together on clean energy transition plans for each of their Townships, something that this Township has never even considered trying to do, but every single one of those four municipalities where she has been in meetings has two-way communication of their Council meetings. They don't have anywhere near our budget. They don't have anywhere near our population, but they've got two-way Council meeting communication and they, in fact, use it for meetings that are not Council meetings as well, when we have people who can't attend in person. So, since apparently there's no answer to the question as to when this will become a two-way communication channel, she'd just like to say that she would point out that you have now spent \$40,000.00 to provide the same service that she and Mark have been providing for free for the last 16 months. She said you bet they would have done it for twenty.
- Laura Ray said she'll first start off with the silly number check and the library cards. If we look at the SLPL cards of all time, there were only 97 so if you do the \$75,000.00 a year number on that, that's \$773.00 a card and if you look at \$100,000.00 a year and divide up our extra bonus, that's over \$1,030.00 per card, so there's some silly math. What she really wanted to talk about though was our EAC meeting that was last week. The aggrieved behavior that we had to experience. One of the first items we jumped into on our agenda was to recommend an appointment to an Open Space Committee with absolutely no explanation as to what that was or why it was on the agenda or why would we be doing this. Most of the people in the EAC don't come to these meetings so they have no idea what discussions went on here and why and there still is really no good reason considering that we have our own Open Space Subcommittee in the EAC for many years. Most of our members weren't aware of what this was and the plan for the current Subcommittee. That was not explained at all. We were right away having a recommendation and asked to be voting. We eventually did vote and we recommended Dru Germanoski to be on this new Open Space Committee and we did pass that vote; however, as soon as the voting was done, we were all chastised for the voting that we did. Dru has been on that Subcommittee for years. He understands the process and he's helped train our newer members on how to do that, it's not something that you just know how to do - look at a piece of paper and you are going to check off a box and you're doing evaluations properly. So being berated for how we all voted was very upsetting to a lot of our members. There was a lot of very upset people after that, and that's not the way to treat your board volunteers, and this was not the first time this has happened. So, in a democracy, you're allowed to vote how you feel and that's what we did and we were also told we do not follow Roberts Rules of Order in the EAC. She has no idea why that would be, it doesn't make any sense. It's made for some awful voting experiences.

Mr. Banonis said to Mrs. Yerger he just wants to clarify, you were the founding member of the EAC, correct. Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Banonis said and they cast you aside as being the Chair of the EAC. Mrs. Yerger said whatever, whatever they wanted to do. Mr. Carocci said as far as open space is concerned, you donated your conservation. Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Carocci said you never took a dime. Mrs. Yerger said correct. Mr. Carocci said the woman who spoke, Ms. Ray, took \$200,000.00 in taxpayer money for her property. Ms. Ray said she's not on the committee. Someone in the audience said she took \$400,000.00 for her property. Mr. Carocci said okay, thank you.

- Mark Ozimek said maybe a little fallen off the wall but just in case you are not aware of it, Mr. William Duh is buried over in Hellertown Cemetery and my name ain't Billy but you keep calling me that in having fun. So, as far as the library, he couldn't find one person that liked any of you, for all the actions you are doing. And as far as your numbers you sent them, they did the math there last night, which Mark was there for, and he forgot to tell you or deliberately didn't tell you in public,

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but they figure you are off about \$500,000.00 with what the President said, whatever her name is, as she sat there and did it. It's all recorded down there too just in case you want to see it. And, as far as the landfill, just close it. Let it live out it's five or six years and close it. As a matter of fact, there's been articles in the newspapers. There's one out today on air quality for LV. There's one out last week for Lehigh River which came in No. 7 in the Worst Rivers in the U.S. so what does our Council do, they just agree to keep dumping more crap and the big mistake he made when it rained like hell the other day, he forgot to go do his travels and check all the drains and all the other things that go on and drive into the landfill and find how much is actually really leaking. Dash cams make a wonderful story but, he can't top these people. Bob, you did great, Mr. Blasko. Mr. Blasko you earned his respect again. As far as the others, you did as well, he's just at a point where he doesn't know what to say anymore. It's just ridiculous. He hopes you are proud of yourselves. Like somebody said about kids, he doesn't know, he hopes they understand or grow up to be better stewards of the world than what we are seeing here.

- Ginger Petrie said thank you for letting her speak for three minutes. She noticed that none of you except one Council member have popped in to listen to the Conditional Use Hearings that have been going on for the last two months. She's a little surprised at this since you would be hearing about how wonderful the landfill is. Well, if you want to catch up a little, the environmental experts are about to present starting May 9<sup>th</sup>. This Council decision to move the landfill forward has had a substantial impact on our lives. There are countless residents fighting for the environment, trees, animals, water and the ability to keep our Township beautiful. There's an issue which has a huge impact on all of our lives and that's property value. Your decision, Council, shows a total disregard for people's property values on the north side of the Township. If this landfill wanted to be in your neighborhood, you wouldn't allow it. You were elected to protect and help your Township better itself. Citizens used to be proud of the Township's beauty, that's why people moved here. As an example, there's a beautiful development coming by the golf course, homes are selling before it's built. Guess what boys and girls, if the landfill expansion comes, those people are going to smell it. So, the new adventure is now an Open Space Committee. Was there anything wrong with the old one? Why bother? Obviously, you don't care about ruining prime, untouched forest land so why waste your time getting new open space participants. Many of your citizens are giving their time and money to protect beautiful land here that you are very eager to turn into a dump. She's sure you need this new committee to help establish a price when the dump wants out of the easement that's on 275 acres of land. She is the largest piece of open space in the Township the last time she checked. If the landfill gets rid and out of their easements and the dump is definitely coming, she is considering on getting her piece as number 2 of getting out. You won't have bragging rights about protecting property because there aren't any. Her buyback should be cheap because you are planning on ruining her property value. You are costing her - her life's work; and yes, those of us that will be ruined by the dump expansion are taking it personally. She has a great concept to share with you. Maybe take the \$8 million of taxpayer money in the Open Space account and buy the land that cost the dump only \$10,000.00. Stop the ugly embarrassing landfill and turn it into Proving Ground Park. Make the biggest park in PA instead of the biggest dump, then you would be heroes instead of villains.
- John Cummings said he's going to switch gears up here a little bit. A couple of you may have already heard coming through the municipality building he's looking to hold an event, it's a community-wide scavenger hunt. It's going to include Hellertown, LST if you guys allow it and a little bit of Upper Saucon and basically, it's a free event for any participants. It's free to any businesses that want to be involved and what it involves is individuals can go throughout the community, promote the local parks, and promote the local businesses. He was working with the LS Historical Society. He's working with them for a video as well. They are going to give him some trivia to add to it as well. He's looking to hold this on May 6<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>. It's a week-long event. He would be hosting it. There will be a \$1,000.00 cash prize for the first-place winner. It's based on a point system. He would be hosting and monitoring the events and that's really all the details about it. If you have questions or want to discuss it further, feel free. It is already approved through Hellertown. He has a lot of businesses that do want to be involved and he'd be happy to have LST as part of it as well. It's just a fun event.

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Mr. Banonis said have you received a Special Event Permit application for this? Mr. Hudson said no, not yet. He did say something to Jim. They talked today and they have been behind but he can forward the letter he sent to the board. Mr. Banonis said we won't have a Council meeting before May 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Cummings said he sent a proposal right before the last month's meeting, but he knows you guys are backed up so he assumes it got lost in the transition. He was told to come in and do it in Public Comments today. Mr. Banonis said who told you to do that? Mr. Cummings said Jim. Mr. Carocci said what would you need from us. What are you asking for? Mr. Cummings said permission as it would involve the local parks. His main concern is any business involved he will post their business hours and will do everything he can to make sure no one goes on their property as it's a 24-hour event for a week. It's time stamped and GPS enabled so he can monitor everything that happens if something were to happen, but he wanted to make sure the police were aware. Mr. Banonis said do you have insurance? Mr. Cummings said no. Mr. Banonis said it's one of the things we require and the Township would have to be named as an additional insured on that insurance policy in case something happens on Township-owned property. First to give you permission and to have a private organization on our property and not having insurance for that, is that right Linc? Attorney Treadwell said that's part of the Special Events policy. Mr. Banonis said at a minimum, you would have to have insurance in place and name the Township as an additional insured on that insurance policy. The other question, is there a fee you charge for participants in this program? Mr. Cummings said no, it's free to everyone involved. The other thing is there's \$1,000.00 going to a local children's charity, so basically \$1,000.00 to the winner and \$1,000.00 to the local foundation as well as the option that those participating can donate as well. Mr. Banonis said another concern is the public parks or historical properties that are going to be used for this, those are open to the public only from dawn to dusk so that creates an issue for law enforcement. If there's a report of an incident that occurs in one of these spaces and law enforcement has to go there, they aren't going to know if the person is a participant in your scavenger hunt or not. He understands that you may advertise it's only for business hours, but it seems you can't prevent people from going...he thinks it's a great idea to have this. He just thinks we may be a little behind the eight ball here as today is the 19<sup>th</sup> and it's less than three weeks away. Mr. Carocci said his recommendation would be to just fill out the permit and if it meets all the requirements, then we'll leave it up to Mark. Then if Mark decides it meets all the requirements, and there's no Township risk and Linc for Township risk, then if fine, okay. If not, then no. Linc's the legal expert for the risk to the Township and Mark knows the permitting process the Township has in place and he thinks we need to delegate this to them. Mr. Banonis said he commends him for putting this together; the concept sounds great. There are some details that need to be worked out here. He'd encourage him to be in communication with Mark and go through that process. Mr. Cummings said he appreciates your time. Mr. Carocci said thanks for doing something community based. Mr. Cummings said he'll just be upfront with you guys and he's going to hold the event May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 12<sup>th</sup>, he doesn't have time to include LST at this point but for next year he will make sure and will get in communication in January. Thank you, he appreciates it. Mr. Banonis said thank you and good luck this year.

- Kathy Pichel-McGovern - Mr. Inglis, she did not hear what you heard last night at the library. What she heard was different than what he heard. Last Council meeting you asked Mr. Banonis how many people are affected with the Easton Road warehouse, with the LM rezoning and Mr. Banonis said he didn't know. It's right there in your own ordinance, there's 49 properties, there's 49 homes on Easton Road. You have 49 families that you disrupted with that decision. There are 127 properties in your GB rezoning, so you put that together and it's 176 homes plus the 500 plus or minus people from Steel City plus there's about 3,000 or so, was, LST residents at the library, so that's 3,776. Just so you know, it's in your own numbers. Mr. Banonis said Ma'am to be clear, those aren't in our numbers. The 3,000 users of HAL aren't our numbers as it's not our library. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said Resolution #31-2023, the one you just read to us, No. 20 - at all times, each attendee of the Township Council meeting shall respect the point of view of others. No comment disagreeing with another's point of view shall involve a personal attack on the character of others with a different viewpoint. Tonight, with Priscilla deLeon, she heard "Maybe you should read", she heard "maybe you should be here", she heard "get your dates right" and then she just heard with Sandy, did they cast you aside? She finds all of those, you didn't listen to your own No. 20 - you should be respectful to your own Council members and before you ask another Council member in front of the public,

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did they cast you aside, maybe you should have done your due diligence and found out what happened at the EAC. No. 14 says nothing herein shall require any Council member to answer questions or engage in debate. Those are your own words. Mr. Banonis said just so the records clear, he was at the EAC meeting and what he witnessed was absolutely appalling. Ms. Pichel-McGovern said you were not at that EAC meeting as she was at that meeting. Mr. Banonis said then you didn't see him. Mr. Carocci said she was not there.

- Mr. Dave Boulin said he's not running for anything like most of the people here in this room tonight and he is pleased with Mark Hudson for getting the sound system and he still notices some people have trouble talking into the microphone and he can't name them though. He was not here at the last meeting; his wife had her eyes operated on. He did listen to the tapes and again congratulations to both...of all the staff that does that because he's really tired of hearing people saying, gee, I know I said that and you go and listen and no you didn't say it. He's going to start calling people out on both sides for that as he's tired of that, it doesn't do him any good. What he really likes though is this Council enforcing the rules of the 3-minutes of the fact that we're not having pop ups come out of the audience because they disagree with them and act like some child. He can't tell you how great that is. Thank you, whether he agrees or disagrees with them, yes, he gets gritty inside too. Firefighters – spectacular. Did anybody do the numbers on that for the cost of somebody to write the grant versus what we got back? That's \$0.80 returns \$100.00. He didn't hear anybody whooping it up here and he thinks we lose track of that. That's why he says as soon as the moon passes and the elections are over, all of this goes away and by God these people that really, who do not for the most part, he doesn't know who takes a salary anymore, but his last count was he thinks four or five gave that up. They work on their own and by goodness you couldn't hire them on the outside if you had to for what they bring. Aside from the litigation thing, that's absolutely right. What's the return on value of asking somebody like Linc to put together all of these costs and numbers when you can just stop over here and see Cathy Gorman and say what are they. This is getting crazy. The last thing he has is there was a doctor who spoke and said something last week and he'll listen to it in the minutes, he said the penalties are draconian for the library if we don't follow through. Any of you people who have ever done anything serious with money involved and contracts, boy you better be draconian, otherwise you'll get walked all over. So that's it and thank you very much, he almost enjoyed it very much tonight. Mr. Banonis said thank you and all the best to your wife's recovery.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for adjournment. The time was 8:35 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**11. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- A. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission – April 24, 2023
- B. Zoning Hearing Board – April 24, 2023 – Cancelled
- C. Planning Commission – April 27, 2023 – Cancelled
- D. Parks and Recreation Board – May 1, 2023
- E. Environmental Advisory Council – May 9, 2023

Submitted by:

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Mark Hudson  
Township Manager

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Jason Banonis  
Council President

**LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

**RESOLUTION #38-2023**

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR BRAVERY, DEDICATION, AND HEROISM AND DESIGNATING MAY 4, 2023, AS “FIREFIGHTERS’ DAY” IN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, in 1736, Benjamin Franklin founded the first volunteer fire company, Union Fire Company, in Philadelphia, making Pennsylvania the birthplace of the volunteer fire service in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, Lower Saucon Township has one volunteer fire department, which operates a total of four fire stations; and

**WHEREAS**, firefighters perform selfless tasks quietly and often without the recognition they deserve, risking their lives daily to protect the lives and property of the residents of this Township; and

**WHEREAS**, changes in society and in the environment, have increased the dangers these individuals face daily in the performance of their duties as protectors of the residents and property of this Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the increased number of motor vehicle crashes, brush fires, and general calls for service have placed firefighters in greater danger than ever before in the history of firefighting; and

**WHEREAS**, the time that firefighters devote to protecting the lives and property of the residents of Lower Saucon Township represents time taken away from their families; and

**WHEREAS**, May 4<sup>th</sup> annually serves as “International Firefighters’ Day,” a worldwide celebration that started in 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, “International Firefighters’ Day” serves as a time to thank current and past firefighters for their contributions and to remember those men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to save and protect lives in their neighborhoods.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of Lower Saucon Township, Jason Banonis, President; Mark Inglis, Vice President; Tom Carocci, Priscilla deLeon, and Sandra Yerger, Council Members; wish to recognize and honor firefighters for the bravery, dedication, and heroism, and that May 4, 2023 be designated as “Firefighters’ Day” in Lower Saucon Township.

**ADOPTED** and **ENACTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

Attest

Lower Saucon Township

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Mark L. Hudson  
Township Secretary

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Jason Banonis  
Council President

**LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

**RESOLUTION #39-2023**

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING PEACE OFFICERS FOR  
THEIR BRAVERY, DEDICATION, AND HEROISM AND DESIGNATING  
MAY 15, 2023, AS “PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY” AND  
MAY 14 – 20, 2023, AS “POLICE WEEK” IN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, Congress authorized and President Kennedy proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year “Peace Officers Memorial Day” in honor of the Federal, State, and Municipal officers who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty, further designating the calendar week in which May 15<sup>th</sup> falls as “Police Week,” and has directed that flags be flown at half-staff on “Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

**WHEREAS**, in every community, law enforcement officers are committed to the preservation of life and property, risking their lives to protect us by providing law and order, and serving the cause of justice; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement officers, including members of the Lower Saucon Township Police Department, accept a profound responsibility and work to uphold our laws, safeguard our rights and our freedoms; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor the heroism and dedication of all law enforcement officers, especially those who have paid the ultimate price with their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, across the nation, Police Week is observed with ceremonies, including the hanging of a blue bow or ribbon to honor law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and to honor those who still strive to keep us safe; and

**WHEREAS**, all citizens are encouraged to express their deep appreciation to the men and women who risk their lives to guard and protect us.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of Lower Saucon Township, Jason Banonis, President; Mark Inglis, Vice President; Tom Carocci, Priscilla deLeon, and Sandra Yerger, Council Members; wish to recognize and honor peace officers for their bravery, dedication, and heroism, and that May 15, 2023 be designated as “Peace Officers Memorial Day” and May 14 – 20, 2023 as “Police Week” in Lower Saucon Township.

**ADOPTED** and **ENACTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

Attest

Lower Saucon Township

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Mark L. Hudson  
Township Secretary

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Jason Banonis  
Council President



**LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**  
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

**RESOLUTION #40-2023**

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**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR  
HARD WORK AND DEDICATION AND TO DESIGNATE MAY 21 – 27, 2023  
AS “PUBLIC WORKS WEEK” IN LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, citizens are served every day by public employees at the federal, state, county and municipal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of these public employees enhance the quality of life in communities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Lower Saucon Township is served by a dedicated group of Public Works employees who provide a variety of services to our residents to ensure their safety and health; and

**WHEREAS**, included among these duties are keeping the Township’s roads well-maintained and free of snow in the winter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works employees in Lower Saucon Township not only maintain our road infrastructure but also keep our pavilions, parks and the Saucon Rail Trail beautiful for all to use; and

**WHEREAS**, all citizens are encouraged to express their appreciation to the employees of the Public Works Department for the contributions they make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of Lower Saucon Township, Jason Banonis, President; Mark Inglis, Vice President; Tom Carocci, Priscilla deLeon, and Sandra Yerger, Council Members; wish to recognize and honor Public Works employees for their hard work and dedication, and designate May 21 – 27, 2023 as “Public Works Week” in Lower Saucon Township.

**ADOPTED and ENACTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

Attest

Lower Saucon Township

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Mark L. Hudson  
Township Secretary

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Jason Banonis  
Council President