



Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Lower Saucon Township Council Agenda

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

1. OPENING

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

2. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

- A. Township Controller Quarterly Presentation
- B. Presentation of the 2024 Semi-Annual Report

3. DEVELOPER ITEMS - None

4. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Introduction of Officer Andrew Wieder
- B. Discussion and Possible Action on the Manager Position
- C. Review of Policy #01-2024 Professional Consultant - Insurance and Bonding and Discussion of Proposed Policy #02-2024 Professional Consultant - Insurance and Bonding
- D. Update on Hellertown Litigation - Discussion and Possible Action
- E. Discussion for Conditional Use Notice and Set Hearing Date for LS OPP DEVCO LLC Conditional Use #CU 01-24 - 3621 Old Philadelphia Pike, Route 378
- F. ~~*Saucon Valley Citizens Fire Academy~~ - Removed 07-22-2024
- G. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Archaea Energy Site Plan and Flare
- H. Discussion and Possible Action to Address Matters Brought Up During the Quarterly Landfill Committee Meeting Held on July 11, 2024

- I. Authorize Payments to CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield Project
- J. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Survey
- K. Discussion and Possible Action for Appointing Representatives to Participate on LVPC's Planning Committees for Climate Action Plan and Act 167 Stormwater
- L. Discussion and Possible Action on Promoting Upcoming EAC Events via a Postcard Mailing
- M. Discussion and Possible Action on PPL Outages in the Township
- N. Artisanal Structures LLC - Release of Final Payment and Enter Into Maintenance Period - Heller Homestead Widows House Windows
- O. Resolution #57-2024 NORCO Public Safety Grant Submission for AEDs in Municipal Parks
- P. Resolution #58-2024 Northampton Lehigh Local Share Grant Submission for Fencing at Towns Hall Park and Polk Valley Park
- Q. Resolution #59-2024 Monroe County Local Share Grant Submission for Fencing Replacement at Town Hall Park and Polk Valley Park
- R. Resolution #60-2024 Northampton County Local Share Grant Submission for Traffic Signal Video Detection System
- S. Resolution #61-2024 Monroe Local Share Local Share Grant Submission for Traffic Signal Video Detection System
- T. Resolution #62-2024 Transfer of Funds

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of May 15, 2024 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of June Financial Reports

6. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

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

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

8. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Move to Adjourn

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A. Planning Commission: July Meeting Cancelled
- B. Parks and Recreation Board: August 5, 2024 (Easton Road Ballfield)
- C. Environmental Advisory Council: August 13, 2024
- D. Council Meeting: August 21, 2024

E. Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: August 26, 2024 (Lower Saucon Township)

F. Zoning Hearing Board: August 26, 2024

G. Landfill Committee Meeting: October 17, 2024

1. **OPENING**

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I'd like to call to order Lower Saucon Township's General Business and Developer Meeting. The time is 6:30 p.m. Welcome everybody, can we have a roll call please Cathy?

B. **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Gorman

Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon

Here

Ms. Gorman

Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci

Here

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Here

Ms. Gorman

Ms. Ray

Ms. Ray

Here

Ms. Gorman

Absent is Mr. Banonis. Also in attendance is Township Solicitor, Steve Goudsouzian; Township Engineer, Brien Kocher; Chief of Police, Thomas Barndt; and Administrative Assistant, Stacy Werkheiser.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. deLeon

Okay, can we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance?

All

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)**

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Council did meet in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting, and we did meet and to discuss litigation and I would like to make a motion. The Executive Session took place on litigation matters, I can't talk, specifically the litigation known as Allentown SMSA Limited Partnership d.b.a Verizon Wireless vs. Lower Saucon Township and Lower Saucon Township Council in the United States District Court of Eastern District of Pennsylvania and docket number 524-CV-02350.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to have the firm, I'm not sure how to say that name Bellwoar Kelly, LLP to continue to represent the Township in this matter.

Ms. deLeon

Would there be a second?

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Okay, and I guess we have to open up to the Council. Does Council have any other discussion regarding this?

Mr. Carocci

So, we shouldn't be in this litigation at all. We're going to lose and it's ridiculous. It could have all been avoided if we just would have voted right when we had the hearing.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody else on Council?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I don't think I have anything else to say except for Mr. Carocci's comments speak for themselves.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody in the audience?

Mr. Carocci

Of course they speak for themselves.

David Boulin

So, David Boulin, Lower Saucon, so we're in the middle of a lawsuit, is that what understand and we have a firm by the name of something Elwood Kelly, is it?

Ms. deLeon

Bellwoar, B E L L W O A R, one word, Kelly, K E L L Y, LLP.

David Boulin

All right, so, Mr. Goudsouzian is not going to represent us on that, it's going to be another outside firm,

Mr. Carocci

It's federal court. He said it's over his head, any federal matters over his head. He didn't say that when he was interviewing for this solicitor job, but he said that recently in meetings that he can't handle stuff as the people in West Easton found out...

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

That's not what he said. You want to keep on disclosing things in Executive Session, it's your prerogative, but you're putting the Township at risk, so I think you should keep your mouther

Mr. Carocci

He did that in an open meeting, he said he couldn't handle federal, a federal court case.

David Boulin

Could you stop the clock, please? As usual, Victoria has managed to interrupt me.

Ms. deLeon

So did Tom.

Mr. Boulin

I love it. I was seeking answers, I wasn't seeking a dispute, okay? And I have the information. Thank you. Priscilla, for giving me the name of that firm. I really have to look it up. I'm not that that quick, okay, but I do appreciate understanding why this suit ever happened, and now we're in the middle of it,

and is there any estimate as to what this is gonna cost the taxpayer? Nope, okay. I know, this is very much like the Washington DC hearing.

Mr. Carocci

How much do they charge an hour?

David Boulin

You're not gonna get it yet. Right-to-Know, Right-to-Know law, okay. Well, that's, that's really too bad. Well, I guess that makes two lawsuits that are moving right along, and let's see, I got the docket number, so now I guess I can go look that up, and I won't have to rely upon chirps from the Council. So, I think that's, that's certainly not transparency, but at least you acknowledge that you did have an executive meeting. I think that's a good thing. That's a start. Thank you very much.

Mr. Carocci

You figure that one out.

Mr. Boulin

Say again.

Mr. Carocci

I said yeah, you finally figured that one out?

Mr. Boulin

Yeah, I know.

Mr. Carocci

I'm talking about what you vote on.

Mr. Boulin

I just had a comment there. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else? May we have a roll call please?

Ms. Gorman

Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon

Abstain

Ms. Gorman

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yes.

Ms. Gorman

Mr. Carocci

Mr. Carocci

How much an hour before I vote? How much? How much an hour is this firm charging?

Mr. Goudsouzian

It is not costing the Township.

Mr. Carocci

Right, the insurance company is paying for it, but how much an hour?

Mr. Goudsouzian

That's between the, that's

Mr. Carocci

You don't know.

Mr. Goudsouzian

I don't know.

Mr. Carocci

That's the answer then.

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's between the insurance company and the firm.

Ms. Carocci

Just be honest. You don't know.

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's between the insurance company and the firm.

Mr. Carocci

Right, yes.

Ms. Gorman

Ms. Ray?

Ms. Ray

Yes

ROLL CALL: 2-1 (Ms. deLeon – Abstained; Mr. Banonis – Absent)

E. POTENTIAL ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ISSUES (IF APPLICABLE)

None

F. PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

Ms. deLeon

Okay, moving on. We have the public comment procedure. We have a five-minute public comment relating to the agenda items, and then at the end of the meeting, there's also another five-minute public comment period, and the copy of the resolution is outside the doorway. So, I'm not going to go over all the, the rules, but it's all spelled out there. So, you can read it. Just try not to be out of order. Okay, so moving on. We have Presentations and Hearings, and the first one is the Township Controller, who's going to be doing a quarterly presentation. So, Lynn Hill.

2. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

A. TOWNSHIP CONTROLLER QUARTERLY PRESENTATION

Lynn Hill

Very good, thank you. So, this presentation covers the first two quarters of this calendar year, results through June 30th. It's hard to believe the year is more than half over, wow.

Mr. Carocci

Twenty-four hours a day. It's hard to believe the sun rises and sets.

Ms. deLeon

Are you interrupting the speaker?

Lynn Hill

So, this first, this first slide

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry for the distraction, but somebody's being out of order.

Lynn Hill

Yeah, well, maybe we can control ourselves now. This is a statement of cash balances. It shows reading from left to right, the cash balance in the beginning of the year. This is for the General and Reserve and ARPA funds. It's kind of a condensed format. Revenue minus expenses, minus transfers, and there we have our ending cash balance, and there's a little asterisk there because there is a small adjustment that's going to be made to this, these figures, with the payroll tax reconciliations. The next line is Special Tax Funds, this would be the open space, fire and the liquid fuels, cash balance going in to the year, \$14 million and change, revenue \$1,277,824,000.00, expenses of \$996,957.00, and our ending balance of \$14,700,000.00 and change. Next, we have the Capital Funds, which also include the park capital and historic capital, total of \$5 million and change going into the year, revenue of \$211,299.00, transfers from the General Fund into this fund \$2.5 million, expenses of \$2.9 million and change, and the ending cash balance a little under \$5 million, and then at the bottom, we have our totals, reading from left to right, beginning balance, revenue, transfers, expenses, transfers, and ending balance of all cash and all funds, little over \$33 million. So, we're in decent shape, cash wise, and as far as the rest of the, the accounts go, things are looking pretty much as we expected. Not too many surprises. If you could take the next slide, okay.

Mr. Carocci

I have a question on this slide. The year-to-date expenses, no, I want to do it now. I have a question here. The 996,957, Special Tax Fund, what was the bulk of that?

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order.

Mr. Carocci

What was the bulk of that?

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order, questions

Mr. Carocci

What was the bulk of that?

Ms. deLeon

Questions will be at the end of the presentation.

Mr. Carocci

Why, she can't handle questions, she can't handle a question.

Ms. deLeon

At the end of the presentation

Mr. Carocci

You can't handle questions.

Lynn Hill

I don't want to be interrupted, please.

Mr. Carocci

I'm not interrupting. You're

Lynn Hill

You are interrupting.

Mr. Carocci

I'm asking you a simple question about your numbers, I just want to know what that

Ms. deLeon

You are not going to get the answer until the end, that's just the way it is.

Mr. Carocci

What's the bulk of that?

Ms. deLeon

I'm running the meeting, and the questions will be after her presentation.

Mr. Carocci

So, remember that question. I'm going to ask them as I go along, just note them down and I'll re-ask them.

Ms. deLeon

Well, you can be out of order then all you want.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you, I usually am.

Lynn Hill

I'm going to call your attention to unfavorable budget variances. These are expenses that have exceeded the budget, and that's the budget for the whole year. To date, we have expenses over budget, transcriptionist, which as you know, preparing all the minutes for all these meetings, and then we have admin contract services. It's also over budget by quite a bit. Stenographer, which is for Conditional Use Hearings and things of that nature. As you can see that's as well, very over budget. Fire department, worker's comp, a few thousand over budget. Highway department judgments and damages, charges were a \$1,000.00. It was not a budgeted item. This was something that had to do with the Call One, Call One is it called, PA Call, PA One?

Mr. Carocci

What is that?

Ms. deLeon

Again, I'm going to remind you, questions will be at the end of the presentation. I'm sorry you can't remember that.

Mr. Carocci

You receive a salary from the Township, and you can't answer questions on this?

Ms. deLeon

She will.

Mr. Carocci

While you go

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order, Tom and you're not going to get an answer until after she's finished, stop interrupting and being rude.

Mr. Carocci

You should be able to answer questions, about numbers you put on a piece of paper.

Ms. deLeon

Sorry.

Lynn Hill

I didn't come here to be badgered.

Mr. Carocci

I'm asking questions.

Lynn Hill

And this is why we're over budget in meeting expenses.

Mr. Carocci

Priscilla wouldn't recuse herself from the hearings.

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order again.

Mr. Carocci

The stenographer, in particular.

Ms. deLeon

We will recess.

Mr. Carocci

Priscilla wouldn't recuse herself from participating in the cell phone tower thing until the very end.

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry Lynn.

Mr. Carocci

Even though she had recused herself prior...I'm explaining why we are over

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order; you have to wait until the end.

Mr. Carocci

I'm elected. I can speak when I want.

Lynn Hill

Mr. Carocci.

Mr. Carocci

The stenographer

Ms. deLeon

So am I as President and you're out of order. You are out of order.

Mr. Carocci

The stenographer expense.

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order and we will recess this meeting if you don't be quiet.

Mr. Carocci

Recess all you want, the stenographer, I'm going to explain the stenographer, then we can move on.

Lynn Hill

Do you want to do the presentation for me?

Ms. Carocci

I'm going to explain the stenographer.

Lynn Hill

Are you going to answer all the questions yourself?

Mr. Carocci

The stenographer, is we had a hearing that went three hearing days because Priscilla wouldn't recuse herself.

Lynn Hill

This isn't about Priscilla; this is about our finances.

Mr. Carocci

That's why that's almost twice.

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order.

Ms. Carocci

So that explains the stenographer.

Lynn Hill

Maybe you need to go in the other room and cool down.

Ms. deLeon

We are sane people out here and if you don't understand English, you really have a problem.

Mr. Carocci

So that's the stenographer, thank you for letting me explain that. Let's move on.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think you need a time out.

Ms. deLeon

I think everybody know what a stenographer is, go head Lynn, I'm so sorry.

Lynn Hill

The reason I want to call attention to budget variances, specifically, is because I have noticed a pattern from the beginning of the year of people wasting a lot of time at these meetings on things that are not

really legitimate Township matters. This includes members of Council and it also includes members of the public who feel compelled to speak at every possible opportunity

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order now.

Lynn Hill

Although they don't say anything of value to this Township.

Mr. Carocci

Well, you don't think it's of value.

Lynn Hill

And we need to exercise restraint.

Mr. Carocci

Who are you to judge what is value, when someone gets up and speaks, who are you to say what's of value or not when someone gets up and speaks?

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order.

Lynn Hill

If it's a legitimate Township matter, of course, people are welcome to speak but if it's for grandstanding and little conferences and different, ya know criticisms and things.

Mr. Carocci

He has the right to speak.

Ms. deLeon

She has the floor right now.

Mr. Carocci

He has the right to speak like every other citizen.

Ms. deLeon

Are you not understanding?

Mr. Carocci

If you want to call it grandstanding, you can call it grandstanding, but that's your opinion. He has that right to speak.

Ms. deLeon

I apologize to the audience for bad behavior.

Mr. Carocci

He has that right to speak, Ms. Hill exactly.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I mean, maybe he needs a timeout. I don't know.

Mr. Carocci

Do you apologize to Mr. Boulin?

Ms. deLeon

Okay, meetings recessed.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro recessed the meeting for time out.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon

Wait a minute.

David Boulin

That's outrageous Priscilla.

Mr. Carocci

It is, what happened to our policy about attacking members of the audience? Ms. Hill just attacked him.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Are we in recess or what?

Mr. Carocci

That's right, she just attacked, she just attacked

Ms. deLeon

Would you turn the speaker off, please?

Speaker turned off

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I'd like to resume the meeting, and the time is 6:47 p.m. Lynn, would you like to continue your presentation without interruptions?

Lynn Hill

May I please have the next slide, Stacy? This is a recap of the Special Taxes Fund including Fire Tax, Open Space and Liquid Fuels. Revenue, a little bit under budget, but taxes are still coming in for the Fire Tax. Prior year, earned income tax revenue for open space was well over budget, which is a good thing at \$22,000.00 and change. Interest Income, which the bulk of that is open space. Again, well over budget. It's budgeted conservatively and interest rates are still favorable to us this year. The Motor Vehicle Liquid Fuel Funds also came in higher than budget and expenses for open space, purchases and improvements \$671,889.00. The bulk of that was for the ballfield, and the highway equipment services purchases from this fund \$324,069.00.

Mr. Carocci

What was the bulk of that?

Ms. deLeon

Again, questions will be held.

Mr. Carocci

Anybody can read a slide, all you're doing is reading, tell us what the bulk of that was.

Lynn Hill

Please be quiet. Capital Expenses

Mr. Carocci

Can't answer our questions?

Lynn Hill

And if you can hold off your questions, it will be answered in this slide here. Major capital expenses, the park improvements, ballfield and Polk Valley trails and some other smaller items \$1.5 million and change. Road improvements and this was the Reading Drive culvert and the, the Black River culvert \$600,000.00 and change. Public Works vehicles \$524,000.00 and change, which is a paver and backhoe and some of that came from liquid fuels and some from Capital Funds. Police car and equipment \$151,000 and change. Next slide please. I wanted to take a look at Hanover Engineering, just because it is a major vendor, one we value highly, and they do a lot of complex and important work for us. So, I wanted to give a little bit of a breakdown. Cathy and I prepared this sort of breakout of what the expenses were, so \$130,000.00 and change was engineering for mainly, for the ballfield, but also for the culvert projects, the paving and Polk Valley Trail. General engineering \$58,000.00 and change. Some of this was the Vistas at Long Ridge problems, which came to light after Escrow Funds were already used up and refunded. So, unfortunately, we took the hit for that because it was approved by Council in the prior meeting. Landfill expansion, landfill inspections is another category under General Engineering. There were some other smaller items, grading and sewage paid for with Escrow Funds. Open Space, engineering for that, \$1,000.00, MS4 permits to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so the total expenses to Hanover, \$224,000.00 and change so far this year.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you, Brien, you are doing a good job.

Lynn Hill

I wanted to compare some of our financial data with those of other municipalities.

Mr. Carocci

Why did you only do the expenses and not the revenues?

Ms. deLeon

Tom, you're out of order again.

Mr. Carocci

That's my first question.

Ms. deLeon

Well then keep it for the end.

Mr. Carocci

She's not, she doesn't have the ability to answer questions.

Ms. deLeon

You are being rude and disrespectful, but that seems to be your nature.

Mr. Carocci

You're banging the gavel.

Ms. deLeon

Go ahead Lynn.

Lynn Hill

The Department of Community and Economic Development is part of Pennsylvania government and every year municipalities report financial data to that entity, and so available on the DCED PA website is all sorts of data about Township activities and finances. So, I took a look at where Lower Saucon Township ranks in terms of expenses, and, and this is per capita, it's basically taking the total expense and dividing it by the number of people living in this Township. The total per capita expenses in Lower Saucon were higher than 71% of municipalities statewide, but if you look at it in terms of just the Lehigh Valley, which is Lehigh and Northampton counties, we ranked 33 out of 59, which is really kind of in

the middle. We're actually lower than 56% of the municipalities in our area. Fire Services, I wanted to take a look at how many municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton counties have a paid fire department and of 58 municipalities reporting this information to DCED, most of them do have all volunteer fire departments. Five of them were all volunteer, but with a paid Fire Chief, two fire departments were a combination of paid and volunteer, and four fire departments are fully paid, fully staffed by paid people, and that's the cities, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton and then the Wilson area of Easton. The average per capita fire services expense is \$49.00, and this is in 2022, and ours was \$60.00, so a little bit above average, the highest was Allentown at \$214 per person.

Mr. Carocci

They are paid, right? That's a paid fire company

Ms. deLeon

Again, your comments at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Carocci

Is that correct? Did you even look into that?

Lynn Hill

Did you read the slide?

Mr. Carocci

You are saying 47 are paid.

Ms. deLeon

Tom, you are out of order again.

Mr. Carocci

So you are comparing it to a paid

Ms. deLeon

Tom, you are out of order. We are going to recess again if you keep it up.

Mr. Carocci

Why would that bother me?

Lynn Hill

Police Services.

Ms. deLeon

It costs the Township money when you do that.

Mr. Carocci

She's reading, she's reading page, she's reading word for word.

Ms. deLeon

Tom.

Mr. Carocci

That's what's costing the Township money to transcribe. All she had to do is put this in the record and let us ask her questions, but she's reading word for word.

Ms. deLeon

Tom.

Mr. Carocci

That's what's causing the transcription service. Everybody can read in this room. Nobody needs to read it. You like to hear yourself talk. You'd like to hear yourself talking.

Lynn Hill

Apparently, you do.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, I do. I admit that. Yeah. I do. I admit it. You're the one that's costing the transcription service though. All you have to do is enter the center of the record, everybody can read, and all you're doing is reading it.

Ms. deLeon

Call for a motion to recess? Is there a second?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'll second, unless he's okay with, you know, not talking.

Mr. Carocci

Do you need a recess, I'll second it then.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It's a timeout.

Mr. Carocci

I'll second it.

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry Lynn.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon called for a recess. The time is 6:55 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. deLeon

Okay, it is 6:56 p.m.

Mr. Carocci

I make a motion we move up in the proceedings, the introduction of Officer Andrew Weider.

Ms. deLeon

You're out of order. There is presentation on the floor. I don't care your motion is out of order.

Mr. Carocci

Sorry officer.

Lynn Hill

Per capita police services expense. As you can see, Lower Saucon Township is a little bit above average at \$282.00 per capita, and this was in 2022, which is the, the year that is most current on DCED. Bushkill Township had the highest per capita expense. Perhaps they invested a lot in police equipment. I'm not sure but anyway, that's where we stack up. Average was \$155.00 per capita, and LST's expenses per capita for police services was \$282.00. Now, we have streets and highways, and per capita expenses, the average among the municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton County was \$205.00. Lower Saucon's was just a bit above average at \$212.00. The highest was Coopersburg Borough at \$944.00, and the reason that they were so high was because they had a very large project in 2022. I think it may have spanned other years as well. The streetscape and rail trail project, and Town Center and the park, so

that's why theirs was high, and that's kind of the funny thing about this DCED data is it does not split out your capital investments from your operational expenses, it kind of lumps everything into one category. I'd like to go and look at trends in the, in the coming months. Going back in time a little bit, DCED data goes back to 2006. I'd like to get like a five-year trend, and then I'm hoping that 2023 is out there soon for us to take a look at as well. So, um

Mr. Carocci

Thank you for explaining that instead of just reading it.

Ms. deLeon

You just have to say something, you know that Tom, you just can't be quiet.

Lynn Hill

The reason that I'm reading it is for the people at home, and also to get it onto the record.

Mr. Carocci

Any presentation can just be added to the record.

Ms. deLeon

Tom.

Lynn Hill

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so you're finished with this slide presentation?

Lynn Hill

Yes.

Ms. deLeon

And you're ready for questions? Correct.

Mr. Carocci

I didn't think we got to the last slide, library services.

Ms. deLeon

I think we did.

Mr. Carocci

Oh, no, you didn't do library services. Did you? Nope, I'm on the ball.

Lynn Hill

Library services. We in 2022, our expenses were only \$55,000.00 for library services.

Mr.

That's great.

Carocci

Lynn Hill

So, we came in, you know, in the average. These costs are all over the place. Some municipalities don't have libraries at all, and others, like Bethlehem City have a very nice library. So, it's just one of those, one of those things for 2022. We were a little bit low there. There are other categories on DCED that we might also want to look at. There's like culture and recreation, public health. There's several different categories that they lump their financial data into. So, I just took the ones that I thought were most,

most talked about here and most important, and this might be good to look at, at budget time. See how we stack up. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you, so can we open it up for questions then?

Lynn Hill

We can, Cathy is also going to talk about the results in greater detail.

Ms. deLeon

So, should we wait for Cathy's then?

Lynn Hill

Perhaps we should wait until the end of her presentation because it might be more detail that people are looking for.

B. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 SEMI-ANNUAL ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Cathy the next agenda item is the 2024.

Mr. Carocci

Now she has to bring Cathy in for help to explain things.

Ms. deLeon

Semi-annual report, Cathy.

Mr. Carocci

Don't worry, we're getting it, we'll get you. Where are you going, bailing?

Ms. deLeon

Please stop interrupting, now you're interrupting Cathy.

Mr. Carocci

I'm sorry Cathy. I do apologize.

Ms. deLeon

No, you don't, you don't care.

Mr. Carocci

I just apologized to her.

Ms. deLeon

You do not care.

Mr. Carocci

I just apologized.

Ms. Gorman

As Ms. Hill had stated, we are on track with a lot of our expenses and revenues. We received 44.8% of our budgeted revenues, and 90.18 of real estate tax. We're in line with pretty much everything. Items that really should be highlighted are the fact that our interest rates are still good. The Federal Reserve has not decreased them yet. They're projecting to go down two basis point or one basis point, I believe, by the end of the year. So, we're in good financial position there, and I trust everybody had an opportunity to read this. I'm going to read this briefly. The items of expenses in the General Fund that we should be really looking at are the executive planning, executive department and the planning

department, and most notably because of the issues that were discussed by hiring consultants, not having a manager here and not having a Zoning Officer here. So, we're going to have to increase available funding for the consultants that we have hired and increase the amount for transcription work although the AI software that we just purchased should help relieve some of that.

Mr. Carocci

Whose suggestion was that?

Ms. deLeon

Again, please wait till she's finished.

Ms. Gorman

And that transfer resolution is at the end of the agenda, and I'll discuss that more there. I do have noted that traditionally, after this report, we do our annual allocations to the Capital Fund for both the main Capital Fund \$245,000.00, the park \$20,000.00 and the historical structures \$20,000.00. So, I'll be doing that after, after the, or later this week. The Special Tax Fund, Ms. Hill went over it. There's no deficiencies there. The only item that I would note is that the Public Works vehicles that we traditionally always either have to move to the following year, or because we didn't get the invoices or we didn't get the equipment, we ordered them sooner. We've got them and they are in place and installed and paid for. The capital plan, I'll be bringing that back at the next meeting. We'll be reprioritizing certain projects and re-inventorying certain things that were requested by the Parks and Rec Department for the parks budget and certain items for infrastructure improvements. So, that'll be coming in August, and then those numbers will be placed into the budget, for the annual budget for 2025. I also do want to note that I had discussed with you before opening up several accounts with another financial institution that you have previously approved at reorg. We have done that. We are a little bit more diversified than we were before. So, we had opened up several different bank accounts with PLGIT, so that's, that issue has been resolved, and we did receive our 2023 audit. I did forward that to Council and it is on our website.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you. Are you finished with your presentation?

Ms. Gorman

Yes, and if you have any questions.

Ms. deLeon

Tom, did you have any questions?

Mr. Carocci

Hold on, hold on. I want to know how we're going handle the public's questions because there are two items on the, on the agenda. There's a presentation of the controller's quarterly report, and then so, I think Mr. Boulin, and some others had, should get five minutes on that if they have questions, and then there's a presentation of the Semi-Annual. They're two different reports. So, I think they should get ten minutes or five minutes. I mean, when, when are we going to star? We should take these one at a time. They are two different agenda items. They are two different presentations in here.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so we're gonna go first to Lynn, does anybody have any questions for Lynn? Tom.

Mr. Carocci

Are we doing Council first, or do you want to do public?

Ms. deLeon

You're not listening. I just asked Council, Tom, do you want to ask a question?

Mr. Carocci

Yep. Um, I'm first, I'll go first. Can you please come to the microphone so people can hear you? When you're reading and answering questions, you know, you want to be at the microphone, right. Alright, so the first page, the Special Tax Fund, Fire and Liquid Fuel, Open Space, year-to-date expenditures, the \$996,957.00. What was the bulk of that again? Federal expenditures, year-to-date expenses, \$996,957.00.

Lynn Hill

I mean, the biggest ticket item is vehicles, and also, can you go back to that first slide? Also, some improvements to open space, a.k.a. the ball field.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, what was the vehicle? Was it the new truck or existing trucks, fire trucks? Cathy, do you know, I don't know.

Ms. Gorman

There's the

Lynn Hill

There as a payment on the fire truck, right?

Ms. Gorman

That has not come out yet. What we have paid is the roller or the paver, excuse me.

Mr. Carocci

Right.

Ms. Gorman

And the backhoe, and those fundings we usually try to allocate a certain percentage out of the Capital Fund and a certain percentage that are Liquid Fuel funding.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, and now when you have cash balance 06-30-2024, \$33 million, now how much of that is open space? \$10, \$11? How much is that of open space, Cathy?

Lynn Hill

It's probably about \$10.

Mr. Carocci

Well, let's get someone who knows? Cathy you.

Ms. Gorman

\$10, \$11, close to \$12 million.

Mr. Carocci

\$12 million. So that can only be used for open space, and I guess what 5 or 10% of that can be used for improvements to

Ms. Gorman

Up to 25% for maintenance.

Mr. Carocci

Up to 25% for maintenance.

Ms. Gorman

So, we've been allocating any of the lawn mowing or field treatment services for any of the municipal properties that were purchased under that program.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, but that doesn't come anywhere near 25% of the, is it 25% of the amount that comes in yearly or 25% of the fund, because the fund generates interest.

Ms. Gorman

I believe it might be 25% of when, at the point in time we did the ordinance that it permitted it. So, it may not necessarily be the full amount of the open space. I'll have to check the legal permissions on that, but the last ordinance, the last referendum that was passed, it went to the public as to utilizing 25%. If that's 25% of what was projected to come in or 25% of what we were going to, what we had and coming in, I'm not quite sure.

Mr. Carocci

So, there was a balance in the fund, and then that referendum was passed. So, before that, the money that was in the fund before that referendum was passed, we wouldn't take 25% of that. What I'm asking for, is it yearly you can use 25% of what comes in or can you use 25% of the fund balance with the interest that it generates?

Ms. Gorman

I think whatever, whatever amount came in, at the point in time that referendum was passed. So, that was four or five years ago. So, it was a quarter of whatever that million plus that we received with interest.

Mr. Carocci

I think it was like six or seven years ago, because that expired already and it expired every five years.

Ms. Gorman

So, I'll double check with the language on there.

Mr. Carocci

Someone that knows. I doubt he knows

Ms. Gorman

I'd have to check the language on that. I know I've done research on that before.

Mr. Carocci

Do you know?

Mr. Goudsouzian

I don't know.

Mr. Carocci

It figures.

Ms. Gorman

But I, I will check and I will bring that back.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, okay, and then, okay so that, so truly, if you take the \$12 million, it's down to about \$21 million, and what other restricted funds would be in the \$21 million? Because I call that restricted funds because it's restricted open space.

Ms. Gorman

Fund two, which is Special Tax funds, all of those funds are restricted, whether it's Open Space, Fire Assessment Tax, or the Liquid Fuel funding, they're only permitted to be spent for those purposes.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, and stuff like the Capital Fund, we can transfer like we have in the past?

Ms. Gorman

Yes, we typically do when we have big projects, like the Easton Road ballfield, we would either take it out of Reserves to put in there or if we have more time, we plan for it, and allocate money every year towards that, those particular projects that are on our five-year plan.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you. Okay, second page, Unfavorable Budget Variances, YTD, 06-30. Alright, transcription services, you're, you're, you're that saying that, first of all, you should put commas in between when you have four numbers. You're saying that it budgeted \$5,500.00, now \$7,669.00, do you, and you contend this because the public speaks at these meetings on every issue. Is that true? Is that correct? That's what you said?

Lynn Hill

Our meetings have become exhaustively lengthy for several reasons, much of it has to do with dialogue that is not necessary or appropriate.

Mr. Carocci

In your opinion?

Lynn Hill

In anyone's opinion.

Mr. Carocci

In anyone's opinion?

Lynn Hill

Yes.

Mr. Carocci

You speak for everyone?

Lynn Hill

I would think that most people would agree with me if they've been watching these meetings all year.

Mr. Carocci

Most people I've talked to enjoy the meetings and watch them. The people I talked to anyway. Alright, so I disagree with you. I think the taxpayers should be allowed to speak.

Lynn Hill

I don't dispute that they're allowed to speak.

Mr. Carocci

I don't, I wouldn't judge. I mean, people, they talk about what they, what they value, what they think is important when they get to that microphone. You shouldn't judge just because it might not be important to you and may be important to them. I don't know why you're, why you're judging necessarily on that.

Lynn Hill

Public comment is for legitimate Township business.

Mr. Carocci

But only if you consider it legitimate in your mind it's legitimate, right? We see who you are. Alright, you get paid, and you get paid.

Lynn Hill

I just don't think that these lengthy meetings are good for the Township finances. At \$9.00 a minute, when you add up all of the costs involved in this, we're paying a solicitor, we're paying police officers, we're paying Township staff.

Mr. Carocci

So, we paid you \$9.00 a minute to read what's on the slide. Alright, so let's get to the stenographer. The stenographer, how many hearings have we had this year? We've had the zoning hearing for the cell phone tower, and that was like three meetings, wasn't it, two or three? You don't know. Of course, you remember Cathy?

Ms. Gorman

I do believe, I believe it was two this year, and maybe one last year? I'm not. I'm not sure. I would really have to get back to you on that.

Mr. Carocci

I'd thought the hearings. You did two of them and the other solicitor.

Mr. Goudsouzian

January.....it wasn't a zoning hearing, it was a conditional use hearing.

Mr. Carocci

Conditional use hearing, yeah, right, right, correct, just for Council, right, and I would just point out to the public that Priscilla knew she was going to have to recuse herself from voting on that, yet she participated in all the hearings, asked questions, and wasted a bunch of time arguing about whether she should recuse herself or not, and she finally realized she had to after we found the emails where she had recused herself from this particular property in the past, about 15 years earlier as I recall. So, I think a lot of that stenographer cost is due to Priscilla just not doing the right thing from the beginning.

Lynn Hill

That's only your opinion.

Mr. Carocci

That's right, that's right, but I can see, I can say, that's my opinion. You think you speak for everybody in the Township? That is my opinion and that's why I said, alright, let's talk about the PA Call One. Can you explain that to me? It was with the worker's comp, is that correct?

Lynn Hill

I can. I can explain the PA Call One, the \$1,000.00 were charges from the State of PA because we did not respond to PA One Calls were out of our Township. Even though we were called, we were supposed to respond and didn't. That's my understanding.

Mr. Carocci

Cathy, why, why out of our town? Yeah, I'm not even going to ask why if they were out of our, I would ask our solicitor, but he doesn't know.

Ms. Gorman

We had, we had become aware of this problem last year, and I believe I discussed this with Council last year as well, that I believe a new administration might have been hired at the Public Utility Commission. There were new directors, and they went through a lot of things, and they were issuing a lot of fines for non-responsive to PA One Calls. Unfortunately, for us, the mapping that is utilized for PA One Call

was a widespread mapping, not just in Lower Saucon. So, Public Works Director and his associate, the Road Master, do address PA One calls, so basically, somebody has an issue and or a building and they're going to dig, they need to call PA One Call and our staff here and any other authority has to respond within three days to advise them if there's a utility that's owned by the Township in that jurisdiction. In that dig site.

Mr. Carocci

But even though it was outside the Township, we own the utility, I don't understand.

Ms. Gorman

That was the issue at hand was that there were PA One Calls that were triggered for our Public Works Director to answer, but they were in the City of Bethlehem.

Mr. Carocci

Well, why didn't we

Ms. Gorman

And he didn't respond to them, but he should have. He should have just said no utilities and go. So, because he didn't, we got fines for those.

Mr. Carocci

For not responding

Ms. Gorman

For not responding

Mr. Carocci

We weren't obligated to respond though, because they weren't in our

Ms. Gorman

We hadn't previously. That's why I'm thinking that the new administration at the Public Utility Commission changed their methodology as to how they interpreted it.

Mr. Carocci

Alright, so we're obligated to respond that we don't have utilities in that area

Ms. Gorman

Right.

Mr. Carocci

Even if it's outside of the Township, so we wouldn't be obligated to go outside of the Township.

Ms. Gorman

So, our Director of Public Works did what was required of them, and we did revise our map on the GIS, or there GIS system to just isolate Lower Saucon Township, and he is complying with all their regulations that they are now enforcing. I would say that maybe they weren't necessarily heavily handed enforcing some of these items that were on there, now they are.

Mr. Carocci

I just think if we're going to be fined, that, you know, it should be brought to Council's attention before we pay it if possible. I mean, I don't, I know it's only \$1,000.00, it's not that much money, but I

Ms. Gorman

I do have to advise you that the very first incident we did, we filed an appeal. We participated in the hearing and they, and the particular situation that we got the fine for, was definitely not our fault. I can

say that 100%, equivocally not our fault, and they increased the fine. They ignored our petition, increased the fine and sent us on our merry way.

Mr. Carocci

I just think I mean, I'd like to find out about that like more in real time, and I think Council, I mean, maybe Ms. Hill doesn't

Ms. Gorman

We can certainly do that if we get notice, we will definitely advise Council.

Mr. Carocci

Because you know, I mean, we write letters to everybody. I mean, I don't know, they don't do anything. But you know, Priscilla's always writing letters to DEP or wherever. To me, this is just something we, I think the Council should have been made aware of when it was happening. I wasn't aware of this.

Ms. Gorman

I can go through the minutes. I think we discussed it before.

Mr. Carocci

I don't remember the appeal.

Ms. deLeon

Do you remember the date timeline?

Ms. Gorman

I don't but

Ms. deLeon

Like a year ago, two years ago.

Ms. Gorman

No, it was last year, it was last year. I can research the minutes and, and get you any information, and if one comes up again, for whatever reason, I doubt it, but you never know, I will definitely bring it back to you.

Mr. Carocci

All right.

Ms. Gorman

And if you wish to appeal, we will appeal.

Mr. Carocci

Well, I think just Council should decide that whether it's in executive session or an open session.

Ms. Gorman

The last, in discussions with the last administration, because we did try to appeal it and we ended up getting charged more than what the initial fine was. That's why we determined not to push the issue.

Mr. Carocci

Okay. Alright, next page. That's the file. This is Special Tax Funds. They are pretty much like the other. Expenses for Open Space, Purchase and Improvements, \$672,889.00, a bulk of that you're saying is the ballfield? Is that correct?

Ms. Gorman

Council budgeted \$500,000.00.

Mr. Carocci

Council budgeted \$500,000.00, and it's been \$672,000.00. Alright, and then the Highway Equipment that \$324,000.00, is that, that is the paver, the new paver, pretty much.

Ms. Gorman

That's, yeah. That's a portion of the paver.

Mr. Carocci

Ms. Hill doesn't know again; it's her presentation, okay. Paver and backhoe I guess, but the paver and backhoe \$524, I don't get that.

Ms. Gorman

So, the paver and the backhoe, we utilized \$200,000.00 from Liquid Fuel funding, and we paid the remaining amount under the Capital Fund, which was \$524,218.00.

Mr. Carocci

Now the next page, Hanover. I don't think I have any questions on that. That's six. Okay, page seven. Benchmarking Against Other Municipalities, per capita total expenses, Lower Saucon ranks 699 out of 2414 PA. What was our per capita for total revenue, Ms. Hill?

Lynn Hill

I didn't, I didn't calculate that. I was only looking at expenses.

Mr. Carocci

Why not give the whole picture and show revenue?

Lynn Hill

Because I chose not to.

Mr. Carocci

Any particular reason?

Lynn Hill

I had to limit the scope of my report somehow. I just looked at expenses.

Mr. Carocci

Or being honest. You didn't want to put landfill, landfill revenue in there, is that why? Because you're anti landfill, so you doctored this report, this page.

Ms. deLeon

I think you're being attacking the

Lynn Hill

You are badgering me.

Ms. deLeon

Badgering her.

Mr. Carocci

Oh, oh.

Lynn Hill

And disorderly.

Mr. Carocci

So again, why didn't you include revenue on this?

Ms. deLeon

She just answered your question.

Mr. Carocci

I don't think she did.

Ms. deLeon

Yes, she did. She answered your, you didn't like the answer, but she answered your question. So

Lynn Hill

Next time I do this, I'll do revenue too, would that make you happy?

Mr. Carocci

That would make me happy. Absolutely it would make me happy. It, you know why would make me happy? It would actually be complete. You would have actually done your job. Alright, so now the second.

Ms. deLeon

That's your opinion.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, that is my opinion. Yes, absolutely. I don't make any bones about that.

Lynn Hill

I'd like to see what the other municipalities are doing to earn revenue besides hosting a landfill?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah

Lynn Hill

Because somehow, they're able to pay their bills and provide all the services, even though they don't have a landfill in their Township. So yes, I'm happy to look at that.

Mr. Carocci

But they don't have excellent police and they don't have, what 20 officers now. They don't have excellent equipment for their fire services. In fact, some of them like Hellertown and Fountain Hill rely on our fire services too, and our police, quite frankly, when they need State Police coverage in Hellertown because we do have the revenue and they don't. So, you are right about that, but that's also why it'd be good to see the revenue, and it would make it a complete more, more of a complete report, but, you know, we understand where you stand.

Lynn Hill

I'd be more than happy to do the next time.

Mr. Carocci

Good, thank you, thank you. You should out of completeness. Okay, so the, we're 71% higher than other, other municipalities, and that was

Lynn Hill

Higher than 71% of the municipalities statewide.

Mr. Carocci

But that's right. Right, right, right, and I, you know, I think, you know, we should be because we have this landfill revenue. I think that's a great number. I'd like to see it even be higher because there's no reason why we shouldn't have top of the line parks and our roads should be paved to a high standard, our, you know, we're building a ballfield, and that's great, and we should pay our officers well, and make sure they have the equipment that they need. I believe we're gonna get to an agenda item later about police expenditures, and our firefighters should have the equipment that they need. Alright, so then we ranked 33 out of 59 in Lehigh and Northampton County, so you're saying, in your opinion, that's a little bit better because you're saying, because our expenses are more in line with growing? Do you know, what part of Pennsylvania's is the fastest growing part of Pennsylvania?

Lynn Hill

Probably the Lehigh Valley

Mr. Carocci

Yes, it has been for about 20-25 years.

Lynn Hill

Well, these numbers really speak to me that there's a lot of municipalities in our State that don't have a lot of money to spend.

Mr. Carocci

That's right.

Lynn Hill

There's a lot of poorer communities, you know, Central PA, and you know, places like that, that, you know, have bare bones budgets, and the Lehigh Valley enjoys a robust economy with good jobs, and so, you know, the taxpayers are able to fund lots of services, and certainly our Township does have the best of everything.

Mr. Carocci

Right. So, you wouldn't say, does this alarm you, any of these numbers?

Lynn Hill

No. I just like to see how we compare. It's just part of analytical procedures that, you know.

Mr. Carocci

I'm glad you did the expense side. I would like to see the revenue side, but I don't find any of this alarming at all, either. So, I'm in agreement with you there, but I would like to see the revenue side. I think that was left off on purpose.

Ms. deLeon

How many times do you need to say that?

Mr. Carocci

Did I say that? How many times did I say it?

Ms. deLeon

I think we've got it.

Mr. Carocci

You got it, you got it. Do you have somewhere to be?

Ms. deLeon

I'd like to see you at your job and see how you perform. That would really be an experience especially with your bosses sitting there.

Mr. Carocci

Page 8, the Fire Services. So, I mean, I don't, we're a volunteer service. I don't, what's the point of comparing us to paid, to fully paid? What's, what's the, I mean, to me, it's like apples and oranges. What, what's the, one's fully paid. That's like, you know, I wonder why, I don't understand. I didn't ask you. I didn't ask him. I didn't ask you. I didn't ask you. I'm asking Ms. Hill, if she can answer. Why, why compare fully paid with volunteers. It seems like apples and oranges to me.

Lynn Hill

The data is listed in the same column, all of the municipalities together so

Mr. Carocci

So, when you went into the DCED?

Lynn Hill

There's a database that shows the fire departments whether they're fully paid or not. So, I just wanted to look at that. I know there's been a lot of discussion in our Township about, you know, paid Fire Department, paid Fire Chief, and so on, and I myself was curious how many municipalities actually have a paid fire department, and as of 2022, which is the latest data that we have available, that's how it shakes out. So, it's just for informational purposes only.

Mr. Carocci

If you do this, you think you're going to do this in like another six months. Is there any way to look at where there's a combination of paid and volunteer? Is there any way to tell from these numbers, do they list like, like the number of volunteers that they're reporting, and the data. So, so for a Township, like, do we report the number of volunteers that we have?

Lynn Hill

I'm not sure if they do or not. I think there is a place in the DCED where they list the number of police officers, but I'm not sure if they list the number of volunteers.

Mr. Carocci

Because I'd like to see if volunteers have declined when there's some paid and some volunteers. Because, you know, I mean, I think this is a helpful slide, but if we could look into that, because that's, that would be more of what seems to be being proposed by some people, and I, I wonder, wonder about, you know, the, the level of volunteers when some people are paid to do what others are volunteering to do.

Lynn Hill

Right.

Mr. Carocci

So if you can find that in the numbers? I mean, if it's not there, it's not there for fire services, but if you can find it, I would, I'd like to see that.

Lynn Hill

I would, too. I think that would be interesting to look at. I'm assuming you have a feeling that if we have a paid Fire Chief that, that would deter people from volunteering?

Mr. Carocci

I don't know about a paid Chief.

Lynn Hill

It would hurt morale?

Mr. Carocci

I don't know about a paid Chief, but if some people are paid, and other people are not paid, I think that could possibly be a problem. Yeah. Yeah. I don't know why a lot of people would show up to volunteer. I mean, you know, if everybody's a volunteer, I think there's some camaraderie there, and some, you know, we're all on the same boat, and then, but I think if some people are being paid, and others are not being paid, and there's a price, a little bit of jealousy, or people, you know, they want the paid position, they don't want to volunteer, and they, maybe they, maybe they don't volunteer with us, maybe they go and try and get a paid position somewhere else, like another township.

Lynn Hill
Right.

Mr. Carocci

That would be my concern, and if we if there's numbers from the transition, I mean, that's what I would like to see, see if they if there are.

Lynn Hill

Yeah, I don't know if DCED has that, but the qualitative data like that might be someplace else.

Mr. Carocci

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, the audience is not allowed to speak at this time. Okay, go ahead.

Mr. Carocci

Now, on page 9. Police Services. You know, I mean, it says average per capita is \$155, and we're at \$282. Highest was, was Bushkill, but you said you have no reason why. This is a perfect example of wasting time. You said, perhaps, you know, you don't know why it's 350, but

Lynn Hill

Well, I can call Bushkill Township and ask them.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, okay. That'd be great. You know, I think we're pretty unique, where we're, we're geographically spread out compared to, I think, most townships or boroughs, municipalities.

Lynn Hill

Bushkill Township is as well.

Mr. Carocci

Right.

Lynn Hill

They are 25 square miles.

Mr. Carocci

Right. Right. So, I don't think, I mean, I know you did, like, per capita, and that's one way to look at it.

Lynn Hill

Yeah, per mile would be good, per square mile.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, that would be interesting. I think, I think a little more and perhaps a little more insightful than the per capita because, you know, you look at our size and how spread out we are, then you look at like a

Fountain Hill or a Hellertown, that, you know, is 5-6,000 people. Yeah, I just don't think the per capita, it's good to have I mean, I don't mind that it's in here, it's somewhat insightful.

Lynn Hill

It's the only, it was the only way that was available. They don't list, they list population, but they don't list square miles or any other things that might drive costs.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, and you know, that's also, I mean I'd like to see that. I just think, I'm not alarmed by that even though you know, the average is \$155, and ours is \$282. I think we have a high level of police service.

Lynn Hill

We absolutely do, yes.

Mr. Carocci

I think we have, a lot of officers and I think, I think that's what our residents want, and, you know, I, you know, when you look at some of our surrounding areas, you know, they're, they're not helpful. You know, Hellertown, you know, has some part time officers, you know, they've had problems down there. But, you know, it's, you know, we, I just talked to Officer Hantz before the meeting, and he said, yeah, they, they've responded some calls down there, you know, recently. He's aware of a couple of times, I guess, the State Police, there was State Police coverage, but instead of having actual officers on duty that are Hellertown officers. You know, I know, a majority of this Council wants to help out on that, but you know, I think Lower Saucon tax dollars should stay in Lower Saucon Township for the most part and that number, to me, \$282 is fine, and I'd be fine if it is even higher, even though the average is 155. I just think we're unique. Alright, now on page 10, the Streets and Highway Benchmarking. Again, this is 2022. Was that the year we, what did we pave in 2022? That was Saucon Terrace, Cathy?

Lynn Hill

That was 2023, wasn't it?

Mr. Carocci

No, I thought Steel City was 2023. I thought 2022

Ms. Gorman

Saucon Terrace, the work was done 2022, payments were between 2022 and 2023.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah.

Ms. Gorman

The size of it, Steel City was last year?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, alright. So average per capita expense was \$205. We paved Saucon Terrace, which was a, that was actually more expensive than Steel City because the, some of the courts, the cul-de-sacs were, they couldn't bring a paver in there and turn it around. They had to kind of push stuff in there. Push the, and we're only \$7 ahead. We're only \$7 higher, you know, and we, we paved the neighbor. I don't know how many houses are in there, but it's got to be a couple 100 houses in there, or residents that pay taxes, and they have a nice street now, and we're still pretty much where everybody else is, and we don't know, again, the other paving projects that those other municipalities may have had, but we had a major one. It was over a million dollars; it was more expensive than Steel City. So, I don't, I'm not alarmed by that number either, but, let me see if there is anything with, did you, what I'd like to see is on library services, that's slide 11, is there any way to look at what a municipality pays for library services when it's their library. They have a library in that municipality, and then people who are situated like us, where we

don't have a library, we go outside of our municipality for library services. What, what are those numbers? Can you put those numbers in here?

Lynn Hill

As far as the Lehigh Valley?

Mr. Carocci

No, no, but you said you, you have other numbers from the whole state?

Lynn Hill

Yes.

Mr. Carocci

So, you can't, with this database you're using, DCED

Lynn Hill

It doesn't, it doesn't tell you whether the municipality has their own library right in their Township, or whether it's somebody else's. It's strictly the expenses.

Mr. Carocci

The expenses?

Lynn Hill

Yeah.

Mr. Carocci

Because I think that would be a more accurate comparison to, there's other municipalities around the State that don't have libraries within their township or borough, and they go to others and then, if it was, you know, I just wanted to see if it was in there. If it's not, it's not, but

Lynn Hill

I could tell you how many municipalities don't spend anything on library services. I mean, I can't tell you that today, but that's, you know, there were a lot of Townships that don't pay anything.

Mr. Carocci

Freemansburg doesn't.

Lynn Hill

That's why the average per capita expense is \$5.00.

Mr. Carocci

Right, for Freemansburg doesn't pay anything.

Lynn Hill

I don't know.

Mr. Carocci

They haven't for years. They haven't for years, and Hellertown just kind of looked the other way on them for years and let them get cards and, and Access to Bethlehem through the State program, but that will all come out in a lawsuit. Alright, I think that's all I have for now. Thank you very much. Ms. Hill.

Lynn Hill

Anyone else have any questions?

Ms. deLeon

Okay, on Council, I would be next, and thank you for doing this. You put together a good report. So, thank you.

Lynn Hill

You're welcome.

Ms. deLeon

Victoria, you would be next.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you. I guess, my question is, and I don't know maybe Cathy is the one that can answer this question, and if you can't, it's okay. In the years, how many other times have we had a Controller give a presentation? Like this? Have you ever worked with a Controller to do that?

Ms. Gorman

The previous Controller did have a budgetary presentation at one point, but over the years, it, he didn't do it annually. He would submit things along with me, and if Council had anything, he would be available, if anybody had any questions, and typically no one did.

Ms. deLeon

He would be available.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so I just, the reason why I'm asking that question is because I'm extremely appreciative of the time and effort that it takes to go through, you know, my, my dealings with the budget, generally entail reviewing things when I have the opportunity to sign checks, but I appreciate the hard work of our staff, and our Controller, who is volunteering to do this work. She's not paid, and yet, she cares that much about our Township to put a presentation together after six months, when we've never had such a thing, at least I can, from what I can tell before. So, I just want to let her know that I appreciate all of that work. I appreciate the breakdown and information and the, your, your curiosity in comparing things based upon the DCED data because I do think it gives us a very nice picture. I think it would be nice to see, like Mr. Carocci had indicated, the revenue side so we have that, but I can say I'm appreciative the fact that you are volunteering in putting this together to help us and that, that I think you should be commended, and I thank you very much for working with Cathy and Cathy working to put this together also. It's very much appreciated. I also, I just think it's appropriate to apologize for the fact that we've had to recess, I think twice or three times, for you to give this presentation, which hadn't happened, at least that I saw last four or five years. So, I appreciate you. I'm sorry that there were disruptions, and I look forward to what presentations you have in the future. So, thank you.

Lynn Hill

Thank you, and for the record, I am paid almost as much as you.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, I'm not paid. I don't take my pay.

Lynn Hill

But I'm happy to do it.

Mr. Carocci

I wanted to make that correction too, she said like four times, you voluntarily did this.

Ms. deLeon

Your time for speaking.

Mr. Carocci

Well, there was a there was obviously a misstatement.

Ms. deLeon

Alright, are you finished?

Mr. Carocci

Is she going to apologize for that?

Ms. deLeon

Are you finished? Okay, Laura?

Ms. Ray

Yeah, so I wanted, so are we only making the comments on Lynn's part?

Ms. deLeon

Lynn's presentation.

Ms. Ray

Yeah, so I think it was great because I don't recall ever seeing information like this. I think the comparisons to other municipalities and where we rank and stand is important. I think maybe to make it more, one thing more clear, though, is you did point out in your talking was that the budgeted amount is actually the whole year budgeted amount, whereas the expenses are actually where we are mid-year.

Lynn Hill

Yes.

Ms. Ray

So that kind of really isn't clear just looking at it, but I did hear you say that. So....

Lynn Hill

Okay.

Ms. Ray

Otherwise, like I said, I think it's great to see the comparisons to, to where we rank with other areas. I think it's helpful. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, is that it, Laura?

Ms. Ray

Yes.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I'd like to open it up to the audience. Anybody would like to come up to the podium for five minutes.

Donna Louder

Donna Louder, Ms. Hill, I'd like an apology for your insulting the public.

Mr. Carocci

She doesn't even have the courtesy to sit at the microphone.

Ms. deLeon

You are supposed to be addressing Council, so

Mr. Carocci

She did, she's looking right at me, thank you.

Donna Louder

You owe the public an apology.

Ms. deLeon

Donna

Donna Louder

You are a taxpayer.

Mr. Carocci

She has such disdain, she has such disdain for the public, she won't sit at the microphone and answer questions.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

For clarification, I think public comment is a question in session, that's just a comment period.

Mr. Carocci

She won't answer the question.

Ms. deLeon

It's a comment period, Lynn, and anyone can say whatever they want, whether it's making sense or not so. Okay, next.

Lawrence Opthof

I have a few questions.

Mr. Carocci

Now he's got questions.

Lawrence Opthof

My name is Lawrence Opthof. I'm glad to see Tom is awake today.

Ms. deLeon

Talk into the mic because I'm having a problem hearing you. Thank you.

Lawrence Opthof

Okay, so my first question is I was curious about, how much has been spent on his ballfield that's on Easton Road?

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's comment time so

Lawrence Opthof

So, I have an idea, it was \$3.1 million and counting.

Mr. Carocci

He's asking questions.

Ms. deLeon

This is comments, not questions.

Lawrence Opthof

I think that we spent all that money on that ballfield. I have real good, then my comment is, how come there's no bathrooms? Only \$3.1 million with no bathrooms. That's a good idea. Who approved that Tom? Anyway, so

Mr. Carocci
Priscilla

Lawrence Opthof

My second comment is, so we don't spend any money on library services, because we can't use the Hellertown library, because the previous administration decided to have a war with Hellertown, and now we don't have any library at all. Now I know you people are working overtime to try to get that corrected, but I'd like to bring that out so that everybody knows that we used to have a good relationship with Hellertown, and we had a library that we could use, and now we have, thanks to the previous administration that we had, no have a poor relationship with Hellertown, and we can't even use the library, and they gave \$50,000.00 away to Southern Lehigh for nothing.

Mr. Carocci
That's not true. People are listening, Priscilla.

Ms. deLeon
You have made incorrect comments to them too.

Mr. Carocci
But people are listening. They have to know that they can use the Hellertown Library, they can go there and get a card. We have a whole program that we reimburse them for.

Ms. deLeon
We need to recess the meeting again.

Mr. Carocci
So, recess, I'm not going to let people think we don't have library services.

Lawrence Opthof
Where's the \$50,000 Tom?

Mr. Carocci
You said Hellertown because we do library services at Hellertown. Mr. Opthof's out of his mind.

Lawrence Opthof
Just like you are. \$50,000

Mr. Carocci
And residents should know that they can go get a card at Hellertown Library and they will be reimbursed.

Lawrence Opthof
You are worried about a couple thousand here

Mr. Carocci
Asked Cathy to do that.

Ms. deLeon
Okay, you know what, the Transcriptionist cannot take two people talking at the same time.

Lawrence Opthof
Tell him to be quiet.

Ms. deLeon
I'm trying.

Lawrence Opthof
He just talks all the time; he's got a motor mouth.

Ms. deLeon
Right, right, like I said, I'd love to see him at work.

Mr. Carocci
I got a lot to get out. I missed the last two meetings. I got a lot to get out.

Lawrence Opthof
Let him talk. Let him talk, get himself out of breath. Stop the clock for me, and then when he's done, I'll start talking, okay?

Ms. deLeon
Yes.

Lawrence Opthof
I stopped Tom, you can start now.

Ms. deLeon
Stacy, you need to do that if he is talking.

Stacy Werkheiser
I just tried.

Ms. deLeon
I know.

Lawrence Opthof
Anyway, so as I was saying, when we used to have a library, and now we have nothing, and then he gave \$50,000.00 away to Southern Lehigh for absolutely nothing. 50 grand, so they got 50 grand there, this boondoggle baseball field is \$3.1 million and counting, and I just can't get over it, you know, that they complain about these things, about you people spend a few thousand dollars, and when they were there, it was, it was, you know, carte blanche, let's go and then he brings up this issue about income from the garbage dump because he wanted to, he wants to expand and go on and on forever, as long as it's not at his house.

Ms. deLeon
Okay, thank you. Next person, next person.

Bob Kemmerer
Bob Kemmerer of Steel City. I just want you to know that report was very, very

Ms. deLeon
Wait, wait, you can't address the people in the audience, you have to address the Chair.

Bob Kemmerer
The report that she gave was very good. It was concise, and it was very informative, even though Mr. Carocci made every effort he could to disrupt the, the proceedings, but anyway, I think she did a great job. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you, next.

David Boulin

David Boulin. So, I understand that we're supposed to address topics, okay, and I really wanted to address what Lynn Hill had to say, and it's very nice. I guess I'm gonna have to print out all of the slides in order to make notes as we go along. There were things that I really wanted to ask and had them in my mind and all of a sudden you said when she was done that we're gonna go on to Cathy. Well, that's, that, no you, after the speaker finishes, if we can't ask questions of this speaker, she's going along, like Tom finally did, you see how well that went, and how much information actually came out that Lynn was able to supply because it wasn't confrontational. I would ask Priscilla to do that as the Chair, the President, so people can ask questions then and there. I'm not saying interrupt but certainly the Council, he's elected. Do we just throw him out the door? Yes, I know that answer, all the smart alecks here. I would say to you that what Cathy has done with roughly 48 pages of material is a lot easier to go through than what was presented here. I'm not, first of all, the data is really interesting. I understand that there were 58 municipalities in all of Lehigh and Northampton County. Is that correct because that's what seems to be we're getting compared too. How many other municipalities did not respond? What about local ones around us? How about we put a little arrows on so we know who we're talking about? I don't mean somebody up near the northern border of Northampton County, a couple up there that don't respond. You know, the statistics are really interesting, especially if you call the data and cut out ones you don't like or don't get. You don't know what that means. I can see the blank look. What that means is and it's real simple. You poll everybody you think is interested and the rest you don't. That's calling the data, okay, I know, it's really difficult. That's what I mean, going through her slides was trivial. You could fly through them. PA One was really interesting, and when we found out PA One was, thank you very much, Cathy, by God, that we find out that we didn't respond to them and why and what happened, and when we objected to it, even though we were right, we got whacked with another bunch of money. Now that shouldn't be. I'd say where was the attorney on that? It looks like he's there. Okay. Yeah, I can take an answer from you and handle it without interrupting you.

Ms. deLeon

That was the previous attorney.

David Boulin

Oh, previous attorney, okay, so we didn't follow up with a new improved attorney. Okay, those things are really, really tough to take, and by the way, when she comes and makes political statements, with signs and everything in front of the thing, and she's getting

Ms. deLeon

That didn't happen tonight. Speak to the subject for tonight. She didn't do that tonight. So please

David Boulin

No, she didn't. Oh, thank you. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

She put up a political sign?

Mr. Carocci

Statements.

Ms. deLeon

You put up a political sign?

Mr. Carocci

Statement, he said statement.

Ms. deLeon

Go ahead.

David Boulin

Well, actually, it's signs and statements. Signs last meeting, statements this meeting, and you don't need to be political when you're looking at the numbers. I want to know what the numbers are. I go through them, and by gosh, Cathy's reports are scintillating, okay, and she knows what's behind them. When she talks about PA One. Well, I don't think it's funny.

Ms. deLeon

No, I'm very impressed.

David Boulin

No, you don't want a, somebody that doesn't know what they are talking about, and then gets in a fight and starts calling members of the public, whatever. Okay, and I thought I saw a gesture in there also. I'll check it out on the film. That's not funny. We don't need that. We need solid answers on what these are. I know who put those slides together. 36 seconds. Anyhow, the point I was trying to make is Tom, and Lynn, when they got down and started discussing the numbers because they didn't get interrupted, etc., etc., really illuminated that presentation. I think his, his were good comments, and no, we, all this other buttery stuff that we hear. Oh, gee, so nice, so, you are professionals and if you're getting paid, you ought to be able to sit there and justify what you're doing. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

Victoria didn't even know she was getting paid.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else would like to speak? Okay, if not, there's no action needed on this item. Again, thank you Lynn, and now we're going to turn it over to Council, have any questions regarding Cathy's presentation and I'll start with Tom.

Mr. Carocci

You know what, I don't have any questions on this.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, great. My comment is thank you, Cathy. Great job as usual and scintillating. Okay, Victoria,

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just appreciate it and thank you for working with our Controller.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura.

Ms. Ray

Sure, I don't have any questions per se. I like the information that's written out, but I also like to see visuals. I think it makes it easier to

Ms. deLeon

You like to see what?

Ms. Ray

Visuals

Mr. Carocci

What do you mean, like charts?

Ms. Ray

Charts or graphs where you can really quickly look at, you know, when something's way out of whack, whereas otherwise, you'd have to read a lot and try to remember it. So, I do like charts and graphs.

Mr. Carocci

You are being paid to read it.

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Sorry, just one quick question I forgot.

Mr. Carocci

Ms. Hill's didn't have any charts.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Cathy, what is the annual Council pay?

Ms. Ray

It wasn't this long either, so

Mr. Carocci

You don't like reading long things.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So, just so the public is aware. Council gets paid \$3,250.00 annually. That's their total compensation, and what is the Controller's compensation?

Ms. Gorman

\$2,500.00

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

\$2,500.00

Ms. Gorman

Ms. Hill's is set by ordinance and Council's is set by Second Class Township Code based on population.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, and in years past, had our prior Controller also accepted that salary?

Ms. Gorman

Yes.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so and so \$2,500 annually. I think it's been well worth it for what we've received this evening alone. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

Cathy, I didn't think, I thought we changed the compensation for the Controller.

Ms. Gorman

We did.

Mr. Carocci

So he didn't receive \$2,500.00.

Ms. Gorman

He didn't receive \$2,500.00. He was he was paid \$7.00 an hour.

Mr. Carocci

Right. \$7.00 an hour

Ms. Gorman

Based on ordinance. We budgeted \$2,500.00 annually.

Mr. Carocci

Right.

Ms. Gorman

Many times he did not reach that amount.

Mr. Carocci

At \$7.00 an hour.

Ms. Gorman

At \$7.00 an hour.

Mr. Carocci

And I'm not paid.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Moving on to Developer Items or Township Business Items. We have

Mr. Carocci

No, no, there's public comment on this.

Ms. deLeon

Oh, I apologize, public comment. Who'd like to go first?

Mr. Carocci

She's gotta be somewhere tonight. She really getting, rushing things along.

Donna Louder

Thank you for the apology.

Ms. deLeon

You're welcome.

Donna Louder

You must have went to church on Sunday.

Ms. deLeon

The tape will, what's that? I didn't hear you.

Donna Louder

I said you must have gone to church on Sunday.

Ms. deLeon

Excuse me?

Mr. Carocci

That's a good, that's a legitimate comment.

Donna Louder

I just made the comment. So, starting on page 3, Public Safety also is currently below the mid-year, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Our police department offers coverage for graduations and other events with the entity sponsoring the event paying for those services. There is one event in Lower Saucon Township that does not pay for the services, and I have brought this up maybe 50 times now, and that would be the Steel City Hill Climb, and that actually, if, off the top of my head, and I could be wrong, probably gets maybe four to six overtime officers, and I don't care, this is not a police comment. This is a financial comment. If Lehigh or the school districts are paying for the graduations to be held at Lehigh, and our officers are working the lights and doing whatever they're doing and the state rovers and whatever else, why isn't the Steel City Hill Climb paying the Township for the police service?

Mr. Carocci

Have we ever Cathy?

Donna Louder

No, and actually, it was looked into, I think, by the Chief, and I don't know whatever came out of that.

Ms. Gorman

I think if I remember correctly, and I could be wrong. Way back when they did, and then they didn't, because the choice was for Lower Saucon to have officers there. They can, I think they also provide their own security as well. So, they were providing I think, if I'm not mistaken, they were also paying for their own security. So, they, if Lower Saucon wanted officers there, then Lower Saucon

Ms. deLeon

You're not supposed to be addressing anybody but Council.

Ms. Gorman

That may not be the case now, but

Donna Louder

Oh, okay, it's probably not.

Ms. Gorman

That's my recollection from way back when this discussion was had before, at some point, but we can

Donna Louder

There was State troopers involved at one time. We had the helicopter there and everything else. I mean it was, but now, and I'm back to, back to the point here. Steel City Hill Climb is not paying the Township. So that is an expense on the taxpayer, when everybody else who's requesting their service is paying for it, not the taxpayer. Okay, moving on. The Long Ridge problem, was the escrow released prior to final inspection?

Ms. deLeon

You're asking a question. We're here for comments.

Donna Louder

I'm giving you a comment.

Ms. deLeon

You asked me, it was a question.

Donna Louder

It was an expense on the Township taxpayer if that's what happened.

Mr. Carocci

I don't know. It was a presentation, go ahead Cathy.

Ms. Gorman

Homeowners came to Council with a complaint. So, Council made that decision at a Council meeting to have Hanover Engineering relook into the grading aspects of that development. We did not have the system that we have now in place, then, when it started.

Donna Louder

Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

But now, just some clarity on that. The system now, I mean, the system before was they, the money could be released from escrow before they got a certificate of occupancy for their homes, is that correct?

Ms. Gorman

I believe for the grading applications, they were, once Hanover approved the grading plans, then the escrow might have been released at that point.

Brien Kocher

Yeah, because that's when the Township Engineer was out of the picture, and the internal staff did all the work from there.

Ms. Gorman

The follow-up work.

Mr. Carocci

Right, we've changed that.

Ms. Gorman

Yes, we changed that. Now Hanover Engineering is overseeing each grading application from start to finish.

Donna Louder

Thank you, Hanover Engineer.

Ms. Gorman

The homeowners are paying for it.

Donna Louder

The, yeah, I know, the insurance premium increased because of the public official bond?

Ms. Gorman

The bonding is a unique item. It is recommended that we hold bonds until an audit is complete when someone leaves.

Donna Louder

Okay.

Ms. Gorman

So, we are still carrying, well last year, we carried Ms. Huhn's bond for a year until the audit was complete, when the finances were under her administration.

Donna Louder

Okay.

Ms. Gorman

We were doing the same with Mr. Hudson, and we were doing the same with Mr. Mahlman, as a Controller. So, when somebody leaves midstream, we still hold on to their bond until we feel comfortable, and that an audit is complete and releasing them and then we release it at that point in time.

Donna Louder

Okay, is it changing the amount of the bonding?

Ms. Gorman

It's just requiring more money because you're carrying now two people instead of one.

Donna Louder

Okay, the buildings and grounds, it says mid-year range. It also says we have some higher than normal expensive and repairs upcoming, which Council was notified. What are these upcoming repairs and where are they?

Ms. Gorman

Town Hall Park, the pavilion needs some work. Heller Homestead property, there's some work that needs to be done over there, and Seidersville Hall, there's a, some plumbing work that needs to be done so

Donna Louder

Thank you, and there's mention of money being transferred. Why is that money being transferred?

Ms. Gorman

Annually we transfer from, we budget a certain amount of money to be transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Fund. The idea is that we're funding it in perpetuity if we spend it, we spend it, if we don't, we don't, but we know we have five, ten-year plans in there, so that continual source of funding is kind of like a pension MMO payment. You're paying for it now. You might be utilizing it later, and it kind of ensures that the funding is there ongoing. So, that's part of our budget process. It's also part of our Capital Plan process.

Donna Louder

And under legal it says, we are at 40.58%, continue monitoring due to litigation. Do you foresee it going over, as the Financial Director?

Ms. Gorman

I don't, not at this time, I don't.

Donna Louder

Okay. Thank you for your time. Thank you for the answers, Cathy,

Mr. Carocci

Yes, thank you for being willing to answer questions about the presentation when Lynn Hill was not willing to answer questions from the public about her presentation.

Ms. deLeon

Anyone else?

Ann Marie Slavick

Ann Marie Slavick, Lower Saucon Township. I just wanted to make a comment from earlier that it didn't seem like there percentage or the amounts that were over budget for the two, three things that, the

three items that Ms. Hill mentioned was that big of a percentage of the expenditures. So, I like percentages. I like using percentages personally than just throwing numbers out there and saying, we're grossly over budget because it doesn't seem like \$6,500.00 is a lot to our expenditures. I also just want to make a comment about the fact that the problem with the government in every Township, City, and Municipality in America is the fact that someone is going to decide what other people should say and not say. Someone should decide what the public is allowed to talk about, and what they're not allowed to talk about. That is not a democracy, and it's not America. So, it's really about relativism, and that's where we're at now, is the people that come in and decide that they don't want a landfill because it's bad and evil, are going to be the ones to speak up and then they're going to tell everybody to keep their mouths shut, and that's not acceptable. So, I pray that all the people watching this in the public tonight and in the future, when it's time that our Township is close to bankruptcy, because this is what the Green Movement has done to our Township, that everybody remembers this night and the comments I just made. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, next, anyone? Okay, so again, thank you.

3. **DEVELOPER ITEMS** – None

4. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER ANDREW WIEDER**

Ms. deLeon

And we're moving on then to Township Business Items. Introduction of Officer Andrew Wieder is it, and about, so the fun part of the evening, and Council would like to welcome and have Chief Barndt introduce him.

Chief Barndt

Thank you. I would like to formally introduce Officer Andrew Wieder, as our most recent full-time officer added to the police department. Officer Wieder was officially sworn in to the full-time position by District Justice Allen Mege on Monday, July 1, at police headquarters. Officer Wieder is a 2018 graduate of Saucon Valley High School, 2022 graduate at DeSales University with a BA in Homeland Security and a graduate of 109th class of the Allentown police academy. Andrew is currently commissioned as a Second Lieutenant with the Army National Guard out of Fort Indian Town Gap, and he resides in Saucon Valley. He started his first full time shift July 3rd, and he's assigned to the night time shift platoon. Welcome.

Ms. deLeon

Welcome to Lower Saucon. We have a fine police department and we want to thank everybody for doing what they do and the Chief's leadership.

Chief Barndt

Thank you, and I would just like to add we are at full staffing from the original motion that was passed back in early 2023. We currently have 16 full-time patrol officers, a full-time Detective, Sergeant and then myself, so thank Council for your continued and ongoing support.

B. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE MANAGER POSITION**

Ms. deLeon

Okay, discussion and possible action on the Manager position. At this time, I'd like to make a motion

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to offer the position of Township Manager to Brian S. Bond, at the salary of \$142,500.00, subject to a successful background investigation in accordance with the terms of the draft letter prepared by the solicitor.

Mr. Carocci

What's the name, can you spell the name?

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry.

Mr. Carocci

Spell the name.

Ms. deLeon

Brian, B-R-I-A-N, S like in, I don't know what his middle initial is, S like in S, Bond, B-O-N-D, and in March, the Township hired Keystone Municipal Solutions to conduct the search for a new Manager. Brian Bond was selected from a pool of roughly a dozen candidates. Keystone interviewed each candidate and recommended three. The Search Committee, which was Victoria and myself, interviewed the three and selected two, who were then presented to the five-member Council in Executive Session. The job was offered to Brian Bond, who accepted the position and will start sometime hopefully in mid-August, sometime, we don't have an exact date. So, I would like to thank Chad Saylor and also Steve for all your help in this matter. So, there's been a motion, is there a second?

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Mr. Carocci

Comment.

Ms. deLeon

We're getting to that. You're first Tom, I go alphabetical.

Mr. Carocci

Alright, so this was the first time I'm hearing of this candidate. Priscilla's right, they hired a Keystone Solution, whatever their name was.

Ms. deLeon

We hired Keystone.

Mr. Carocci

No, I didn't vote for to hire them. Priscilla hired it and Chad Saylor, then she told Chad Saylor to not share the resumes with, with me and Jason. So, the 12 resumes we've never seen because Priscilla instructed Mr. Saylor, who was being paid with Township taxpayer dollars, to not share the applications with us. So, we have no idea if Mr. Bond was the best candidate, in my opinion. I would have no idea whether he was the best candidate or not. So, that's kind of how they, this is first time I'm hearing his name tonight. You know, I don't know anything about him. I'll be voting against him simply because, again, we were not informed of who the other candidates were. We were completely left out of the process. This is from people who claim they're so transparent when they won't answer questions, you know, she says there's a presentation, you can you can only comment and can't ask a question. You know, so is this guy, Priscilla, can you enlighten me? Is, does he have Township Manager experience or Borough experience?

Ms. deLeon

Yes, he does Township.

Mr. Carocci

And how many years?

Ms. deLeon

15.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Yeah, I don't think,

Mr. Carocci

Well, why wasn't his resume included in the packet, what's, what's the big

Mr. Goudsouzian

His resume was provided to you.

Mr. Carocci

Not, not to me.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Of course it was. His resume was provided to you.

Mr. Carocci

I never saw it.

Mr. Goudsouzian

His resume was provided to you.

Mr. Carocci

Or the other 12 weren't.

Mr. Goudsouzian

You were provided an opportunity to meet with him.

Mr. Carocci

I couldn't make it. I told you I couldn't make it then.

Mr. Goudsouzian

You did not, and you chose not to meet.

Mr. Carocci

I met with one guy named Murphy, and the other guy I couldn't meet.

Mr. Goudsouzian

You were provided an opportunity to meet with all the members in Executive Session, and you chose not to participate.

Mr. Carocci

Not true, and so we weren't provided with the other 12 resumes, and one of the other candidates, they did identify. I forget his first name, his last name was Murphy, and all that. He called, he called me because and this is why, at least I have, had some kind of hope for him because you know, he flat out said, I would never take a job, if offered, or get into something without talking with all the members of that Council. Yet this Brian Bond, never called me. I don't believe he called Jason. Jason hasn't told me he's spoken to him. Jason didn't know his name either when this was on the agenda. So yeah, we have a guy. I don't know what his political affiliation is, but I'm sure Priscilla knows, and he wanted nothing. He didn't feel like he had to talk to Jason and I before, you know, to accept this business and whether to say, you know, just to even introduce himself. So, I think it tells you what we're getting and

who he will be loyal to, which is exactly what they want, to cover up what they need to cover up, to be non-transparent about they want to be non-transparent about, and, you know, it'll be, it'll be more of the same. We'll have to do a lot of Right-to-Knows to get answers, because much like our solicitor, it seems like just another one of Priscilla's poodles here, that will cover up and not share information with members of Council who are elected by the Township taxpayers. So, I think that's what you have to look forward to with Mr. Bond. I look forward to meeting him, but I think we know who he is without meeting him because Priscilla has kept him from us. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

First of all, just remember things that you hear at these meetings may or may not be true. So, we did have an Executive Session which we invited all five Council members to meet the two candidates that were the ones that rose to the top and they chose not to participate. I can't make them participate in a Zoom call. It's supposed to be

Mr. Carocci

There were there were 12 candidates.

Ms. deLeon

I'm speaking now.

Mr. Carocci

There were 12 candidates and you, you're the one that says two rose to the top. She wouldn't share the other 12 candidates with us. So, this is Priscilla and Victoria who said that these two, in their minds, rose to the top. So we never saw the other 12. That's what she hid from us.

Ms. deLeon

And when we go into Executive Session to talk personnel management matters, we're not allowed to mention the candidates' names, because you can all sit there, and if you go to apply for a job, you all can understand why I'm saying that. So, he just violated the Sunshine Law by saying the person's name, but that's okay. We hired, we have a motion on the floor for Mr. Bond, and in my opinion, we did everything very similar to the way they did it for Mark Hudson. Very, very similar. I was part of Council back then, and

Mr. Carocci

You got to interview Mark Hudson.

Ms. deLeon

I did not. Because I asked.

Mr. Carocci

Sure, you did.

Ms. deLeon

I personally asked, I was not invited.

Mr. Carocci

And we shared all have a resumes.

Ms. deLeon

Excuse me. I'm speaking.

Mr. Carocci

We shared all the resumes.

Ms. deLeon

I invited

Mr. Carocci

You didn't share ten of them.

Ms. deLeon

You know what, you're just being rude, and you think you're going to lose my train of thought, you're not. Okay, so you can do whatever you want.

Mr. Carocci

I didn't know you had a train of thought.

Ms. deLeon

Use all your skills, but it's not working, Tom, okay. So, I did

Mr. Carocci

I just want to see the other ten resumes.

Ms. Ray

Stop talking.

Ms. deLeon

Well, whatever. So, anyway, so I had asked it to meet with Mark Hudson, because it was never offered to me by the previous majority of Council. So, we pretty much did with they did, and here we are, and that's it for me, Victoria.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you. I just want to say I'm very excited to second the motion. I'm excited that we can bring on a new Manager. I do want to reiterate the fact that we tried to be as inclusive as we could in the process. I want to know, since we're asking lots of questions about people attending or not getting things done, I want to know why Mr. Carocci has missed at least three meetings. I think maybe four meetings this year since he talks about the importance of his position as a Council member and our duty to you as our taxpayers. Certainly, he was well aware of the fact that we were in the process of hiring a manager. So, for me, one of the most important things, the exec, the Manager position in our Township would be something that I would want any Council member to participate in. So, the fact that certain members of our Council have chosen, despite being offered to participate in an interview with all five of us there, so that the person could have an opportunity to see the interaction between Council members, the dialogue between them, have an open discussion. None of that happened because two Council members chose not to participate. They were provided the resumes of the top candidates. So, to now want to ask questions when the person is not available to answer them, I think is inappropriate. Maybe you should have attended the Executive Sessions and the various Council meetings where we discussed these things, and then maybe you would be able to get your answers, but to sit here and question the process by which you have had every opportunity to participate, and which you chose not to do, is just grandstanding. It's grandstanding, and it's trying to be obstructive to the operation of our Council. From what I have observed through this process of hiring a manager is that we have two members of Council that have chosen to take every opportunity to extend the length of our meetings, to cause disruption during our meetings, to have every member of our audience get aggravated, irritated, upset because of inflammatory comments and things that have been said. Now we have somebody trying to lay the groundwork to irritate a new Manager. So, I hope that our Council, all five of us, can respect the new person coming in, ask questions of them as they want to, because they will be in our Township offices, available to you at any time that you want, but to argue that you were not provided the opportunity when you failed to attend, did not even ask for a new scheduled meeting. Didn't say you couldn't attend but just did not attend, did not respond. You've heard this evening, Mr. Banonis. He doesn't even answer the phone. So, we've had multiple meetings where our Council chooses not to attend, and then they want to complain about the business that's up here. So, I want to make sure that everybody in this audience

knows that the people that you elected are choosing not to participate in the process and to create problems so that they can then go on and complain more. So do we want complainers or do we want action people because I'm looking for action. I don't see one. So, I'm happy to move forward with this agenda item, but I want to make sure everybody knows, there are people who don't attend, don't participate and complain.

Mr. Carocci

And the action they took was, they, they took

Ms. deLeon

It's not your turn.

Mr. Carocci

They instructed Chad Saylor, Chad Saylor, to not share, not share the resumes with us. That's the action that Priscilla took.

Ms. deLeon

It's Laura's turn.

Mr. Carocci

And not to share

Ms. deLeon

Stop being disrespectful.

Mr. Carocci

And to not share those resumes, so now we have to Right-to-Know because, they cover up

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Time out

Ms. deLeon

Go right ahead

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, we're going to, we're going to.

Ms. Ray

And you can be quiet, it's my turn to talk.

Ms. deLeon

Laura, can you start again please?

Mr. Carocci

We will do plenty of Right-to-Knows. You're not being transparent.

Ms. Ray

It's my turn to talk Tom, please turn your mouth off. Okay, so I am going to reiterate the process that happened. So, I was in the same position as

Ms. deLeon

Tom and Jason

Mr. Carocci

Have you seen all 12 resumes?

Ms. Ray

I did not see 12 resumes; I saw two resumes. We had the consulting firm do the high-level work. They screened out people who really

Mr. Carocci

Why, you couldn't do high level work?

Ms. deLeon

You know what Tom, can you be that rude?

Ms. Ray

And we continued, so we were provided, once they had it narrowed down to the two candidates with the resumes, it was sent to all five Council members so to have this one here sitting and saying he never heard the guy's name and he knows nothing about him, I guess he doesn't read his email and doesn't care enough to, you know, look into the important task of hiring a manager. So, his story here is just a story, another tall tale. So, I am happy that we're able to move forward with the candidate. We did make sure the candidate is fully aware of how things go here, because we don't want somebody coming in not aware of the situation. So, I think I think we should do well.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, I have one other question for Cathy, if I if I could. I just want to make sure, I think I asked you um, last time when we lost Leslie Huhn, I think everybody remember we had Ms. Huhn as our Manager and she resigned, and the prior Council undertook a process to hire Mr. Hudson, who had been here, I think, since 2022, up until this year. So I looked into that just a little bit, and my understanding is at that time, we paid an Interim Manager \$48,000.00 during a six-month search process, which ended with Mr. Hudson and I don't recall during that time, any public meeting, where anybody had any opportunity to discuss the candidate or anything like that, but I do want to highlight the expense that we paid for the Interim Manager, we did do things a little bit different this time, and I think that we were more effective. We have now a candidate within three months, and I'm excited.

Ms. deLeon

Right.

Mr. Carocci

They've lost the Township Manager, a Zoning Officer and the solicitor already this year, we'll see. Those are the three people that left.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so now we're

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Telegraphing the fact that you want to get the person fired or the he wants to resign because of your attitude.

Mr. Carocci

No, they resigned because they

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Are you telegraphing the fact that you are going to disrupt his position here?

Mr. Carocci

I hope he stay

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It sounds like it to me.

Mr. Carocci

I'm not, I'm not.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay. Well, I hope so. I hope your actions speak louder than words tonight.

Mr. Carocci

I'm not. These people leave because of.....but we have to make the Right-to-Know because you instruct them not to share information with us. Like you did Chad Saylor and like you did Mark Hudson.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so now we're

Mr. Carocci

So, there will be Right-to-Knows. There will be plenty of Right-to-Knows.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'm glad well, we'll take a tally of the cost. I think maybe Cathy, you can keep track of that.

Mr. Carocci

Well if you would just be transparent.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Every Right-to-Know that comes in from Mr. Banonis and Mr. Carocci, if you could keep track of the cost that it involves for you and the staff to, to pull all of the records and information that they want. I think if we can just keep a record tally for that would be good.

Mr. Carocci

Absolutely, because it's a result of your non-transparency.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think we have over a thousand Right-to-Knows from January.

Mr. Carocci

It's a result of you hiding things.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, again, one at a time.

Mr. Carocci

It's a result of you hiding.

Ms. deLeon

Victoria had the floor. You notoriously keep interrupting because you're very rude. Okay, and you enjoy it, you really come here and you really enjoy this.

Mr. Carocci

I do.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

He enjoys disruption and frustrating the operation of our Council.

Mr. Carocci

I enjoy

Ms. deLeon

That's out of order.

Mr. Carocci

I enjoy representing the public.

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Then attend a meeting, attend a meeting and then you can represent us.

Mr. Carocci

I do attend meetings. I enjoy representing the public.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I haven't seen you the last six months.

Mr. Carocci

What are you talking about? I missed one meeting.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Okay, now we are done.

Mr. Carocci

Now, you are interrupting me.

Ms. deLeon

We are done.

Mr. Carocci

I don't get to respond to that personal attack. It's a personal attack. I should get to respond. These Right-to-Knows are a result again of them, hiding stuff from us and not, and instructing Managers, such as Mark Hudson before, to keep things for us, and that's why he left.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Before we open it up to the public, there was a reference to a draft letter to be presented to Mr. Bond. I want to do this on the record so there's no issue. If I can hand you one and hand one over. This handles the fringe benefits and so on. So, when the time comes, assuming he accepts the offer, I don't want to have any issue as to saying somebody didn't tell us exactly what is being offered. Sorry.

Ms. deLeon

Are you going to go over them?

Mr. Goudsouzian

No, because this is the fringe benefits, which would come after he's accepted an offer, it would be out there, but this is part of your motion is to make this offer with the terms of this draft letter. Now we have the draft letter as part of the record.

Ms. deLeon

Was that in my motion to make the offer? That would be the offer?

Mr. Goudsouzian

Yes.

Ms. deLeon

Right, okay.

Mr. Carocci

The offer letter?

Mr. Goudsouzian

Yes.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, public comment.

Donna Louder

Can you just give me a little background?

Ms. deLeon

I can't hear you.

Donna Louder

Sorry. Can you please just give me a little background on this gentleman, where he came

Ms. deLeon

You know what, you're doing questions?

Mr. Carocci

So okay. They don't want to be transparent.

Ms. deLeon

That'll be coming out.

Donna Louder

I just, first we're

Mr. Carocci

We're hiring this guy for \$142,000.00 of taxpayer money and they aren't going to tell you anything about him. They aren't going to tell you anything about him.

Ms. deLeon

This is public comment.

Mr. Carocci

They aren't going to tell you anything about him. Ask your question.

Donna Louder

I apologize, but I couldn't hear when you said his name.

Ms. deLeon

You couldn't hear, I'm sorry, Brian S. Bond, B-O-N-D.

Donna Louder

So, he came from East Stroudsburg. Thank you,

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody else?

Mr. Carocci

Don't ask anything about him, you're paying him \$142,000.00. Don't ask anything about him.

David Boulin

You know, Priscilla, Ms. deLeon, the bottom line is you can take him to task when he interrupts, but this one over here, you smile and you let her rip. So, if you wonder why people get aggravated, it's you that allow that to happen. So, please don't do that. I don't know about Mr. Bond or anything else, but it seems to me that if you're going to have packets that you send out on the, and I used to be in a Council, so geez, the simplest things, the packet gets sent out with what's in it, and if you don't send equal things to everybody, you got a problem, and I can't believe for a second that Cathy Gorman would allow that to happen. So, if what he says is correct, then I'm really disturbed. The other thing is, I know that the two attorneys, male attorneys on the board, do a lot of traveling. I don't think anybody else on this board goes from here to Easton and for the most part. Oh, see, there's that perplexed look. What I'm saying is there out-of-pocket all the time. They are around the country and maybe the world on business.

Ms. deLeon

I don't, okay, okay.

David Boulin

Yeah, no, it's not okay because there you see, you respond when you, you want to and you don't when you don't want to? Very convenient. That's the problem we have here is your favoritism and partialism.

Ms. deLeon

It's my prerogative as President to say what I want.

Mr. Boulin

Well, you sure as heck do.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you.

Mr. Boulin

You shut down everybody else if you don't want, just like Lynn Hill was saying, it's inbred into your politics.

Mr. Carocci

That's rude, I mean, she's, she's rude.

Ms. deLeon

Next, who would like to speak next?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just a point of clarification. I think the most important business is the business of this Township, and if you're an elected official, you should show up for the meetings that you know are well ahead of time in January.

Ms. deLeon

Absolutely, whether you travel or not.

Lawrence Opthof

I'll respond to that as I've been here for the meetings and this guy is Mr. *(inaudible)*

Mr. Carocci

Worker's comp and

Lawrence Opthof

And if he can't attend the meetings, he should drop out

Mr. Carocci

Disability, workers comp. What it is?

Ms. deLeon

Get it right Tom.

Lawrence Opthof

If you can't attend the meetings, he shouldn't be here. He shouldn't be on the Council, and he should say *(inaudible)* to his law practice and the same for the other one. The other one can't even show up. He calls on the phone, and he interrupts on the phone or he doesn't answer the phone at all. This is like a tag team. We got Banonis, and we got Carocci and they are a wrestling tag team. Who can show up once in a while and disrupt the meeting, and you know, it's funny when, when we have these meetings about the garbage dump, this guy couldn't keep himself awake.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, next, okay, so no one else. We have a motion on the floor, and I'm very pleased to have asked Cathy to call the roll.

ROLL CALL: 3-1-0 (Mr. Banonis – Absent, Mr. Carocci – No)

Ms. Gorman

Motion passes 3-1.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, and at this time, I'd like to welcome Brian Bond. I hope you're watching, and

Mr. Carocci

We know, we know nothing about you, but welcome.

Ms. deLeon

So, I'd like to welcome you and we'll get back to you with different information from the attorney. So

Mr. Carocci

She'll get back to you with your instructions to cover everything up.

C. REVIEW OF POLICY #01-2024 PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT – INSURANCE AND BONDING AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED POLICY #02-2024 PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT – INSURANCE AND BONDING

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have review of Policy #01-2024, Professional Consultant Insurance and Bonding and discussion of proposed policy, #02-2024, Professional Consultant Insurance and Bonding. Council will discuss possible changes to policy #01-2024, Cathy, did you want to talk about this?

Ms. Gorman

This was Victoria's.

Ms. deLeon

What's that?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It was my request.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I'm sorry.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so I requested that we take a look at this, this policy that we just recently enacted, primarily because it became apparent to me after we passed the resolution that it was quite restrictive. Restrictive meaning that there was lots of opportunities for our Township to collaborate and utilize very skilled and knowledgeable people throughout the State, and with the policy that we had in place, it would prohibit the Township from engaging in any services with any type of consultant unless they had a certain level of insurance and bonding. So I, I asked the solicitor to review the policy and make it available for us so that we could provide protection for us with respect to our ongoing consultants, mainly our solicitor and engineer, because as you saw, they take a lot of time, and they're here on a regular basis, but also allow the Township to engage the services of consultants who may not be providing necessarily an expert report or piece of information that we rely upon when we grant a development approval, or do something on a legal side, but somebody who's providing consulting services. I had found specifically that the fire, the fire consultant that we hired, who is renowned and does PSATS presentations, I don't think anybody could question his background and his expertise. He does it on the side to help municipalities and in our situation, he would not be able to provide that very beneficial consulting recommendations and information if he was subjected to the same policy, and I can foresee that same situation happening for different areas of our Township. So, I've requested that the policy be revised. I think it's still protective. I think the other more, most important part about it is that up until 2024, we didn't have this policy, and for all of the other years, I don't know that there was any circumstance by which our engagement of consultants put us in any kind of jeopardy or legal position that we would need this information in the past. So, our Council has been able to operate without this policy. I think it's nice that we do have a policy that protects us with respect to our ongoing consultants, but I think it had to be revised so that we also have the opportunity to engage in very skilled and highly qualified people who can provide us information and guidance when we deal with other matters of the Township. So, I'm making the motion

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved that we adopt Policy #02-2024 to replace the other policy related to professional consultants, insurance and bonding. That's my motion.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon

Okay, discussion by Council, Tom?

Mr. Carocci

You said 02, is it 02 or is it 01, on top of the paper, it says 01. You figure that out, right.

Mr. Goudsouzian

No. Do you want clarification?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah.

Mr. Goudsouzian

There's two policies in your packet.

Mr. Carocci

Okay.

Mr. Goudsouzian

One is 01, which is the old one.

Mr. Carocci

Okay

Mr. Goudsouzian

02 which is the new one.

Mr. Carocci

They want to go with the new one. Now, what I don't, did you, and you helped write this policy?

Mr. Goudsouzian

I did.

Mr. Carocci

Have you ever done this for a Township before?

Mr. Goudsouzian

No.

Mr. Carocci

A Borough before?

Mr. Goudsouzian

No.

Mr. Carocci

You've never, you've never revised one of these policies before, this is your first time doing it?

Mr. Goudsouzian

Correct.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, and you feel confident that this will protect the Township?

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's straightforward. It has the solicitor and the engineer providing insurance requirements which we've already done, and will continue to do. It provides some flexibility as indicated in certain other consultants who might not have the same type of insurance.

Mr. Carocci

Now, if they don't have it, who pays for it?

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's imposed on a case-by-case basis as drafted in Policy #02-2024.

Mr. Carocci

So, we the taxpayers might end up paying for their bonding coverage.

Mr. Goudsouzian

If there's bonding coverage required.

Mr. Carocci

And they don't have it. How is that decided by the Township Manager or does that come back before Council?

Mr. Goudsouzian

It's whenever it can be done by the Manager or by Council as drafted. Its draft, approved by Council. So, if we want, if Council wants to impose it on individual consultants, they can do so.

Mr. Carocci

If we want to say, "consultant, you pay for that bond."

Mr. Goudsouzian

Some of the concept and the issue that's been identified is some of these individuals who provide these consulting services are not law firms or engineering firms, and don't have that kind of insurance.

Mr. Carocci

But anybody can get business insurance, right, and anybody can get bonded?

Mr. Goudsouzian

At some costs.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, at some cost, but it's a cost of doing business, and for example, this fire consultant we hired we're paying \$20,000.00. How much, I don't, I haven't looked into bonding prices yet, but I didn't think they were that that high. I mean, we just had it in our budget for bonding two people, what was it, \$1,000.00? Cathy what was it to bond two people, \$1,000.00?

Ms. Gorman

There's three.

Mr. Carocci

Three.

Ms. Gorman

At certain financial levels,

Mr. Carocci

At certain financial levels. It was like \$1,300.00.

Ms. Gorman

It's the Manager, the Controller, and myself.

Mr. Carocci

So, we're paying this guy, so it's like, it's like \$300.00 or \$400.00 a person, depending on the financial level?

Ms. Gorman

Correct.

Mr. Carocci

I'm paying this guy \$20,000.00, he can't get a bond, for all of his work. He covers all of, it would cover his other clients as well. I don't understand, I just don't understand why, why we would be paying for these people. They can get business insurance and they can be bonded themselves. I don't understand why the Township would pay that to a consultant that we're paying with taxpayer dollars. Doesn't make a lot of sense, and now you're saying you've never drafted one of these before? You've never reviewed

one of these before? You have no experience in this whatsoever, and I got people from West Easton saying you screwed that up because you didn't you didn't notify their insurance carrier about a case.

Ms. deLeon
Okay.

Mr. Carocci
I don't, I'm not done yet. I might have some other questions. Within five business days, so how's it gonna come before Council if it has to be done within five business days. Am I reading that right?

Mr. Goudsouzian
I think you're reading it incorrectly.

Mr. Carocci
Okay, what, explain it to me then.

Mr. Goudsouzian
Okay, municipal consultants

Mr. Carocci
If you understand, this is the first time you've ever done this.

Mr. Goudsouzian
Don't be rude. Municipal consultants have to go ahead, such as the engineer and the solicitor, have to provide their insurance information, it's already been done.

Mr. Carocci
Right, I don't, I'm not worried about the

Mr. Goudsouzian
Are you going to let me finish?

Mr. Carocci
Yea, I'll let you finish.

Mr. Goudsouzian
Thanks. It says if we've been already retained, you'd have to provide it within five business days after reorganization. So, you have your reorganization meeting in January and then you have to go ahead and re-provide it.

Mr. Carocci
Okay, so we just make sure they're up to date. Okay.

Mr. Goudsouzian
And then the second sentence, part of that sentence, upon insurance coverage renewal is if for argument's sake, your insurance runs out in August, when it runs out, you're supposed to have a new policy, you provide that new policy.

Mr. Carocci
So, this is just simply so we can taxpayers, Victoria can charge taxpayers for the insurance bonding for this fire consultant buddy of hers that she hired. That's why we're doing this.

Mr. Goudsouzian
One can take the argument that it provides flexibility in providing, in hiring consultants when you need them.

Mr. Carocci

I mean, we hire consultants that can't afford \$300.00 or \$400.00 of bonding or business insurance. I mean, when I have a contractor come to my house, they are going to do something minor, they have business insurance. I ask them, they provide, they usually provide it in the contract, and you know, it's just a basic thing. I have no idea why, why we would burden. I have no idea why we would pass this cost onto taxpayers, when it should be exclusively the cost of the consultant that we're paying, that we're paying with taxpayer dollars, especially this fire consultant, \$20,000.00. He can't, he's not bonded and he doesn't have business insurance? So, who did you hire? Just give \$20,000.00 to your buddies, your PSATS buddies.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

At least I attended PSATS.

Mr. Carocci

Huh?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

At least I attended again, back to attendance, you weren't here when we had the discussion of the fire consultant, and you weren't at PSATS, so you never met the guy.

Mr. Carocci

I was at PSATS. I was at PSATS, yeah, I was. Sure, I was.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

When you attend a meeting, then you can complain.

Mr. Carocci

Well, I was at PSATS. I don't know what you're talking about, and I missed, I missed the meetings in June. I didn't know, I didn't know you missed me so much. I mean, I won't miss, I won't miss another one now that you missed me so much.

Ms. deLeon

We can only transcribe one person at a time.

Mr. Carocci

If you missed me so much. I won't miss another one.

Ms. deLeon

We have three people are talking.

Mr. Carocci

You're just mad. I'm not sitting over there next to you tonight. I understand. I understand.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think maybe you're scared. You're the one that moved, not me.

Mr. Carocci

I'm not scared. I wanted to sit next to Mr. Cosby tonight. Alright, alright, Priscilla, I'm done for right now. I'll get to Mr. Cosby later.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Cathy, did we ever have the policy before like in 2023 or was this just, just new in 2024?

Ms. Gorman

It was new in 2024.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. I didn't know if it was a reorg thing that just the numbers got changed. Okay. I don't have any issues. Victoria, I guess your next?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I said what I had to say.

Ms. deLeon

Alright, Laura?

Ms. Ray

Yes, so my understanding of this, so there were only just a few wording changes on here, and there's nothing in here that says the Township is paying to bond people at all.

Mr. Goudsouzian

That's correct.

Ms. Ray

We can waive the requirement for them to be insured and bond, but we're not paying for them to be insured and bonded, because it's not really appropriate in all cases, and that's why on a case-by-case basis, is some of the wording added that we can consider each consultant and what type of services they're providing and whether it makes sense. So, read the document.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, is that it then?

Mr. Carocci

I did.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I guess I'm going to open it up to the floor. Anybody have a comment? Come to the podium.

David Boulin

Yeah, David Boulin. By the way, I understand you're supposed to announce your name, but I see some people get by without having to do that. Bottom line is I don't let people on my property to work on my house if they are not bonded, much less this. Hey, even, even professional physics consultants have to be bonded for when they're hired to prove that they are capable, etc., etc., and if they're not, then they're bonded. So, I don't think I understand this, and the other thing that I, that I really, really find interesting, I had to read this several times, and I would ask, you have draft written on this, that's great, I understand. Hello, but it would really be nice when you do the draft, if you strike out that which you're going to eliminate, and then italicize that, which you're going to add? Alright, I don't know. I would think with all the attorneys around here, we'd, we'd see that, right, because you know, the public is stupid. I know you people think that but honest to God, I can't tell you how many legal documents I've read because I had a group of lawyers underneath me when I was a business manager. So come on. So, let's see here. So, you removed for any, any account not supported by any, any action not supported by the Council, okay. So, you remove that. So, what's the Council going to do? Case-by-case, gonna decide that this, this consultant here, he doesn't need to be bonded because he's our buddy or something, and as, as the Councilman here pointed out, gee whiz, you want everybody bonded. I know it's out, \$300.00 and you're getting \$20,000.00. Come on, give me a break. I can't believe anybody would recommend signing this thing, especially, and we don't have a date on, unless it was the date was 1-20-24. I'm not sure what that means, but clearly 02-2024 is not today, but here we are, just a few months later, and we're changing it already. I don't know. Did, Mr. Banonis is an attorney, did he read it? Did he approve it? I see distant looks on the one that's so talkative. I find a way to shut that down, okay.

Mr. Carocci

Suzie's first one. He doesn't know what the hell is he doing.

David Boulin

So, I guess the question is who's going to be the approver? The people that drafted this are going to approve whoever they want or don't. Is that the way it works? Because it really ought to be a uniform policy across the board, and this is cockeyed. Why are you picking on that guy there, Brien? His firm's, he's an engineer, boy let's get him? And then who? What was the other one you eliminated? Oh, my. Actuary, they were going to get rid of him. We're going to have to approve that one, but we're not going to approve some of these other people, they don't need to be approved. That, that's really incredible. Somebody looks really bored. Doesn't want to hear it. I know. I don't blame that. Priscilla. That's why we're here. I don't run for Council. I have no plans for doing it, but at least I like to call out things that are obviously cockeyed, and just the fact that, you know, it was written by an attorney and it isn't a broad case, there's no reason not to have it that way. For \$300.00? Come on. But that's okay. I see how it's working. It's not working for the actual public. That's the best part.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else like to speak? Okay, if not, we have a roll call please.

ROLL CALL: 3-1 (Mr. Carocci –No; Mr. Banonis – Absent)

D. UPDATE ON HELLERTOWN LITIGATION – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you. Next, we have update on Hellertown Litigation, Discussion and Possible Action, the solicitor will provide an update.

Mr. Goudsouzian

I've had some additional discussions with the solicitors from the borough. Right now, there's nothing formal to report back, but it's been positive. I believe it's moving in the right direction towards a resolution. I'm hopeful that by the time we get to the next meeting, we'll have something formal to take a look at and hope that we'll have a resolution of all, or a lot of the outstanding matters at that time. That's what I have.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, any discussion by Council?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just want to say thank you, to Hellertown and all of the attorneys that have been involved in trying to resolve the problems that occurred under the last administration. So, I appreciate everybody's patience. We're working very hard.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, next we have

Mr. Carocci

I can comment this, this is an agenda item.

Ms. deLeon

Go right ahead.

Mr. Carocci

Alright, it sounds like Victoria just wants to give them whatever they want, their fellow Democrats down there in Hellertown, Victoria, so, so she just wants to give them whatever they want, and I'm sure they've

again kept us out of all these discussions too. Mr. Goudsouzian until tonight wouldn't even tell us who he was meeting with at Hellertown. So at least he disclosed that it was at least a solicitor, I guess, but that's a first, but I'm sure Mr. Goudsouzian has been instructed to use Lower Saucon Township tax dollars to fund Hellertown and their fellow Democrats and whatever their needs may, may be but Lower Saucon Township residents should be aware that, that's, that's where their taxpayer, all of their tax dollars are going. Alright, thanks for letting me have a say there.

Ms. deLeon

Laura?

Ms. Ray

Yeah, I'm just anxious to keep things moving along. I can't wait till we have resolution.

Mr. Carocci

Insightful.

Ms. deLeon

I didn't hear her.

Ms. Ray

Smart aleck.

Ms. deLeon

Would you repeat that? I said I didn't hear you. I'm sorry.

Ms. Ray

I said I'm just anxious to have things move along.

Ms. deLeon

Alright, thank you.

Ms. Ray

Smart aleck next to me here.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so we didn't have a motion so there's no public comment? Correct?

Mr. Goudsouzian

Correct. There's no

E. DISCUSSION FOR CONDITIONAL USE NOTICE AND SET HEARING DATE FOR LS OPP DEVCO LLC CONDITIONAL USE #CU 01-24 – 3621 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE, ROUTE 378

Ms. deLeon

So, discussion for conditional use notice and set hearing date for LS OPP DEVCO LLC conditional use number, CU-01-24-3621 Old Philadelphia Pike, Route 378. LS OPP DEVCO LLC has submitted a conditional use application for the installation of a billboard on the property located at 3621 Old Philadelphia Pike. The applicant has submitted a letter requesting the hearing on the application to be continued until October 16, 2024. Per the applicant's request, this will be scheduled for the August Planning Commission meeting for review. They have also submitted a variance request for this project, which will be tentatively scheduled for the August Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Council will have to make a decision on when to schedule the Conditional Use Hearing. So, we have to pick a date.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Yes. What has happened in this case, and perhaps Cathy can help a little bit too, is the way this is set up, they've given us until October to make a decision. The way the August hearings and the dates line up, it's difficult for us to set a date at the August meeting, because the August meeting comes after some of these other meetings. So, to make sure that we comply with all of the statutory requirements, we should set a date for the Conditional Use Hearing today. So, it's set. That way we have a date. The applicant may then ask for an application, meaning ask for continuance or asked to reschedule it, but the problem is, if we wait until the August hearing, we're gonna have some time issues. So, what I would recommend we do is we set a date, then we communicate that date to the applicant, before we move forward with costs of advertising, and so on. They may actually ask for another date, but we have to protect ourselves because we don't want to be in a position where they go in front of Zoning in August, Planning Commission in August. We meet at the end of August, we can't get the hearing in until after the October deadline, and then we have a problem. So, it's just a complicated, logistical issue, so the way to solve that is we pick the date now, and just let them know, and then we might end up amending the date anyway. I hope that makes sense. Cathy, if I said that wrong.

Ms. Gorman

It pretty much covers.

Mr. Carocci

So, we can still set the August date?

Mr. Goudsouzian

No, the August, the problem is our August meeting is after those, and then we still have to advertise and so on and so forth. So, we put ourselves in a tight spot. So, we pick the date now. We protect ourselves because we have provided the date. If they ask for a continuance then it's on them, and they'll give us an extension. They have not been difficult. It's just a question of, you know, you don't want to be in a position where you do something and based on dates, it's a deemed approval or some other crazy thing that we didn't see coming.

Ms. deLeon

So why don't we go for the second Wednesday in September, which would be the 9th of September, and it's in September, and not an August? Would that work?

Mr. Goudsouzian

That's fine, and then what we can do is we before we go ahead, and I'm sorry, the second Wednesday is as I have it as the 11th.

Ms. deLeon

What did I say?

Ms. Ray

Wouldn't be on a meeting night.

Ms. deLeon

That would be a Wednesday night.

Ms. Ray

That's not a meeting night.

Ms. Gorman

Their solicitor only advised that the 3rd and the 10th would not work for him.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, the 3rd or the 10th, so we put the 11th.

Mr. Carocci

You said the 11th.

Ms. Gorman

I'm just letting you know, the 3rd and the 10th, their applicant's attorney could not be available.

Mr. Carocci

But she said the 9th.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Yeah. So, it would be Wednesday, the 11th, and what I recommend is we would choose that date and communicate it to them. If it's agreeable, we'll keep it on the books and then advertise it. If we need to have a change, we can. My problem, my issue is just setting it now to protect ourselves.

Ms. deLeon

So, we have the meeting on August 21st if there has to be a change to do something.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Right or if they want to continuance, they can ask and give us an extension of time.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, alright.

Mr. Goudsouzian

So, I think what I'd ask is for somebody to make a motion to set the Conditional Use Hearing date, for September 11th. Just so we're clear on that, that's a separately scheduled date. It's not part of a, it's not part of a separate Council meeting.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon so moved by the solicitor.

Ms. deLeon

Is there a second?

Mr. Goudsouzian

And I'd recommend we have a time, like 6:30 p.m. would be my recommendation.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon amended her previous motion to say 6:30 p.m.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ophhof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Anybody on Council would like to speak Tom?

Mr. Carocci

No, it's fine.

Ms. deLeon

Victoria, Laura? Okay. In the audience, would somebody like to speak on this?

Ms. deLeon

Is that uh, do want to speak? You had your hand up. Oh? Okay, I'm sorry. Okay, so roll call, please.

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Banonis – Absent)

F. ~~SAUCON VALLEY CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY~~

Ms. deLeon

Okay, the citizen's fire academy got taken off.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ARCHAEA ENERGY SITE PLAN AND FLARE

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have Discussion and Possible Action regarding, I never know how to say that, Archaea Energy Site Plan and Flare. Council will discuss the recent opening of the energy facility in addition discuss review letters. Is there somebody here representing the developer? Hi, how are you? Thank you for coming and sitting through this.

Lee Ann Wainwright

I got two kids. I have a lot of patience.

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry.

Lee Ann Wainwright

Alright, my name is

Ms. deLeon

You're not at the microphone. Okay.

Lee Ann Wainwright

My name is Lee Anne Wainwright, I'm here from Archaea. It is kind of hard to remember. I had prepared some statements and I will usually just like to speak them but I think I'm going to read them tonight just so they are correct, but I am our East Coast External Affairs Manager. Also with me today is our Operations Superintendent, Jake Padula, who some of you might have met at the Landfill Council meeting, and Archaea's VP of Operations, Fielding Lewis. I want to thank you guys for the chance to talk with you guys tonight and give you a brief overview of our company in the new facility here at the Bethlehem Landfill. Archaea Energy, you might have originally known it as Aria. Aria was then acquired by Archaea and Archaea was acquired by BP in late 2022. We are currently the largest renewable natural gas (RNG) producer in the US. We specialize in the development of construction and operations of RNG landfill gas to electric facilities that capture waste emissions and convert it into low carbon fuel. We currently operate around 50 sites with a presence across 32 states. Just up the road in Scranton, we operate the world's largest RNG facility at the Keystone Sanitary Landfill, and by fall of this year, we anticipate having three operational sites here in Pennsylvania, including our facility here at Bethlehem. That's actually I just had that stat come up the other day, Pennsylvania is the first state we have multiple operating facilities. So, it's kind of exciting for the state here, and for those in the room that aren't familiar with what our plants do, our plants convert landfill gas, a natural byproduct of the decomposition of waste collected from landfills into renewable natural gas. So, I obviously would be remiss if I don't start by saying our highest priority is safety, sustainability and a strong commitment to the communities where we operate, which I'll talk about here in a second.

Ms. deLeon

So just to tell you, you're not under the five o'clock rule, five-minute rule, so, so go ahead.

Lee Ann Wainwright

Currently, we're at the end of what we call our commissioning process here at the Bethlehem RNG facility. We'd like to thank everyone here for the patience and understanding and I'd like to tell you what that actually means. So what commissioning means is that after completing the construction of the facility, we must perform all the safety checks, the function tests, and the calibrations on all of the newly installed equipment to ensure everything works as designed. After we ensure that everything is in the highest and safest working order, we begin the process of removing all of the gases or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the incoming landfill gas that we are, we are left with our final product, RNG, which is a low carbon fuel and then is distributed to the pipeline for local consumption. But in

order to get the plant online during the commissioning phase, we have to flare. If you aren't familiar with flaring, flaring is a safe and effective way to manage emissions when the plant is not producing RNG. If there isn't an RNG facility paired with a landfill, a landfill is left with the decision to either let the methane produced from the decomposing waste, either directly enter the atmosphere, or they collect it and flare it. Bethlehem Landfill has collected this methane and safely flared it for years to manage their emissions, but with the partnership with us at Archaea, we can now take that step further and turn the methane into renewable natural gas, thereby reducing emissions, improving local air quality, and providing a lower carbon fuel for transportation, homes, and businesses. Again, I'd like to emphasize that you will only see the flaring during the commissioning phase or during maintenance. Our goal is to operate the flare as little as possible, and once the plant is fully operational, landfill gas will be turned into a renewable resource and the RNG will be put into the local natural gas pipeline. We know there have been recent concerns about the flaring but what I can tell you today is that we've managed to decrease our flaring significantly as gas is now flowing into a pipeline for distribution. We officially started flowing gas to our pipeline partners as of 7/16; however, due to mechanical issues on their end, we are only able to flow at half capacity, but we've been able to divert the remaining half of our flow from the RNG facility back to the landfill and closed flare to minimize the amount of flaring we would be doing until the pipeline partners address the remaining issues with the remainder of their equipment. So, we anticipate that being in the next week or so, but again, it's their maintenance, not ours, so we have no control of how long that will take. So, what we are doing during this downtime, we know that we are getting the appropriate emergency response officials into our notification system to ensure that they receive text when the flare will be in use. We will also be finalizing our emergency response plan so that we can begin working with local responders to ensure that they understand our plant and how we operate and we are excited to be a part of this community. So, if I don't know, if I'm taking questions or comments, but I'll let you guys decide from there, but I do want to thank you guys for letting us come here today, and like I said, guys on the ground are here behind me.

Ms. deLeon

Well, I appreciate them coming to our meeting the other week, and you coming tonight because this is something new and we're not familiar with it, and didn't, I just want to back up a couple sentences ago, you said something about you were sending gas back to the old flare? Could you repeat that?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Jake, do you want to explain that so, because the pipeline partner isn't able to take our full capacity of gas, we've had, and in an effort to be honest, to mitigate the flaring operations that many have seen. We have diverted half of that gas back up to the landfill, and they're currently flaring it as they normally would before our facility would have been there.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so you have pipes in place that have valves that can go back and forth?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Jake, do you want to explain that process.

Jake Padula

So, Jake Padula, Operations Superintendent, so we currently have an issue with the pipeline not be able to take the full capacity of what the landfill is giving us currently, and in our previous meeting with you guys, the complaints about the flare were an issue. So, to mitigate the flaring and try to cut it to a minimum, we have the ability to use half of our flow or a certain percentage of our flow back to the enclosed flare, which will then put that flame out to a minimum until the pipeline is ready for full capacity, which should be a week or two, we're hoping

Ms. deLeon

And then we'll rarely see that flame. Is that what you're saying?

Jake Padula

Yes, only, only in an outage issues or maintenance, which is not very rare we talked about last time, 95% runtime is what we're typically up, so 5% of time, you may see a flame issue but at time we are in enroute to resolve the issue from here on out.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I don't have the dates in front of me and I apologize, but back in 2019, when the plan came before Council, it went to the Zoning Hearing Board, it went to Planning Commission, went to various boards, and the draft motion that we had the night that Council approved it said that there were certain things based on Boucher and James letter and Hanover Engineering letter that it had to be, things had to be brought back to Council for approval, even though we were approving the, the outline of the, of the approval letter, there were certain things that had to come back to us. I've been on Council for over 36 years. I don't recall it coming back to us. So, I want the Cathy, the Acting Manager to look and see if it ever did since 2019, and if it did, I want to know what the action was on it. So, until I know that it's kind of hard to comment more, if that makes any sense. So, can you do Cathy?

Ms. Gorman

I can do that.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so that's my comments and concerns for right now. I know we're going to open it up to the rest of Council.

Lee Ann Wainwright

Just offer, that is something we definitely can review with you. Obviously, that was two companies before our acquisition.

Ms. deLeon

I understand.

Lee Ann Wainwright

So not unusual to have that type of discussion, we would just want to make sure we have the right folks in the room to have that discussion with you. So, if you can give us that opportunity. We would welcome it.

Ms. deLeon

We don't always put subject to Council review in draft motions. So, for us to specifically say that and have it in, I think it was in the Zoning Hearing Board decision, there had to be something significant there that the people on those boards were interested in. So, without that information, I can't really do anything else right now. So, now I'm going to, I usually alphabetical Tom, do you have any questions?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, right, I do remember this coming before Council and Planning, and yeah, the one guy who has 50 years of experience in this type of industry, Doug Woosman, you threw off Planning because you didn't like his politics. So, he's no longer providing his expertise free of charge to the Township, but I would like to have him weigh in on this.

Ms. deLeon

What's his name?

Mr. Carocci

Doug Woosman, and yeah, you threw him off. Okay, well, it sounds like not much has changed though from the previous companies. I mean, this is what you said is basically what I recall them, them promising to do and I think it's a good thing, natural gas. And how, with the current size of the landfill, how long do you think you'd be producing natural gas for?

Lee Ann Wainwright

So that's the interesting thing about our company. I know a lot of people think that if there are shutting down landfills, that they would thereby shut down our operations, and I'm not suggesting that about you, but one of the things I found the most interesting is the landfills decomposition will continue for another 20 to 50 years, post, whatever the last load that goes in there. So, we will be operational for the time being, and then we can project 20 to 50 years.

Mr. Carocci

Right and you can be both operational while it's a working landfill and expand, hopefully, an expanded and landfill and produce natural gas for 100 years, if we get another 20 or 30 out of the landfill or at least 50 or 60 years, it can produce natural gas, it goes right into a pipeline there, and how much, how much natural gas we're talking? Can you put it in terms of like how many homes it could sustain?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Yeah, I can do that calculation really quick on the EPA website? I don't. I didn't have that written down for this, but do you know roughly like, I know, we're 32.

Mr. Carocci

Well, I know like homes are different sizes. I was looking for a ballpark figure of what the current landfill, how many homes it could possibly sustain with natural gas, and then I'd love to hear the number with an expanded landfill, what, and the natural gas that, that would that that would generate over the next 50 or 60 years? What, what that could mean house wise. I know different sized houses use different amounts, and it's not an exact science, I was more just looking for an estimate, or some educated guess.

Fielding Lewis

In cubic feet and those of things, but *(speaker was not at microphone, unable to hear)*

Lee Ann Wainwright

You could do it really quick, and maybe we'll have it by the end.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Forgive me for interrupting, sir. I know you're in the middle of calculations for the purpose of the record. Could you just identify who you are?

Lee Ann Wainwright

He's Fielding. Fielding Lewis, our VP of Operations.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Thank you, I'm sorry.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, and a question for, what's her name, Leah, Liam?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Lee Ann.

Mr. Carocci

Lian, L-I-A-N

Lee Ann Wainwright

L-E-E A-N-N

Mr. Carocci

Okay, Lee Ann, now, with the landfill expansion, would you have to build additional facilities?

Lee Ann Wainwright

At current time? We don't

Fielding Lewis

Fielding Lewis, VP Operations for Archaea? No, at this point to the landfill's operation, we can't speak to that, because we have no, we have no, we don't dictate what the landfill does operationally.

Mr. Carocci

Right.

Fielding Lewis

And forecasting wise, at this point, we have no knowledge of any expansion.

Mr. Carocci

No, no what I'm saying is like, you know, it's expanding geographically, right? Would your existing facilities be able to service that?

Fielding Lewis

With retrofitting the current facility, we could accept more gas at a later date if it was available.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, so you could retrofit your current facility, you wouldn't have to build an additional facility?

Fielding Lewis

Correct.

Mr. Carocci

And I know, when they came in to speak to us before, they said that they generally had people there on site every day, but sometimes they use technology and stuff, to, if there's nobody on site, and I, that was always a big feature for me, because if the landfill does get full someday, if you guys aren't there, there would really be nobody there on a daily basis. I mean, I'm sure we'd have still have DEP inspections on a closed landfill, and of course, we have Hanover out to this anytime, anytime we saw a fit, but you know, so if there was any type of land shift or anything, at least there's people there to report it, to report it and all that and I always thought that was a good, a good benefit for,

Lee Ann Wainwright

And I would just state in addition to the folks that would be on site, Fielding and Jake live just up the road in the Scranton area, so we do have regional people able to come and go between our three sites. Our additional site is at the Commonwealth Landfill.

Fielding Lewis

So, there are three fully, full-time employees at that facility that will manage on 24/7 basis either be there during a day shift, seven days a week, and sharing on-call responsibility at nighttime, otherwise, the place is nearly fully automated and available to remotely, be able to be seen by operators that aren't on site as well.

Mr. Carocci

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you, next Victoria.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you, I just want to say, reiterate the thank you that Priscilla said about coming to the Landfill Committee meeting, and also this evening, I think it's nice that we can have an open dialogue and discuss

things at the Landfill Committee meeting and then get further updates at the Council meeting that happens now. So, I appreciate that. I just wanted to, I guess, a point of clarification. During the Landfill Committee meeting, I did ask a question about whether or not, for the time being, you could divert some of the gas back to the landfill, enclosed flare instead of the, the exposed flare that you have, and as I understood, there was like, at least like, the way I described it, so I could have it wrong, is a switch like they said, there's like a point of no return, I think is the word I said, like once the gas comes in to your facility, my understanding as of the committee meeting was that once it came into your facility, it had to be flared at your facility. It could not go back like it was a point of no return. So, I think what you're doing now is your 50% sending it to the pipeline and 50% sending it back, so I don't know whether it's a matter of like you could adjust that valve at the intake or whether it's a diversion, that maybe we weren't aware of at the meeting?

Fielding Lewis

No, you're right. The, the first setup is exactly how it is. We are not taking all of the gas from the landfill, to the inlet of the facility at this point to minimize our flaring due to our pipeline constraints on the outlet of the facility.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so I appreciate that.

Fielding Lewis

We brought it all in, we'd just be flaring all the time, and there's no point on that for anybody.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And I, I appreciate that, and I think you had indicated that you were open to coming before Council and discussing how the flare, how we can address the flare moving forward. Just because it was a little shocking for the people in the community. They weren't used to seeing that, and so I appreciate that. And I hope that you are moving forward, will come and we can move forward on that, and we'll just wait to see whatever Council has done with the project, so we can all kind of get on the same page with it. The only other thing I wanted to point out, I think is the discussion of natural gas, I think somebody, correct me if I'm wrong, but with the northern realignment approval, the DEP required that instead of landfill gas being flared, and sent up into the atmosphere, they had to provide some kind of environmental protection that utilized landfill gas in the best way possible. So, it's much more, much better for the community, if you take landfill gas, and then push it back out to the community versus flaring it and letting it go up into the atmosphere, but I want to make clear, it's not, we have a landfill and every time you put garbage in a landfill, you're creating that gas. So, we are accepting a lot of garbage, which then creates the gas. We are now, thankfully, with this plant, able to instead of release it into the atmosphere, send it back into the community, but I don't necessarily, the question is, I guess the, my understanding from Mr. Carocci's questioning seem to appear that he wanted to get into the business of accepting as much garbage as possible, so that we could then send gas back into the community. So, I don't know whether he wants to become a UGI facility or not, but I think it's a very important distinction for the community to understand is that we're not bringing in a new company to start a business and sell natural gas. What we're doing is trying to prevent the natural gas or the landfill gas from going into the air and further destroying the air quality. So that's what, that's what's happening here, and I'm very thankful that they have this technology, and I welcome you and I welcome the discussions, but I want to make that distinction that I don't think we should be in the business of accepting garbage so that we can then send the gas back out into the community. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

You are environmentalists, you like natural gas.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura.

Ms. Ray

Sure, so Lee Ann, you went over some things pretty quickly. I tried to catch some of it. So it sounded like we had questions or there was some information regarding contact with the emergency services, and getting them on board because I know when the flaring first started, actually, probably I drove by that first weekend, and I stopped and I was taking pictures because it was alarming to see, and apparently everybody and their brother was calling our fire department and they were called out numerous times, numerous nights, repeatedly over and over. So, I'm hoping that what you explained there, it takes care of that issue that now that everybody's in sync and knows when something like that would be happening, and then moving forward, when maintenance would be done. Would we be looped in on that as well, so that we, you know, know?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Yeah, that would be the goal. So, the text message system, say for the simplest terms, they're able to send the text message directly to the identified recipients and it would say flaring will begin X, I don't know, can you tell them how long too?

Fielding Lewis

Yeah, so it would be automated system for emergency first responders in their community. So, so Fire Chief, Police Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator, whoever that may be, we're working on that list to make sure we get that together. Jake is working on that with your, your community members to put that together. The automated system will let them know when the candlestick flare is on, and when it goes off. Pro-actively before we get into a maintenance situation, if we know we're getting into that maintenance situation, we'd make that appropriate contact before we did so, so they know that, that text message system will be going off as we take the facility down and as we bring it back up.

Ms. Ray

Okay, yeah, that would that would be very good. Like I said, I don't think that was in place beforehand. So there was a lot of confusion and a lot of like I said, several times a night, they'd get called out for the same thing, and they have to go and check and make sure the landfill is not on fire, and whatever people were saying, so it's good to know.

Lee Ann Wainwright

Yeah, I understand that. I will say probably more candidly, Bethlehem during the post construction and commissioning phase came on rather quickly, in a good way, everything was kind of moving through nicely the way we want it to, and then obviously, with different situations it caused us to have to flare much longer than we anticipated, but 100% own, that that prework should have been there, and we are dedicated to maintaining those relationships going forward.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you, well we appreciate that, thank you.

Brien Kocher

Priscilla, I do have one comment. You do have some unfulfilled obligations under the land development approval, which I think came up a little bit about the Landfill Committee meeting with your representatives there, I'll be happy to go over those with whoever needs to understand what you need to do. I just don't know, who I should contact?

Lee Ann Wainwright

Yeah, if I can get your information later, I will make sure we get the right groups together. We've had this in some other areas just through the acquisition process. So definitely something we're aware of, and we'll get the groups together to make sure those are fulfilled.

Brien Kocher

Do you have a card or anything that I can email you or should I give you my email address?

Lee Ann Wainwright

If I can get your email?

Brien Kocher

Okay, that's all I have.

Ms. deLeon

Oh, no, that's great. Thank you, Brien.

Brien Kocher

So Council knows, I do not know that a return trip to Council is one of those unfulfilled obligations. So just don't be surprised if they don't come back here, but I will review all of those obligations with my eyes.

Ms. deLeon

My eyes physically saw,

Brien Kocher

If you know where that is, let me know.

Ms. deLeon

It was November of 2019. The minutes was November 6th of 2019.

Brien Kocher

If you can find it.

Ms. deLeon

Cathy has it.

Ms. Gorman

I can look.

Ms. deLeon

I think it's in our packet.

Brien Kocher

Well, there's some reference in the Boucher James letter, but it's not, I don't take it that way, but we'll, we'll discuss it. I just want to let Council know if we did decide, determine that's not what it was, don't be surprised if they don't come back.

Ms. deLeon

When you guys prepare the draft motion, and then you say that this is subject to all the conditions in letter dated blah, blah, blah from Hannover Engineering, and from at that time, Boucher & James dated, that's where I read, that's where I saw it.

Brien Kocher

There's reference in Boucher & James letter to, subject to Township approval, but you approved it.

Ms. deLeon

No, no.

Brien Kocher

So, if you, if we find something else different than that, you'll see them again. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so Cathy wants to say something.

Ms. Gorman

Just to answer, Mr. Carocci's questions, in the presentation that Aria had brought to Council in April 2019, the RNG facility will reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions in the local community by over 70%. The RNG facility will supply enough natural gas to the local community for approximately 6,250 homes per year. If vehicle fueling is developed in the community, it would provide about 12,000 cars each year with fuel and the carbon dioxide CO₂ emission reduction equivalent of the carbon sequestered by over 38,250 acres of the US forests in one year, so.

Mr. Carocci

Well as an environmentalist, that sounds great.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

So that means that 38,000 acres worth of CO₂ is currently or was being released into the atmosphere prior to the plant being online on a yearly basis. So, this is good mitigation.

Ms. deLeon

This is better. Okay, well, we appreciate you coming, and we'll be a partnership here and work this work together so that we're doing the right things.

Ms. Gorman

Brien and I will work with their office to make sure that we're connecting with the right people.

Ms. deLeon

Right. I do have to open it up to the floor. Alright, we're finished with Council, does anybody in the audience have any questions or comments? Could you come up to the podium?

Lawrence Opthof

I just have a quick question. I don't know if it's my place, but I'm curious with natural gas that's coming out of the landfill and being pumped away. Does the Lower Saucon get any income from that?

Ms. deLeon

Wait, I'm not hearing you what?

Lawrence Opthof

Does Lower Saucon receive any income from the gas?

Ms. deLeon

I think it's 3%.

Lawrence Opthof

3%, okay.

Ms. deLeon

Next please.

Rick Meyers

My name is Rick Meyers. I live, maybe 1,700 feet from the landfill, and have you guys been over and seen not flare, at night? Like what time?

(Someone spoke, not at the microphone)

Rick Meyers

Nine o'clock? It's pretty annoying.

Ms. deLeon

Okay Rick, you're not supposed to be talking to the audience, I'm sorry.

Rick Meyers

Well, I have pictures on my phone, and I've sent them to members of the Council, it's not nice, and if you live where I live, it's even worse, and it constantly makes some kind of annoying noise, that at times when it was nice and I could have our windows open, I had to turn the volume up on my TV because I couldn't hear because of that thing. This gentleman here asked about where's this gas going? It sure ain't coming to us, and they say what, 3%. When this first was coming out, I remember because I was here and I fought not to have it. There was supposed to be a pipe that was going to be crossed over Applebutter Road, go through the field, and connect up with, I guess whatever it's called now, Calpine Energy. From there it was gonna go out and service some of the homes on Shimersville Road. There ain't a home on Shimersville Road. Your plants built, it's doing what it's doing annoying me, there's no pipe going across Applebutter Road. So where is this gas going, and how and if it's going in pipes that were there, how safe is that? So, maybe someone can answer that.

Ms. deLeon

So, because of the age of the pipes, are you referring to the age of the pipes?

Rick Meyers

Yeah.

Ms. deLeon

That's a good question. They can come back with that answer.

Rick Meyers

Like I say, the reason I know is I worked for almost 17 years for a company that did natural gas. We put natural gas in the ground. I was a Foreman, so I kind of know what the deal is here, and that night at the meeting I told them, if something ever happens, heaven forbid that guy that's up in Scranton, that's going to come down and do what he's supposed to do, he might as well stay to hell at home. So, that's all I have to say.

Mr. Carocci

Can they answer the question about the piping on Applebutter Road? I'm curious now too.

Jake Padula

Sure. So, we sell to interstate pipeline locally that then distributes the gas to local municipalities from there. It's as simple as that. So, we sell to one provider who then distributes it to multiple providers, some may go to homes, some may go to businesses, some will go to factories, but it does go locally. To just respond to the question, we, I do not respond to the facility as a call out, we have guys that live locally, three operators that are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They do daily rounds of the facilities seven days a week. So, we they have a 15-minute response time to an issue. It's not an hour or two-hour response time, so, and they have remote access to check all of the facilities throughout the day, and make sure everything is good.

Mr. Carocci

Can you, can we find out what municipalities eventually, I mean, if they'll share that information. I know it's not your company information, but if they will share it, I'd like to know.

Jake Padula

We could try our best.

Mr. Carocci

You can ask, if they don't tell you, they won't tell you. It doesn't hurt to ask. Thank you.

Jake Padula

Right, sure.

Ms. deLeon

Allan?

Allan Johnson

Oh, I'm Allan Johnson.

Ms. deLeon

Can you just lower the microphone so we can hear you please? Thank you.

Allan Johnson

I'm Allan Johnson. My question is, after they get finished taking the methane out of the landfill gas, there's other gases leftover? What are they doing with that?

Mr. Carocci

It's burned in the flare, isn't it?

Fielding Lewis

So, yes, landfill gas is made up of roughly 50% methane, the other 50%, almost 50% is mostly CO₂ or carbon dioxide. Some of the other constituents in landfill gas could be a little bit of nitrogen as well, which is about 80% of our atmosphere. So, the carbon dioxide is sent to a destructive device for emissions where we utilize some of our methane in order to destruct it to a certain temperature where it is turned, the combustion reaction turns the CO₂ into nitrogen and steam. So, the emissions and it's regulated by the DEP for emission limits, and making sure we stay within those very tight constraints.

Allan Johnson

Does that also take out the VOCs?

Fielding Lewis

The VOCs in landfill gas are absorbed into a solid base media, and then we dispose of that, according to the EPA as well, under strict regulations.

Allan Johnson

Are VOCs the stinky stuff?

Fielding Lewis

What smells in landfill gas is an element called hydrogen sulfide, which is basically a rotten egg smell, H₂S, of course, that's absorbed in the media in our facility.

Allan Johnson

My question is

Ms. deLeon

But we can't hear you Allan for the record.

Allan Johnson

You said you're inserting this methane pipeline into like a, well what pressure are you compressing it for it to get into the pipeline?

Fielding Lewis

So of course, landfill gases gathered at a very low pressure actually under vacuum pressure, and as we inject high purity methane into the distribution pipeline, it's at roughly 70 to 90 pounds per square inch (PSI), and the pipeline is built to withstand more than three times that pressure that we built (inaudible).

Ms. deLeon

Allan, we can't hear you. We can't transcribe what you're saying if you're not talking into the microphone.

Allan Johnson

Okay. I'm surprised it's only 70 to 90 PSI, and I'm wondering who's taking that gas at 70 to 90 PSI?

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Allan Johnson

Because my understanding is that these natural gas pipelines that are running around the country are operating at thousands of PSI. So that's why I'm wondering.

Fielding Lewis

Fair question. So, we did, we, on the outlet of our facility is low pressure and at the interconnection to the utility that takes the gas from us, they compress the gas up to their pipeline pressure. So, at that point, at the custody transfer point where we give the gas to them, they use more compression in order to boost it to a higher pressure, whatever their pipeline operates at. I'm not 100% sure. We have no control over that.

Allan Johnson

And where is that location, where the gas is compressed up to the higher pressure?

Fielding Lewis

Roughly a quarter mile straight up Applebutter Road from the facility. I don't know if that's north, I'm disoriented of which way Applebutter Road runs, north to south right there.

Ms. deLeon

So, if you're looking at the site is it to the right or left?

Fielding Lewis

To the right.

Ms. deLeon

So, if you're looking at the site, it would be to the right. Up Ringhoffer Road, up past Ringhoffer Road.

Allan Johnson

Is that what we used to refer to as the tank farm?

Fielding Lewis

You're right there is a tank farm there. There's an interconnection to our sales pipeline there.

Allan Johnson

That's where the high-pressure gas line is.

Fielding Lewis

That's where the custody transfer point of that gas is where our interconnect takes the gas from us.

Allan Johnson

Okay, thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Would anyone else like to speak. You can't come back twice, I am sorry.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you, Allan, for those good questions.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just had a question, a follow-up on the VOC discussion, but I can hold it until the end.

Ms. deLeon

Yeah, because I have another question too.

Ann Marie Slavick

I am not an Environmental Engineer, and I don't know much about this, however, I do know it is being done for many, for a long time because I have done research on it for some projects in school. I just want to let everybody know; great questions, thank you so much for the company coming to answer our questions. But just so everyone knows the Environmental Protection Agency, that's the EPA, established the Landfill Methane Outreach Program in 1994 to promote the development of cost effective and environmentally beneficial landfill gas, which is referred to as LFG, energy projects. The program goal was to reduce methane emissions by creating alliances between states, energy users and providers, the LFG industry and communities, and I just want to say that this is a high tech situation that has been regulated, that has been looked at, that has been approved, whatever, and just from the research I've done in the past on waste to energy projects, Waste Management has all of their landfills, they do this with all their landfills, and just in my little research here, I found out that 50% of the BMW plant in South Carolina is run by this methane gas, from a landfill. So, it's great. It's amazing. So, negativity, positivity. I think it's great. High tech, that's what our country does best.

Mr. Carocci

Yep, thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Next, next.

(Someone in the audience was speaking)

Mr. Carocci

Thank you. You knew it was there. Landfill was there before you. Landfill was there before you. That's right.

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Mr. Carocci

Before you though, I didn't buy there.

David Boulin

David Boulin

Mr. Carocci

Not in my back yard.

Ms. deLeon

Tom, you are being

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, I know.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, go ahead. You're allowed to speak.

David Boulin

I can't speak if the other people are speaking and you don't gavel them down.

Ms. deLeon

I just did that. Didn't you hear that?

David Boulin

Here we are again. No, I didn't.

Ms. deLeon

I just did, sorry.

Mr. Boulin

Well, you need to control things Priscilla. Listen

Mr. Goudsouzian

Why don't you start.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, please. You can't be talking in the audience, please.

Mr. Boulin

See, that's your folks. Yeah, that's rude, tell him he's rude, Priscilla.

Mr. Carocci

You'll gavel her.

Ms. deLeon

I did, didn't you hear me?

Mr. Carocci

No, we didn't because you didn't do it hard enough.

Ms. deLeon

No, I'm not gonna gavel. Mr. Boulin is at the podium, and he needs to speak.

David Boulin

I don't need to, I desire to.

Ms. deLeon

Desire, sorry.

David Boulin

It's a spectacular thing. I know you guys don't like the landfill and all of that. But

Mr. Carocci

Have a nice evening. Now, start his five minutes. That guy left, Priscilla's neighbor left.

David Boulin

See you just you just can't help yourself, can you?

Ms. deLeon

I haven't said a word.

David Boulin

I know that's the problem. Obviously, you absolutely speak when you shouldn't and don't when you should. Alright, it's like the person at the end of the row here. Alright, the bottom line is this thing is spectacular, and it's been around I know, it's been up and down. It's the company has been bought and sold a couple of times. Nobody ever talks about the really good things. Did you hear what he said? I hope you did. He said something, and I don't want to paraphrase him because I'm not in his field, but he said 50% of that goes to usable gas. The other is CO₂ and all is burned. So, it turns into what? Nitric, water and, and something, sorry, I didn't get it quite right. Into the nitrogen and water. Okay, you can't get much cleaner than that. How many homes? By the way, a little disclaimer, I don't work for this company. I don't know about them. I don't know any of the people here. So, I don't want to hear about it, and I'd really appreciate if Laura Ray, our environmental expert, would have been chiming in on this and saying, gosh, this is the best thing since sliced bread. And over here, Ms. Smiley, who always chimes in on everything I say, she had nothing to say, and you look at her, she's as happy as can be. Right, and yeah, it makes sense. Anybody that knows anything about gas, when you ask, gee, what's the pressure? Well, it's a vacuum sucking it out of the ground, very mild, very difficult to control. Then you push it down a pipeline, at a few pounds, and then you compress it a little bit to maybe 50 pounds so you can shoot it up to the compression stations. Gee, don't you people read anything? It's in your own neighborhood. It's your own best interest. It's environmentally friendly, and you don't even know about it. I think that's really discouraging. We're going to hear about wanting to send postcards around and things like that later, maybe, maybe we'll send you some video links to this. These people are God sends, excuse me, God. They really are, and the fact that the Township is going to get 3% more out of the landfill, well indirectly out of what the landfill does, I guess that doesn't mean anything either. Nothing matters here except the political outcome of this landfill and I think that's just absolutely atrocious. I was blown away here about the 1994 DEP or Department of Energy, they did this. Does anybody mention that? Is this all nastiness? Oh, it's probably PA DEP. Yeah, well, they have to follow this, okay. So, listen, I know you're all political people, but the bottom line is when something is good, at least acknowledge it. I'm gonna sit down.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Anyone else? Okay, Bob did you want to come up?

Robert Blasko

Robert Blasko, Lower Saucon Township resident. I think what I heard from the Council is that the Council thought this was a good thing. That's what I heard anyway, maybe certain people in the audience are listening to different people, but I heard Council saying they thought it was a good thing. So, for somebody to stand here at the platform, and make it sound like they were against it, I don't get it.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else? Well, I'd like to say that I had questions about this, and I still have questions, and that's why we put this, I put this, I wanted this on the agenda. Victoria, we're on the Landfill Committee together, and we wanted answers, and I did not like and I do not ever remember when in 2019, that there was going to be a gigantic flame flare. I never ever, I would have remembered that. So, I thought it was a good thing because, you know, there, there's a flare there now. It burns away. It's not efficient, but that's what we have, and now this was going to be better. So, but no time, and I remember pretty much. My, my memory is pretty sharp still. I don't remember the candlelight flame flare, and so I'm concerned about that, because Mr. Myers, he and his wife just left, and I'm sorry about that, but he lives catty corner on Ringhoffer Road. It's unacceptable for him to have to tolerate those things. I feel bad for him. I don't know what to do. You know what I mean, and if that's part of your way that you're doing stuff, you need to, to look at it and, and change it somehow so that the residents aren't impacted that live near there. I mean, they have to put up with so much. Okay, with the odors, with the truck traffic. You know, and I just think that, so we're going to try to come up with a good plan here, and, you know, that's all I can say. I don't know, so we'll see, but I'm on hold right now.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just had a question. I really appreciate the explanation of how you split the gas 50% that you're able to send back in, and then the other 50%, you have to burn down to some extent or convert into different gases, but I think there was the question about VOCs, volatile organic compounds, did I get that get that acronym correctly, and I understood it that you create some kind of matter with it that has to be disposed of. Can you just explain what happens with the VOC?

Fielding Lewis

Yeah, sure, Fielding Lewis, Archaea VP Operations. In landfill gas, there's many constituents and part of those constituents are volatile organic compounds, which VOCs is what your question was about. We have a granular style media, basically somewhat of a filter in order to filter some of these things out, absorb them into our media, and then we have to dispose of that media as its spent, eventually spent, through the proper channels and regulations of the DEP Solid Waste Division and many other regulatory bodies properly.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can you say, so there's like a filter and it collects the VOCs and then at some point that filter is not, you have to replace it, but you have to get rid of the old filter that has the VOCs. Can you say where that the where those filter or the media with the VOCs goes?

Fielding Lewis

It would most likely go to a facility that is regulated to, I'm not sure how it's disposed of necessarily. We don't have those types of facilities in our in our repertoire, but I do believe they have either an incineration method, or they have some sort of regeneration method that they can utilize, neither of which I'm privy to the technology on.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, thank you. So, just so I can recap, we have 50% methane, CO₂, and forgive me, some other stuff that creates VOCs.

Fielding Lewis

It's the landfill gas in general, is not only methane, it is it's comprised of about 50% methane, the other 50% of that is majority of the other 50% is CO₂, carbon dioxide, and some of the other tiny bits of that make up our hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds, different types of VOCs, and then, of course, we have a slight bit of oxygen and a slight bit of nitrogen in that gas. So, we try to strip everything out of that gas besides the methane, and we make a high purity methane product to, which is also highly regulated and strict specifications of purity, to be able to sell that gas to a regulated pipeline system.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, what about condensate? Is there any condensate produced?

Fielding Lewis

So, landfill gas, it does have moisture in it. We filter that moisture out, either through a separation system, and then we are able to clarify the water, send it back to the landfill, which they have the technologies in order to deal with the condensate or water that was entrained in that landfill gas.

Ms. deLeon

So, the condensate has, what's it made up of?

Fielding Lewis

Mostly water, free water.

Ms. deLeon

So, it's not mixed with any VOCs.

Fielding Lewis

Of course, it's moisture in a gas stream. So, there are probably other constituents in that gas. To be specific, I couldn't give you those at this point. I can always come back with that.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you. Now you're saying something?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, well, everybody else got a second comment, I want to. It's like perfect example there of the loony liberal environmental left. This technology, Cathy said, 65 on our homes. We got a BMW plant in South Carolina of 50%. All could have been done with oil, or oil or coal, which is much more worse for the environment and all this, right, you know, but we're gonna use natural gas, but she wants to stop it because one guy, one guy is looking at a flame in his backyard, one guy, and that's the loony liberal left and the environmentalist. 6,500 homes of natural gas instead of coal or oil or some other energy source that's worse for the environment. We get better, we get natural gas, better for the environment. One guy has to look at a flame, and that's what she's worried about.

Ms. deLeon

Did you guys

Mr. Carocci

One guy looking at a flame. No, I'm not done yet. You can respond when I'm done. One guy looking at a flame. The landfill was there before he bought that house there. The landfill was there first. The other thing I'd like to say is this has gone on for over 30 minutes now maybe 40 minutes. It is, was a great discussion. A lot of people, Allan had some really good questions. Dave, Anne Marie, you guys were very responsive in all this. Lynn Hill is gonna be very disappointed. The transcription costs on this are going to be through the roof and she doesn't like when you people speak. So, you better, you might get an invoice. You might get an invoice Allan from Ms. Hill, our Controller. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

And by the way, did you hear me say I was against this proposal? I did not say that. I was asking questions, because I wanted information, and I thanked you for coming, and I thought I was being very polite. So again, thank you.

Fielding Lewis

We appreciate the Council's time. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so you'll be working with the Township and will be back. Okay, again, thank you.

H. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADDRESS MATTERS BROUGHT UP DURING THE QUARTERLY LANDFILL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JULY 11, 2024

Ms. deLeon

So next we have discussion and possible action to address matters brought up during the quarterly Landfill Committee meeting on July 11th. I guess Victoria, did you want to go?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, I'll try to be as concise as I can, but we had a very nice Landfill Committee meeting. In addition to the Archaea, sorry if I pronounced that incorrectly, but in addition to Archaea coming and discussing the flare, we also discussed a number of other things. During the meeting, and it was during the public comment period, specifically, it became apparent that there were members from other municipalities that had come to our Landfill Committee meeting, to ask about things that were going on at the landfill and raising some concerns that they had, from their perspective. Namely, there was, I think, three people, which I was surprised with, as the meeting was the middle of the day from Bethlehem Township, and I don't remember that we've ever had anybody from another municipality ever come to our Lower Saucon Township Landfill Committee meeting. So, it brought concern to me that we do have people outside of Lower Saucon Township that are unsure of what to do and how to handle this situation. The landfill was very courteous in providing their information for people to call in to the landfill to try to mitigate some of the issues, and I think at that time, our Township provided the information for the DEP when people have concerns also to those residents, but I thought that it would be proactive of our Township, in light of the fact that we have people coming from other municipalities, that we send a letter to Bethlehem Township, which is where those people came from. Just saying, listen, if there are concerns, if you hear from your residents about landfill issues or questions about the landfill, please direct your questions, please direct your residents to contact the landfill to address them and also contact the DEP and provide the specific information on how they can contact those two respective places, and then also in the letter to just indicate that we are open to discussing with them any issues that they might want to bring forward to us in any way so that we can help collaboratively handle whatever issues they're hearing from their residents. So, I was hopeful to direct a letter from, to the Bethlehem Township, in light of the residents that came forward. So, that was number one. The second thing I thought to discuss was the fact that at least one of our Landfill Committee members had asked a question about the height of the northern realignment, and whether or not that was within the, the total height that the landfill is permitted to, to go vertically. There was some question as to whether certain, the new realignment height might be greater than the 725 or 750, whatever the permit height is. We did learn that every year the landfill does go out, I don't know if it's helicopter or plane, but they go and they do an assessment to ensure that they are not operating above the permitted level they had done. Think that they had indicated that they had done that flying in May. So, I'm not sure if there were any additional activities after May or if they had checked it since then, but I thought it would be productive if we asked the landfill, via letter, if they could confirm that their current height is 725, or whatever the height is, if they could do another flyby and just copy the DEP on that just so they're aware that we're concerned or there was an issue raised about that issue. So, those were the two main things that I wanted to bring up from the landfill in addition to Archaea. I'm trying to think if there was anything else, but it was a very productive meeting, and I appreciate the landfill. Oh, there was, sorry, the last thing, maybe the most important thing. There was a resident that had sent an email to the Township about truck traffic and it's been kind of like a chronic thing. It kind of ebbs and flows. Sometimes there's trucks that come up Island Park Road over Lower Saucon Road and then down Applebutter Road and, or they go the other direction, up Applebutter Road over Lower Saucon Road, down Island Park Road, so they're going those directions, and the public is concerned that those trucks are going to Bethlehem Landfill, and why are they coming that route versus going the DEP permitted route which is I-78 to 412, Shimersville, Applebutter to the entrance of the landfill. So, the important thing that came out of that was that number one, we can't say for sure where the trucks are going. So, the landfill can certainly highlight, to their, I guess, their, any garbage truck that comes into them the proper the proper truck route, but in all cases, they can't say that the trucks traveling on Applebutter or Lower Saucon, up Island Park are going to the landfill and they can't control where they go. So, that was one important thing, but I will want to say, I do want to say, and I don't know, I know there's a representative from Bethlehem Landfill here today, so maybe she knows or she doesn't know, but we did see a decrease. We got a notice from the same resident saying after the Landfill Committee meeting, we saw a decrease, and I think during the meeting, we had asked that the landfill contact their customers to ask them, or remind them about the truck route into please abide by that truck route. So, to the extent that the landfill did reach out to their customers and remind them, we want to say thank you, because it appears to have reduced the truck traffic over those routes that are not part of the DEP permit.

Ms. deLeon

Right, and I also say thank you. So, so you have two motions, technically the first.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

They are just directions to do a letter. So, I don't know if we do need a motion for that but it was two separate letters. One,

Mr. Goudsouzian

I think you should make the motion.

Mr. Carocci

I have a comment.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so I'll make a motion

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved to direct a letter to Bethlehem Township, as indicated, providing the necessary information to contact Bethlehem Landfill and the DEP with any complaints concerning the landfill and to also indicate that we are open to discussing any concerns that they might have or that their residents might have concerning the Bethlehem Landfill. That's the first motion.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. deLeon

Council discussion, Tom.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, this is obviously a blatant use of Township resources to gin up anti-landfill sentiment, to identify people in Bethlehem, that I'm sure Ms. Opthof runs a, some type of fundraising arm, for the anti-landfill sentiment. She wanted us to identify them and solicit donations from them, and this is a way to use Township resources and efforts to identify these people to gin up the anti-landfill message that she spews that's she's part of. She's part of that legal effort. She's part of this group and to identify these people, solicit donations for their fundraising events, I'm sure, and I just don't think Township, first of all, it's illegal to use Township resources for something like that. Our solicitor doesn't know. Joe Biden's cognitive abilities is higher than his legal ability. The Township

Ms. deLeon

You know what, you are not supposed to make derogatory comments and you're out of order.

Mr. Carocci

So the Township

Ms. deLeon

You are out of order.

Mr. Carocci

So the Township

Ms. deLeon

And we should just pull the plug on your speaker.

Mr. Carocci

The Township resources and taxpayer money should not be used, in such a manner and it's blatantly being used in that manner. This is why, she wants people to, she wants Township resources to go and to encourage people to write letters to the DEP and complain, and Township resources shouldn't be used for that. That's all.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I'm next, and I just want to say that a lot of stuff that you hear, heard at this meeting is not really true, and just like I was against the energy plant, and you know, so. And you are being rude. So, okay, so who's next? Victoria, you have anything else to say?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just take exception to any allegation that I'm trying to solicit funds, or trying to raise money or that I'm part of any group or anything like that. None of that's accurate. As I indicated, I'll say it again. People came to our Landfill Committee meeting. I don't know them. I never met them, but they were very upset, and they weren't from Lower Saucon, they were from Bethlehem Township. So, in an effort and I think would be proactive way for our Township to be collaborative with our neighboring municipalities, something every, every municipality, I would think would want to be good neighbors, I thought it was appropriate to provide the information, that not only landfill asked people to do, they ask people to call the landfill when there is a concern. So again, this is providing Bethlehem Township the information for them to share with their residents who came to our meeting. That's the facts. If you don't like them attend a meeting, and then you'll know the facts because you were there, but you weren't there.

Mr. Carocci

You should leave campaigning for an election year. That's next year.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura.

Mr. Carocci

So that next year you can do your campaigning.

Ms. deLeon

It's not your turn anymore.

Ms. Ray

Yeah, so I think it's a good idea to share the information with Bethlehem Township and yes, so I think it'll be helpful to them to have that. I was not at the Landfill Committee meeting, so I can't speak in a great detail on it either, but yes, if people are coming in with questions, a simple letter to direct them how to get help, I don't see an issue with that.

Mr. Carocci

Well, they knew to come to the meeting.

Ms. Ray

We're wasting more time listening to the blabbering here.

Ms. deLeon

We're gonna open it up to the audience, anybody would like to speak on this?

Mr. Carocci

Personal work on the

David Boulin

Dave Boulin for the record. The bottom line is if you can't find the Bethlehem Landfill, on the web, you don't deserve to be able to write a letter, even ask a question, and it is, this is baloney. How many times have I seen the Victoria in the newspaper at Bethlehem hearings and meetings and all coaxing them to say things about the landfill, and then we have that other organization there, the 10,000 pound elephant who complains about the landfill, and yet they're running a dirt moving operation over there, on the other side of the river? Yeah, you know who I mean, I don't have to tell you who that is, and if you're

worried about the trucks, I would suggest that, gee, I think we do have a police force, and if the wrong trucks are on the wrong road, I'll bet you, I'll bet you they could stop them even and say, hey, guys, you shouldn't be here instead of writing letters and doing all this, you know, feel good stuff. Really, come on. There's, that's, that's not rocket science. That's what the police are there for, right? As a matter of fact, it really blows me away. I guess I'm gonna have to go to that landfill up close. I've been around it a dozen times, and I notice things like when the trucks go in, they look dirty, and grungy and all and when he come out, they're clean, and I'm going, what do they run a truck carwash in there, but nobody ever says anything about that. So, I guess it really bothers me when I hear these political things, and especially when it's EAC related, and there's nothing positive coming out of EAC saying things like gee, EAC is, is really working on that little problem that Russ had about taking all the trees off the thing and we were there. No, they weren't there. They didn't know about it. Didn't realize didn't talk to DEP. Didn't report it. We didn't hear about it at Council, and yet they're hammering the living tar out to people like the Bethlehem Landfill who's doing everything possible as far as I can see. I don't know where this flare was located, whether it was on the, on the, I didn't say anything to him, I just turned around to look to see if they were still here. That flare is on the, on the landfill property or whether it's on the property that's, that's, that's cracking the so to speak. That's a word you know what that means? Cracking the gas, okay. So, I don't know what it was, which they're complaining about, and I did not hear an answer to the whistling sound, but I'd certainly like to know more about that. See, I'm not all one sided. Now, as long as, if you're going to write this letter, which I know it's going to be three to one here the vote, you're going to write this letter, how about you have Bethlehem send all of us a letter saying how we can complain about their stench factory down there called the sewage plant, and not only is that a stench factory, it's also a pollution to the Lehigh River, which by the way, yes, that peeked out at one of the landfill meetings, I know I was there, and I heard it, and I reinforced it, and it wasn't that it was given gratuitously, it was by a faux pas, and you know who I mean? She's sitting here at the Council. So, don't, don't tell us this. Just say, hey, if you want to know where the landfill's located, Google it or just go there. They're nice people, they are not going to shoot you. That's crazy, they're just trying to make points. I agree with this guy over a here in the different colored shirt, whatever it is.

Mr. Carocci

I make a motion that we would do right by Bethlehem, the water authority.

Ms. deLeon

There's a motion on the floor.

Mr. Carocci

Then I'd like my motion.

Ms. deLeon

When you get when your turn, you can have a motion. It's not your turn.

Mr. Carocci

Alright.

Lawrence Opthof

So that's, that's the Bethlehem City that has that, has that sewage plant, not Bethlehem Township and they happen to accept leachate from this garbage dump that we're talking about, and they get paid for that. So, if you're gonna shut that thing down, you've better worry about where your precious garbage dump, what they're gonna do with their leachate, but here, and I live over there and I sometimes I see trucks going by, and, but that wasn't the big problem then the flaring I saw that but you know what, if you're gonna do away with the flaring or it's gonna go away. I can live with that even though my wife was already upset when she thought the house was on fire. But anyway, I just, I get a kick out of some people who would have us hire or have our policemen stationed over on Applebutter Road and Lower Saucon Road and Island Park Road to catch these trucks. You have no problem spending that money for a policeman over there, but we don't want to spend a dime and send a letter to Bethlehem Township, oh, we can't do that because that would be oh, that's too expensive, and we're involved in politics then. I

mean, let's get it straight here. You know, it's some people here are the past, so I see it, the past administration, they walked on water, and they didn't even get their feet wet according to some people here, but I got news for you. They did get their feet wet. In fact, they're so deep in the water that you have to use scuba gear. So that's where that's at.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else like to comment, Maryanne?

Maryanne Garber

Just one thing to add to the discussion at the Landfill Committee meeting when the question about truck traffic came up, and I think Victoria, you, in some of the notices that you've gotten from the community, they had mentioned, like Chrin trucks, SES, trucks, Swint's trucks, and so we did have a conversation about how none of those trucks are coming to the Bethlehem Landfill to the extent that there has been a decrease in truck traffic. That's, that's great. I don't know. I mean, our, our facility is always reminding the drivers that they have to use the designated haul routes, and we monitor that. If people see a truck and they think that they're violating the haul route, please, you know, call our facility, give us the license number of the truck if you can get it, that's the best way that we can monitor it, but with respect to the specific complaints that you have gotten, I think that we had clarified that the ones that you had mentioned, were not coming to our facility.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think some of them, some of them weren't, some of them were, I just let it go.

Maryanne Garber

It's Chrin and Swint.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

White Tale, I don't know the name. It's white

Maryanne Garber

I think it was the, sorry, I'm just pulling this up on my phone.

Mr. Carocci

God, I can't wait until you depose her.

Maryanne Garber

But in any event, I'm glad there's been a decrease. We take that very seriously.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just wanted to say thank you if you had reached out to your, your customers, if I want to call them customers, that's all was to thank you.

Maryanne Garber

Yes, no, you're welcome, and we're always, we're always emphasizing to them the requirement that they follow those designated haul routes. We're sensitive to that issue because we know that Township is.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you so much.

Mr. Carocci

I'm looking forward to that deposition. Maryanne vs. Victoria, that deposition is going to be great.

Ann Marie Slavick

Ann Marie Slavick, Lower Saucon Township, I would suggest, I actually would just want to say, I wouldn't be surprised if there were some Bethlehem Township people at a Landfill meeting since of

course, we know the second largest employer of the valley is in Bethlehem Township and they are taking up the land with their buildings, and they will be building that hospital bigger. That's their intention, which is probably why they're fighting the landfill to begin with. So, things are behind the scenes aren't always the way they appear in public. That's how it is. I don't see why that are Township regardless of money, I think it's a principle why our Township would be sending a letter and apologizing for the Bethlehem Landfill. Like why are we sending letters to other townships, groveling and saying we're so sorry that our Bethlehem Landfill is hurt, is upsetting you. That seems ridiculous, to be honest. Everybody's an adult. Everybody makes garbage like I said. It might not be our garbage in that landfill, but our garbage is going somewhere else.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just a point of clarification, the letter was not to say sorry. The word sorry, was not in motion or any part of the letter that I suggested.

Ann Marie Slavick

Well, that was my exaggeration. That was my intentional exaggeration of what are we saying in the letter? Like, what do you say in the letter? Ah, you know, oh if you don't like the landfill, call this number. Well, that's what I'm talking about. I'm just trying to be, you know, funny about it, because it's kind of funny. It's kind of ridiculous, actually. Anyway, but apologizing for private industry in your Township is just, it's just ridiculous to me. Again, I have to say I don't live by the landfill, so I can't say. But it sounds like these people, and I've heard this before, and actually Maryanne brought this up long time ago when I was here, is that they did have an issue with the pipeline, and it wasn't their fault. It was the pipeline of the receiving company that's getting the gas that they had problem and they had to delay something. So, they're telling you okay, we're sorry, you know, that we're sorry, we had to do the flare, but this is a temporary situation, and everybody understands that I am surprised that nobody on this Council has ever done research on waste to energy. I'm very shocked by it. Anyway, again, our innovation in this country is key, and we have innovators here in the room, and if some people in this Township could actually get out of the Township, and like, I don't know, go elsewhere and figures, things are being done differently elsewhere. It's not it's not like a new technology that they're bringing to our Township. It's, it's might be safe, it might be dangerous, but we have pipelines all over the world in the country. They don't blow up every day. Thank you.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Anyone else? Okay, if not, is there a motion? I mean, there was a motion. Can we have a roll call, sorry?

ROLL CALL: 3-1-0 (Mr. Carocci – No; Mr. Banonis – Absent) – Motion passes.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so that's the first motion. There was a second one.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, there was a second one. It was just to send a letter. Sorry, I lost my train of thought on what, where that second letter was going but I realized, oh, yes, it was to the Bethlehem Landfill, copy the DEP, just questioning if they had built up any dirt since May, I think when they did their aerial measurement for the vertical height of their disposal area, to confirm that it's still within the 725, and if they would be able to do that again, since they started their construction disposal in the northern realignment. So that was the second letter. So that's my motion to send that letter.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved send a letter to Bethlehem Landfill, copy to DEP, just questioning if they had built up any dirt since May, I think when they did their aerial measurement for the vertical

height of their disposal area, to confirm that it's still within the 725, and if they would be able to do that again, since they started their construction disposal in the northern realignment.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I just want to say also point of clarification, or I want to thank Mr. Boulin for discussing, bringing up the City of Bethlehem because during the Bethlehem Landfill Committee meeting, I had asked Cathy to send a letter to the City of Bethlehem, thank you for reminding me, that I asked for that too, to confirm the new, what's called an industrial waste permit, which allows them to accept or allows Bethlehem Landfill to send the leachate to the wastewater treatment plant, and they renewed their permit, and I believe that was done recently. So, I asked that we get we ask the City of Bethlehem for a copy of the new permit, and then also in conjunction with that, there is new PFAS reporting that I believe happens twice a year, and so part of that was to request that we receive the PFAS reports that the City of Bethlehem receives as part of their industrial waste permit. So, thank you, Mr. Boulin. We do have letters go into the City of Bethlehem also. We'll do this letter first; this is the second motion.

Mr. Carocci

Can we send one regarding the waste they dump into the Lehigh River?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Sure.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, sewage in the Lehigh River can send one on that too?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Sure, you can, yep.

Mr. Carocci

I'll make the motion, will you second it?

Ms. deLeon

We have a motion on the floor. Do you not know protocol?

Mr. Carocci

Yes, yes, yes.

Ms. deLeon

So, Tom, do you have any questions for Victoria or for the motion?

Mr. Carocci

No, why would I have a question for Victoria? No.

Ms. deLeon

Her motion is what I want to say, comments, questions, comments.

Mr. Carocci

No, no.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I don't. Victoria, did you have anything else to add?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No,

Ms. deLeon

Laura?

Ms. Ray

No.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody in the audience?

Maryanne Garber

I actually, you stole a little bit of my thunder Victoria, because during public comment at the end of the meeting, I was just going to let the Township know and make the announcement that our on-site PFAS treatment plant, leachate treatment plant, is now officially up and running and became fully operational on July 1st, and so yes, we did get our renewed industrial wastewater discharge permit from the City of Bethlehem POTW. We need to report sampling results for both influent and effluent in our, twice a year monitoring reports, and just for those of you who don't know what PFAS are, they're a man-made, a series of many group of man-made chemicals that are manufactured for use in a wide range of commercial and consumer products. The landfill has been paying close attention to this issue of PFAS, not because we manufacture PFAS or because we use PFAS, but because PFAS are, are ubiquitous in consumer waste streams, we receive waste at the landfill, and so, our company Waste Connections has taken it upon itself to proactively contract with a company called The Water and Carbon Group to do an onsite PFAS treatment facility even though that's not required by any regulation, but we wanted to get out in front of this issue, and so we're very pleased that the plant became fully operational on July 1st. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you. Next, anybody?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thank you.

David Boulin

I just think of the past debate where one debater said to the other, I have no idea what you said, and that's in reference to you, Victoria, what you just said. What I was referring to is something completely different, so I guess that went over your head? And yes, I knew about these PFAS. Are you aware of that by the way, Laura Ray?

Mr. Carocci

She was not aware of anything, she won't answer.

Ms. Ray

I'm not here to answer your questions. I know about PFAS okay? I know a lot of things.

David Boulin

It looks like you're asleep there. I wasn't quite sure.

Ms. Ray

I don't sit here and have to tell everybody everything.

David Boulin

You know, I'll tell you, I don't get paid a nickel for coming here. Yeah, I am retired, but darn it, I got things I'd much rather do and it seems to me, when, when I listen to certain people on this Council, I just wonder if they even went to high school. But anyhow,

Ms. deLeon

This discussion is on the height of the landfill.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It's the second letter, which was about the height of the landfill.

Ms. deLeon

Right so the comments are

David Boulin

I think that's a good thing. You know, I'm sure they measure it, you know, and it's so easy to do, and if you've ever, oh by God, if you've ever taken surveying, you can do that in a heartbeat. Of course, they probably have drones, although some of our most sophisticated people don't have drones, but these people are, you know, very sophisticated. So, they have things so they can measure those, just like they measure the amount of tonnage that comes in every day, and they know which trucks come in and go out, and so if you don't know which trucks that you're looking for, which they do, then you really ought to try to find out before you accuse them of having trucks that are not theirs.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, again, we're talking about the height of the landfill.

David Boulin

That's what I'm talking about. The trucks bring the garbage .

Ms. deLeon

Oh, come on.

David Boulin

They bring the garbage, it gets higher and higher, and they monitor it, and they know exactly what it is. That is a landfill issue.

Ms. deLeon

So, I don't see it that way.

David Boulin

You don't, you don't see the height of the landfill is not being monitored it's not a situation.

Ms. deLeon

That's not what I said.

David Boulin

It really is.

Ms. deLeon

That's not what I said.

David Boulin

They monitor it, knowing the amount and the volume that comes in. It's just like you were asking this fellow about how many homes will it heat? Well, they don't deal in homes.

Ms. deLeon

I didn't ask that question.

David Boulin

Well, somebody up here did and the answer is it's in cubic feet, but I guess nobody ever took Science 101. Alright, so the bottom line is yeah PFAS, you're already ahead of it, and that's something, you know

Ms. deLeon

We're not talking about that. We're talking about the height of the landfill.

Ms. Carocci

Please don't interrupt him.

Ms. deLeon

The height of the landfill, get it

Mr. Carocci

It's the landfill.

David Boulin

So, so you're gonna write a letter to them and have them monitor the height of the landfill because why? Because you don't want it to be over the height. Obviously, neither do they. They could lose their license. God only knows what. This is, this is not a bunch of rinky, dinky amateurs sitting here behind me, and I guess you're gonna find that out when they yank you in front of a judge. And you continually harass them, and you think it's funny. You look, at you laughing at it. I don't think it's, I don't think it's funny. I think it's really serious, and I think the community is going to find it that way too, and you can take these questions too. I am sure to Ms. Garber, any time and say, gee, do you monitor the height? Oh, you do and take her for her word. I trust her. I'm not sure that's true of the other way around.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else? Okay, can we have a roll call, please?

ROLL CALL: 3-1 (Mr. Carocci - No; Mr. Banonis – Absent) – Motion passes 3-1.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

And I don't know whether it's appropriate with the letters to the City of Bethlehem whether you want a motion on that. I did direct it during the Landfill Committee meeting. I'm happy to do another one.

Ms. deLeon

What you directed her

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

During the Landfill Committee meeting to request from the City of Bethlehem the updated industrial waste permit and the reporting on PFAS.

Ms. deLeon

Alright, so it was that letter sent?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I directed her then but I don't know, generally whether it's appropriate to make a formal motion about.

Mr. Carocci

Something going from Council, it should be voted on. What's going on here?

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so it should come from Council, okay,

Mr. Carocci

What's going on here? If it's signed by Council it should be brought up at a public meeting and discussed.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Here you go. That's why we're discussing it.

Mr. Carocci

It was already sent. Did you already send it?

Ms. deLeon

No, that's why I'm asking

Ms. Gorman

If it's on Township letterhead, it should really come from Council.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so she's making a motion.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay, so that's my third motion.

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved to request from the City of Bethlehem the updated industrial waste permit and the reporting on PFAS.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Mr. Carocci

I want to know why you feel you can direct a letter to be written on behalf of Council at a landfill meeting without bringing it up here?

Ms. deLeon

She made a motion.

Ms. Carocci

But she wasn't going to, she was just reminded of it by, by Ms. Garber. She just, she just admitted she was reminded by Ms. Garber.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, and there was no letter sent, so there wouldn't be a letter sent unless I made the motion now. We're going around in circles. Let's pay attention. Follow, follow the circle.

Mr. Carocci

I want to make a motion to make

Ms. deLeon

You can't make a motion, there's a motion on the floor. Protocol. Don't you understand? I'm really disappointed.

Ms. Gorman

Priscilla, did you second that motion?

Ms. deLeon

I did.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Alright, comments or no?

Mr. Carocci

No, I'll make my motions later.

Ms. deLeon

I have no, Victoria did you have anything else?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No, it's pretty clear.

Ms. Ray

No.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody in the audience? Okay, can we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-1 (Mr. Carocci – No; Mr. Banonis – Absent)

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yes, and just to be clear, we have a Council member who doesn't think is appropriate for our Township to receive the industrial waste permit that deals with the leachate coming from the landfill or to get any of the water reporting on the PFAS. You just voted no to obtain relevant information that would help our Township Council, so again, another example of just voting no for the sake of voting no without any respect or concern for the residents. Obstruction, obstruction and that's it, so I vote yes.

Mr. Carocci

I'm gonna respond to that because that is an attack, and no, I don't believe we should be badgering a company for no reason whatsoever. The permit was issued. You know it was issued. Bethlehem has it, Bethlehem issued it. There's no reason to badger them. Does the Host Municipal Inspection Agreement require them to turn over the permit? If it does, then they turn it over. If it doesn't, stop badgering them.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Who negotiated that new

Mr. Goudsouzian

I think we're done with this agenda item.

Mr. Carocci

I think Linc Treadwell did.

Ms. Gorman

Motion passed 3-1, Mr. Banonis – Absent.

Mr. Carocci

You cut it off when she's, when she's talking, dead silence when I'm being cut off. And you wonder why I say what I say about you.

Ms. deLeon

Next item we have Authorized Payments to CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ball Field Project.

Mr. Carocci

I wanted to make my motion. You said I could make my motions about Bethlehem and the Waste Treatment Facility.

Ms. deLeon

Is it regarding

Mr. Carocci

You told me I could do that after you said I couldn't make it then. Now you've moved on.

Ms. deLeon

You didn't make it then.

Mr. Carocci

I made it three times and you cut me off.

Ms. deLeon

Oh, so go ahead, make it again.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved that we send a letter to the Bethlehem Waste Wreatment Plant, sewage treatment plant and ask them to please stop sending sewage to the, in the Lehigh River.

Mr. Carocci

Now, let's see if there's a second.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Can I just make a suggestion that instead of sending it to the wastewater treatment plant, you send it to the City of Bethlehem and maybe indicate the more, the more specific parameters that will

Mr. Carocci

Send it to both because it's my understanding there? Are they an independent authority?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No, where's the information.

Mr. Carocci

Our, our authority is somewhat independent.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I thought you knew everything.

Mr. Carocci

I never said I knew everything. I said I don't want to be doing that. So alright, they made a motion is there and there's a second. Now you can comment if you want Victoria. I don't care what you say.

Ms. deLeon

Any other comments, Tom? I don't have any other comments.

Mr. Carocci

No, I made my motion.

Ms. deLeon

Victoria, do you have any other comments?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No, just the suggestion is that we refer to the

Ms. deLeon

I'll change my motion to

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think it was his motion. He has to change it.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci amended his previous motion that we send a letter to the City of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Sewage Treatment Plant and ask them to please stop sending sewage in the Lehigh River.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon amended her second.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

The fact that it's like when they have rain events over two inches, and for clarification, I think I'm the one that brought that to the Landfill Committee meeting back in 2023. No, it was real. It's still a complaint.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Don't interrupt sir. Don't interrupt. Sit down and don't interrupt.

Mr. Carocci

She interrupted him. You are not running this meeting.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It's a real thing. Just make sure that we have that specific information referring to the, it's a notice that they put in the, in the newspaper, letting people know that they're discharging, that there could be a discharge when there's water over two inches, and that you can't swim in the Lehigh River or fish or do things for like a period of 24 hours after the rain event. So, we can express our displeasure with that, with them doing that and ask them not to do it.

Ms. deLeon

So, okay, so, yeah, I'm sorry, Laura.

Ms. Ray

Yeah, I'm not gonna make any more comments to that.

Ms. deLeon

Okay. So open up to the floor. Anybody in the audience?

David Boulin

I think you darn well ought to do it. All we hear about is all the yackety yack about the landfill smelling when you drive by the sewage facility, yeah, it stinks to high heaven and it always has. So, if you want to play politics, play it both ways. Send a letter off demanding they curtail it and stop it right away. And by the way, I see they do have a flare too. Nobody talks about that, and I also, and I disagree with you, and I will take that cut of the film and show it to you in this Council, if I'm allowed. You made that statement, unbeknownst that I was sitting there. That was the statement where you, for 30 minutes, harangued the Landfill Committee, 30, 30 minutes or more, and when I got up to speak, there was one other person there. I got up to say something and you jumped up in front of me here and wouldn't let me talk. Alright, you disagree with that? Okay, and by the way Mr. Goudsouzian, I don't think you're running the meeting.

Mr. Carocci

Be quiet unless you're spoken to.

David Boulin

At least I got your attention. I believe it's Priscilla, unless you've taken this over.

Ms. deLeon

He's our solicitor and he can offer advice at any time that he wants.

Mr. Carocci

When solicited, when solicited.

Ms. deLeon

No, that's how you may run the meeting. I don't run my meetings that way.

David Boulin

Well, you should.

Ms. deLeon

Well, I'm sorry. Thank you.

David Boulin

No don't be sorry. Just correct it, alright.

Ms. deLeon

If I want to.

David Boulin

If he's got something to say, he can say it to you, and you can say it to me, just like I address you.

Mr. Goudsouzian

That's not how it works, but that's okay.

Mr. Carocci

She said a hundred times to address the Chair and you're not the chair. She says address the President, right.

Mr. Goudsouzian

The way it works.

David Boulin

I mean, who am I talking to? I'm talking to you.

Mr. Carocci

You've never been a solicitor in your life.

David Boulin

Wake up but

Ms. deLeon

Okay, enough badgering here tonight.

David Boulin

You say what?

Ms. deLeon

You're badgering people here, okay.

David Boulin

I'm not badgering people. I already said that I believe Victoria Opthof-Cordaro is endlessly badgering the landfill.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so that's your opinion. Okay.

David Boulin

Yes, it is, and it's borne out by her speaking.

Ms. deLeon

Okay.

Mr. Carocci

You're allowed to stand there and give your opinion.

Ms. deLeon

Absolutely, absolutely, I agree with that.

Mr. Carocci

I don't understand why you are saying

Mr. Goudsouzian

Time for a vote.

Ms. deLeon

Anybody else like to speak? Let's have a roll call.

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Banonis – Absent)

I. AUTHORIZE PAYMENTS TO CH&N CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EASTON ROAD BALLFIELD PROJECT

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so it's almost 10:30, so let's try to make this as, as quickly as possible here. Authorize payments to CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield project. A lot of this stuff is just routine stuff. The Township received the following requests for payment from CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield Project. These payments requests have been reviewed by Hanover Engineering, and they are recommending payments. So, number one is request for payment number eight from bid number one in the amount of \$544,671.09; and number two is request for payment number three from bid number two in the amount of \$108,477.00. So, I'll make a motion

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of payments to CH&N Construction for the Easton Road Ballfield project as stated above.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. deLeon

And did you have any other comments, Tom?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, did, the field seems like it's coming along, you know. I've talked to people in Hellertown, Lower Saucon baseball community. They are excited about it, and it should be a great asset for our community.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I have no other comments, Victoria?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I don't have any other comment.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura.

Ms. Ray

No, I have no comments. This is just routine.

Ms. deLeon

Audience, we have two people. Who was there first? Bobby.

Mr. Carocci

You guys are going to get invoices from Lynn Hill.

Bob Kemmerer

Bob Kemmerer Steel City. Yeah, I have a thing that this ballfield was brought about back in August to 2023 by Jason Banonis, and it was given a price tag of \$1.9 million to overhaul the baseball field. I've been out there. They did more than overhaul it. The only thing that's left out there is the dirt. Then in January of this year, the price has gone up to \$3.3 million, and now it's for a total overhaul price tag. Where are we at now price wise? As a taxpayer, I think we should know the taxpayer. You're always worried about the taxpayers. Well tell us, what's the price now?

Mr. Carocci

What are we up to now?

Ms. Gorman

I do not have that right in front of me at the moment but

Mr. Carocci

Biden-Harris inflation.

Ms. deLeon

I think it's on the website, isn't it on the website?

Ms. deLeon

\$3.5ish

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

\$3.4, \$3.5 not included our engineering costs. So, it's, it's more than that.

Bob Kemmerer

There's no water out there yet. There's no restroom facilities. I can't believe you guys are going to put this beautiful ballfield out to the public with Job Johnny's all around.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah

Bob Kemmerer

So now we're looking at how many more hundreds of thousands.

Mr. Carocci

What are you talking about?

Bob Kemmerer

You worry about taxpayer's money only when it counts.

Mr. Carocci

No, this is this is a great asset. This is a field that the last 50-60-70 years.

Bob Kemmerer

And be used six months out of the year. Go play baseball in the winter.

Mr. Carocci

Well then, but they play in the fall, they play in the spring, and they play it in the summer.

Bob Kemmerer

Maybe a couple hundred kids.

Ms. deLeon

Let's not argue with the resident, okay.

Mr. Carocci

He's arguing with me.

Ms. deLeon

Well then

Mr. Carocci

He asked a question. He said how many months will be used out of the year, I said

Bob Kemmerer

How many months out of the year?

Mr. Carocci

I think eight.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, we're arguing.

Bob Kemmerer

Six months' worth

Mr. Carocci

It's worth it. It's still worth it, great asset.

Ms. deLeon

Please do not argue.

Mr. Carocci

Beautiful field, you know, go watch a game, it will relax you.

Lawrence Opthof

I don't know how Tom can be up there with a straight face and act so cavalier about spending three and a half million dollars and that doesn't include an engineering cost, and by the way, you didn't add in, the Porta Johns you are going to have to use, right? So, we got this classic field with Porta Johns. Who's dreamed that up? You must have been really dreaming. That's right, you sleep a lot, you were probably sleeping when that was going on, right? You were probably sleeping when the engineering took place, right?

Mr. Carocci

But yeah, if you'd looked, if you listened to Cathy and

Lawrence Opthof

There's no bathrooms there.

Mr. Carocci

Lynn Hill. \$33 million we have. We spent, and that's after we spent about \$3 million on the baseball field, a great baseball field.

Lawrence Opthof

I hope it's great for that kind of money.

Mr. Carocci

Our residents, our residents will use for the next 50-60-70 years.

Lawrence Opthof

How about can we, can we go use your bathrooms at your house when we got to go to the bathroom? What do you think?

Mr. Carocci

I don't live that close and I don't know if I want you at my house.

Lawrence Opthof

I'll go there. I'll try to keep it straight there.

Mr. Carocci

The ponds better for you, and not a shower, but here's, the thing is

Ms. deLeon

You are being disrespectful.

Lawrence Opthof

I think just his, his cavalier attitude about spending three and a half million dollars not including engineering costs.

Mr. Carocci

It's an investment.

Lawrence Opthof

We'll have a Porta John costs for the rest of eternity and

Mr. Carocci

Are you too good to use a Porta John? I guess you're too good to use a Porta John.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody else?

Mr. Carocci

It's a beautiful...I have no regrets whatsoever. I would vote for it again.

Ms. deLeon

We're not fighting

Lawrence Opthof

(inaudible) already in Lower Saucon

Ms. deLeon

You guys are talking over each other and you can't do that.

Lawrence Opthof

I have the floor and he just likes to interrupt.

Ms. deLeon

I know and I

Mr. Carocci

He's asking me questions.

Lawrence Opthof

That's what he does.

Ms. deLeon

What am I supposed to do?

Lawrence Opthof

I think we should write a letter to him so that does not interrupt. You should (inaudible) the rules (inaudible) here. Don't interrupt.

Ms. deLeon

Disorderly conduct.

Lawrence Opthof

A letter or do an email to this guy.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you. Anyone else? Okay, can we have a roll call please on the payments?

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Banonis – Absent)

J. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (LVPC) SURVEY

Ms. deLeon

Okay, discussion and possible action regarding the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission survey. They requested a survey to be filled out by the Township. The survey was requested so that Lehigh Valley Planning Commission could provide information on upcoming LVPC projects and how our municipality could be involved. The three areas specifically identified were the Climate Action Plan, LVPC Storm Water, Global Action 167 and the Regional Housing Attainability Strategy. Council will discuss the survey. Who wants to go? I put this on, Victoria, we all three of us wanted this on the agenda.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Initially, we had the survey come out, and I got reminded that there was the survey. So, we completed the survey and I had the request in, within embedded in the survey that we appoint people. So, I think that was just the starting point of it.

Ms. deLeon

Right and I wanted it because I support the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission training sessions that they had, and I wanted to make sure that Township would share that with our appointed officials and us because they're good things. So, that's why I wanted it. So, so then the next item is, is for the appointments, correct?

Mr. Carocci

Well, let's see what if somebody has a comment about the Climate Action Plan or the planning survey.

Mr. Goudsouzian

There's no motion.

Mr. Carocci

There's no motion.

Ms. deLeon

There's no motion.

Mr. Carocci

But there's discussion, so the public doesn't get to discuss it?

Ms. deLeon

No, they don't.

Mr. Carocci

Okay, you really don't like public discussion.

Ms. deLeon

Is there any action on this agenda item? Well, we can move on to the next one.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just a point of clarification, I think there were three different committees they were looking for appointees. So, the second, the next item on the agenda addresses two of the three committees, but not the Housing Committee. So, I thought might be, if we can to ask our Planning Commission, if they'd be interested in participating. I can read what they're looking for. Just give me one second.

Mr. Carocci

Why do we need a motion for this planning survey to fill the survey out?

Ms. deLeon

Because we already did and it was already submitted.

Mr. Carocci

Why didn't, why didn't they come before Council first?

Ms. deLeon

Because it was within the time period in between meetings, right?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, the Planning Commission didn't meet. They didn't have a meeting. So, there was no way to have them comment about it, but it's, they're looking for an appointee from the Township to participate in a committee, and I think it was to meet no more than three times through the fall of 2025. So, the appointee will be participating in this committee. I'm just going to find the actual description so that everybody can hear it. One second, I think we don't have that as part of the backup documents, do we?

Mr. Carocci

It's \$9.00 a minute or something, Lynn Hill says, let's find this thing.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

The 167 one, hold on, oh, here we go. I got it. Sorry. Housing Strategy, the LVPC will be partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Urban Land Institute to develop a regional housing supply, and attainability strategy. This business plan is intended to outline the amount, location and price points needed for a stable housing market. In addition to school districts, financial institutions, realtors, developers and other housing experts, we are requesting a municipal representative to be part of a focus group, specifically on local government issues and opportunities for housing. The strategy will be completed by fall 2025, and the time commitment is limited to three two-hour meetings. So, the

motion would be to, I don't know if we need motion, but we'd just like the Planning Commission to review this and see if any people are interested, and come back to us with interested people so that we can appoint them.

Ms. deLeon

We don't need a motion.

Ms. Ray

I don't believe we need a motion. I don't think for this.

Ms. deLeon

Direction.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

It's just a direction.

Ms. deLeon

So appointing representatives. So, is that the Climate Action Plan and the Act 167?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

No, those are two other committees.

Ms. deLeon

Two other committees.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yes, this is the Housing Urban one.

Ms. deLeon

So that's what the other agenda item.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

That's the other agenda.

Ms. Ray

It's the same agenda item.

K. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE ON LVPC'S PLANNING COMMITTEES FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND ACT 167 STORMWATER

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so the next one's discussion and possible action for appointing representatives to participate on LVPC's planning committees for Climate Action Plan and Act 167 Storm Water. So, what does Council want to do with that?

Ms. Ray

So, I can speak to this one. So, we did discuss this at our EAC meeting. We became aware of it probably shortly before our meeting that the Planning Commission was forming these committees. It's sort of phase two of their projects for making these various plans. So, the Climate Action, I can read through but this was in the packet, I don't think they really need to read it. So, they're having a Climate Action Committee. We discussed at EAC. We had several people interested. We made a motion to appoint Allan Johnson to be a representative on this committee. We also have two back-up people that were also interested. That would be Russ Sutton and Chad Heimbacher. So, they were both interested in serving on this, and then also for the storm water management on the Act 167 Storm Water regulations,

the same group of people were interested in supporting that effort and attending the meetings with LVPC. So, I would make a motion

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved that we appoint Allan Johnson, Russ Sutton and Chad Heimbacher to be representatives to the Township on the Climate Action Committee and the Storm Water Management on Act 167 Storm Water Regulations and attend the meetings.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Mr. Carocci
Who?

Ms. deLeon
She just said the names.

Ms. Ray
Allan Johnson, Russ Sutton and Chad Heimbecker.

Mr. Carocci
Chad and Allan, when's is it my turn to comment?

Ms. deLeon
We have a motion on the floor, was there a second?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro
I seconded it.

Ms. deLeon
Okay, Laura and Victoria. So, you're next Tom to talk about it.

Mr. Carocci
So, Sutton is cutting down trees up there.

Ms. deLeon
He did not cut down any trees.

Mr. Carocci
And he's cutting down trees up there was property, and Priscilla didn't have a problem with that because he's a supporter. Everybody else cuts down a tree up there in Steel City, she, she goes. But I served with Allan on EAC; he is a good solid pick. I don't really know Chad, but Russ, I object to Russ so I want to vote against Russ, but for Allan and for Chad.

Ms. deLeon
Okay, so I'm going next, and I just want to say that Russ was totally against the logging operations that were happening and not on his property, across the street and up behind my house.

Mr. Carocci
He cut down trees on his property.

Ms. deLeon
No, he didn't.

Mr. Carocci
Yes, he did. We'll ask him next time he comes, he did.

Ms. deLeon

And anyway, I'm not going argue.

Mr. Carocci

He's against everybody else logging, but when he does it.

Ms. deLeon

I know, I know I'm right.

Ms. Ray

He did not clear cut or log anything on his property.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, he did.

Ms. deLeon

I know I'm right. Okay, Victoria.

Mr. Carocci

That's what I heard.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I'm thankful to the volunteers that they participate.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura.

Ms. Ray

Yeah, I don't have any additional to say I mean, it's great that we have people willing to serve on these.

Ms. deLeon

Right. Thank you. Anybody in the audience?

David Boulin

So, let's see here. We're going to be dealing, and it really bothers me that in the packet, what did I get? I don't get a packet like you guys get, oh Dave Boulin by the way. I get Storm Water Management Act 167, can somebody, a Council member tell me exactly what that is? And also, what NPDES is? And also, what MP4 for is? Do any of you know what that is? Do you know what you're dealing with? And then somebody said something about housing. What are we covering here? Are we covering the environment, housing or what? It's not quite clear to me what you're doing because you're, yeah, you have too many words going into it like a Vice President, I know. Alright, so I'd like to have those. We have a climate action thing, which you sent out as an addendum, and you have a Storm Water Management Act 167, which, by the way, covers a multitude of things, and I'm sorry, I know it's getting late. Priscilla, I you know, you think we're stupid. Well, we're not.

Ms. deLeon

I'm looking down at my notes, on my paper.

David Boulin

You are looking up at the clock.

Ms. deLeon

Yes, I wanted to see if you, your time.

David Boulin

The bottom line is I don't know anything about these, they're not here, and yet you want to send people there to say, okay, we're gonna do it, and they probably have no idea what MP4 is. They have no idea what NPDES is. They've never dealt with those things, and yet you're gonna send them. I got a problem with that. And I know, I know that Cathy makes up the agenda, but she does it in concert with you, Priscilla, and if you can't include things in there, how the blazes do you expect the public just as swallow this stuff? Because that's what it is, and as soon as you say yes, the other two hands go up and it's a fait accompli. They don't read this stuff. They don't print it out. Both sides. Oh, yeah. Yeah, I see we have Climate Action Plan, was made by a motion by, by, Dru or something and seconded by Laura, and the next one was made by Laura and seconded by him. Well, what is it? How about telling us or don't you want us to know or don't you care? I hear crickets.

Mr. Carocci

They don't want you to know.

David Boulin

So just, you know what, just go vote on it in the back room somewhere. That's how we're getting the next whatever. I won't get on it.

Mr. Carocci

They tried that with the landfill, changing sides. So they voted back there and never came out and said anything about it.

David Boulin

Well, landfill, believe me?

Mr. Carocci

Don't give them any ideas. This guy will let them do it.

David Boulin

So, can we, can we have some more information on that, or somebody who can speak about these very serious things. The last guy I heard speak about it was running for President, and he said climate change, my gosh, New York's gonna be underwater in five years or 10 years, and that was like 30 years ago, and they're all flying around in jets. So, I don't want to hear this without some kind of really solid backup to it. These harebrained schemes, let's send people off to meetings and have a good time. No, I don't agree with that, and I think you should have to give Laura Ray especially you; you're supposedly the EAC person. Let's hear from you what this is, and I mean in detail. I don't mean, oh, we had a good time. We all met together.

Ms. Ray

Go on to the LVPC website, and you can read about it.

David Boulin

I can go to it, but you want me you want me to go do all your research. Is that what it is? And I want to see that survey that was filled out. Where is that? I heard, oh, well, we didn't have time, so we just filled it out. So, we don't need a permission now. It's all done. It's under the carpet. How about that, folks? If anybody's watching, you like that? That's the kind of government we're running here now.

Mr. Carocci

No transparency cover up.

David Boulin

Yeah. There's oh, we didn't we tell you we re-defined transparency. It's 1984 if you ever read the book. Sorry, I do get a little emotional, and that's why, because it's all this talk and no action.

Mr. Carocci

Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

First of all, this survey was done by the administration, which is their job, and Cathy, do I work in concert with setting the agenda? That's your job as Manager under this under the code.

Ms. Gorman

Correct.

Mr. Carocci

Cathy, when you filled out that survey, did you show it to them?

Ms. Gorman

I did not fill out that survey.

Mr. Carocci

Who did? Who did?

Ms. Gorman

I sent the survey out to everyone on the Zoning Hearing Board, everyone on the Planning Commission and everyone on Council, as directed. When I got the email, and I was asked by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to fill it out, under the circumstances where I did not get authorization from all of Council as to what the position was on these topics, I deferred and sent it to everyone because I wasn't going to take the responsibility of answering it, without bringing it back to Council.

Ms. deLeon

I was on vacation, Cathy. I was on vacation.

Mr. Carocci

They all filled it out themselves?

Ms. Gorman

They might have.

Mr. Carocci

They might have, right.

Ms. Gorman

My understanding is, is that something most of the information that you would get from that survey, you had to login or start filling out the application and answering the questions before they gave you the most of the information that was provided to you.

David Boulin

That's an honest answer, thank you.

Mr. Carocci

So, we don't know

Ms. Gorman

We did look on the website to try to put as much information on there as we could and we could not we could not find it on the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

David Boulin

I think it's up to her, Laura Ray if it's going to be climate, and I think it's up to Opthof-Cordaro if it's going to be housing and I have no idea yet which

Ms. deLeon

You know why public comment is over.

Mr. Goudsouzian

We have a motion. Everyone's commented.

Ms. deLeon

Hey, everybody, can we have a roll call, please?

Mr. Carocci

No. Well, no I want Allan and I want Chad, no Russ Sutton. Go get em Allan.

Ms. deLeon

Well, the motion includes all three of them.

Mr. Carocci

I made my motion.

Ms. deLeon

Well then, your vote is a no.

Mr. Carocci

I vote yes for Allan, yes, for Chad, and I vote no on Russ Sutton.

Member of audience asked if they can speak now.

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, you can speak.

Mr. Goudsouzian

No.

Ms. deLeon

No, we're done with public comment.

Ms. Gorman

Ms. Ray.

Ms. Ray

He was trying to speak a couple times.

Ms. deLeon

Oh, I didn't know that.

Ms. Ray

He was waving to come up.

Mr. Carocci

Come on up.

Ms. deLeon

I'm sorry, I didn't see you waving. I'll make an exception. Allan, you just need to stand up and go to the platform or the podium.

Allan Johnson

Thank you for appointing me to the

Mr. Carocci

You can sit down here.

Allan Johnson

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Ms. deLeon

Yeah, put the microphone down so we can hear you please.

Allan Johnson

On the climate action.

Ms. Ray

State your name.

Allan Johnson

So, let me read this, and then you'll know and so you know, what's going on here. Oh, this is, I got this is from their website. The climate, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant overview. 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, authorize the United States Environmental Protection Agency to allocate funding to states, local governments, tribes and territories under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, to develop and implement Climate Action Plans, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollutants. Many of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States received funding's from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program, including the Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton metropolitan statistical area, for which the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is the lead organization and official Planning Commission of Lehigh and Northampton counties. The Planning Grant provides a million dollars for over a four-year period for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to use the Climate Act, to use for climate action planning. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program consists of three phases, Priority Climate Action Plan, which has been completed. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which is the one they're going to start working on, and the Plan Progress and Monitoring. This plan is deliverable. This plan is the deliverable for the Priority Climate Action Plan, which is focused on an emission sector, the highest priority. With the completion of the Priority Climate Action Plan, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission will then develop a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which covers all major emission sectors within the region. That's Lehigh and Northampton County. Following adoption of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission will monitor progress on the plan strategies, which is the third phase of the program. In addition to the planning grant funds allocated to the metropolitan areas, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program also offers approximately \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants. Completion of the Priority Climate Action Plan opens access to apply for this larger pool of funding. So, that's what's going on right now as far as climate action goes at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and that's what, I'm thankful that you applied, approved me to be your Climate Action person from the Environmental Advisory Council. Now, as far as the Act 167 goes, I don't think you should, I think you should, you should. What's the word I'm trying to think of, appoint Brien Kocher because that's a deeply engineering thing. It's not, it's going on, the Act 167 has been, I think they developed it like in 1978. So, it's been going on for years. It's gone through several updates, and I, he must be, he's been here a long time, he must be involved with the prior Act 167 updates, that were, you know, that were done in the past. I read a little bit about it because Laura mentioned that. So, the amazing thing about that is I don't know if you know this or not, the Act 167 that they're talking about, it is a storm water action plan, what to do with the storm water, but it's based on the watershed, not, not the Township, it's based on the Saucon Creek Watershed.

Ms. deLeon

Saucon Creek Watershed, right.

Allan Johnson

It's huge. You are going to have Bethlehem involved, Hellertown involved, Lower Saucon involved. Upper Saucon, what's it called, Upper Saucon Township, and Limeport. Where's Limeport?

Mr. Carocci

It's next up for Upper Saucon.

Allan Johnson

Is that Upper Saucon? So, I think that, you know, it's gonna be a very complicated thing. And I don't know how you handled it in the past, actually, I don't remember, what they do, from what I understand, after they go through this update. They write an ordinance, a suggested ordinance or something like that. They ask you to keep it to, to input it in your SALDO and in your zoning. That covers a lot of territory. I don't think a couple of guys from the EAC, I mean, we can go to the meetings, if that's all you want, but I don't think we should be your, your like, your representative on that. That's all I have.

Mr. Carocci

Thanks Allan, thanks for being willing to serve.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you. Okay.

Allan Johnson

Anybody can go to these meetings. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has said that a million times. Anybody can go, everybody's invited.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so we did the motion.

Mr. Goudsouzian

Let's start from the top.

ROLL CALL: 3-1 (Mr. Carocci - No, Mr. Banonis – Absent)

Mr. Carocci

Yes, to Allan and Chad. No on Russ Sutton

Ms. deLeon

That's a no.

L. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROMOTING UPCOMING EAC EVENTS VIA A POSTCARD MAILING

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so next we have discussion and possible action on promoting upcoming EAC events via postcard mailing. The EAC is requesting to send out a postcard mailer promoting their upcoming events at an expense not to exceed \$2,500.00. Laura?

Ms. Ray

Sure. So, during our meeting, we had discussion on how we can better promote some of the things that we have coming up, and a suggestion was made that possibly we should do a mailer, a postcard. We would also like to get into the newsletter, but it's never quite sure when exactly that's coming out. So, if we did a postcard, we could have you know, now that it gets out it in a timely manner. The events that we have coming up or that we want to make people aware of is the landfill clean-up date they called it, which is the free day that we're going to have the first Saturday of October. We're also working on an

electronics recycling, which will be October 28th, and also a tire recycling program for September 14th, so we'd like to send out a mailer.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval to send out a mailer, a postcard, as stated above not to exceed a cost of \$2,500.00.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Tom, discussion?

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, I mean, this is more Township money being used to promote anti-landfill thing. The landfill, take everything day or whatever was in the previous newsletter. I'm sure we're gonna have your recycling events October 28th. I'm sure we're going to have a newsletter out for October 28th. Cathy, it's currently July 24th.

Ms. Gorman

We're targeting September, early September.

Mr. Carocci

So, we're going to have where that can be announced, and we haven't announced those events and postcards before we filled up trucks. So, you know, I'm not sure it's just a, again, a waste of taxpayer money. It's really meant to, to identify people who will support their anti-landfill agenda and using taxpayer dollars to identify these people and promote that. The EAC has a website. They have access to the Township website to promote these things. You know, it's, it's... I'm not done yet. Are you going to tell her to stop interrupting me?

Ms. deLeon

How does it feel?

Mr. Carocci

See, see. So, again, it's just more, it's more campaigning with taxpayer dollars by Ms. Ray this time. Glad she said more than 12 words this meeting, alright, that's it.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, I have nothing. I think it's a great idea. Victoria.

Mr. Carocci

Of course you do.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think it's wonderful that we inform our residents of the positive things that are happening, including those three items, so yeah, wonderful.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Laura, did you have anything else to add?

Ms. Ray

Yeah, I'll go back and make my point of clarification that the EAC does not have a website. We don't have a Facebook, and there's nothing on what we're promoting that is anti-landfill. We're promoting to use the landfill for the clean-up date, and then also two different recycling programs, so

Mr. Carocci

Yeah, there's an EAC tab on, on the Township website. That's where that should be listed at.

Ms. Ray

That's not a website.

Mr. Carocci

It's the Township website.

Ms. Ray

Very basic, minimal information. So put it there. If somebody's, I think the website's in the process of being updated and I don't know where that stands with

Mr. Carocci

I think you should put it there. Save the taxpayer \$2,500.00.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so, okay

Mr. Carocci

Public comment.

Ms. deLeon

There's a motion on the floor. Anybody in the audience?

Maryanne Garber

I just want to let the record, excuse me, Maryann Garber, I represent the Bethlehem Landfill. And we'll also be promoting the fall cleanup event of October 5th in our newsletter to the community.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you. Okay, anybody else?

David Boulin

So, let's understand we're gonna get a new website and all that good stuff, and the EAC, Laura, the EAC doesn't have a little page on that. Why don't you try just asking, can we have our page? There's absolutely no reason you shouldn't have it to announce your meetings and special things that you're doing. Maybe put your video your meetings there. I think that's a great idea. I don't think postcards are going to do it. And by the way, we just heard if you had of asked Maryanne, you would have found out yeah, we're going to put it in our newsletter too. And as Tom said, how about putting it in the Township newsletter? I get them. I get the landfill. I get the, I go to the web all the time, the Township web. Why do we have to spend \$2,500.00 to do that? Maybe it's better spent \$2,500.00 to have cameras to catch people who decide they're going to dump tires just before we're going to have a cleanup. I think I went through the cost of tire reclamation and gave the name to somebody who read off a whole bunch of for five, for \$3 or \$5. Take your tires here, unless you're talking about farm tires. We do have a lot of farmers and farm tires. Now I can't see that kind of waste. I would be much more interested in you getting out there and planting trees and doing proactive things with that kind of money instead of sitting there and just sending out postcards and all, when you can put it on the web and change it at will and do all that. You have to be a little more creative and active. Get out there and do it, don't just, people want to sit around and make plans and talk and do all that stuff, but when it actually comes time to do it, unlike our friend over here, who sat down, and he didn't have the information, so he went up and he went looked up Act 167. Yes, so did I because somebody was not able to do that. They wanted to have a vote on it. They wanted to talk, but they weren't willing to go 10 feet to get it. So that's my say for it. And no, I don't think that taxpayer money should be going out for postcards when you have all these other medias. Hey, you have all these Lehigh Valley Live, you can announce it in that. Every morning, I hear it on WAEB, what's coming up, what's on the calendar, make that, do that. You just want to sit back and crank this stuff through and send it out and have done with it. No, be more creative. Be an entrepreneur, do what you should do. Use resources that are already available, and if you don't know

what they are, send me a text and I'll send them to Tom and he'll send them to me. No, you don't have my address. Oh, well. Just do it.

Mr. Carocci

They just want taxpayers to pay for their propaganda.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anyone else?

Mr. Carocci

They want the taxpayers to pay for it.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, may we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-1 (Mr. Carocci – No; Mr. Banonis – Absent)

M. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PPL OUTAGES IN THE TOWNSHIP

Ms. deLeon

Okay, next we have discussion and possible action on PPL outages in the Township. Ms. deLeon will discuss.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Wait just, just for the, I think we should pause for a second because I think is another example of just leaving. Council members, we only have one Council member here for Mr. Banonis, Mr. Carocci and now one is leaving.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so Mr. Carocci left the meeting at 11:05 p.m. Have the record reflect that please? He didn't leave yet.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so back to my PPL outages in the Township. I received

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Thanks for your service, Tom.

Ms. deLeon

I received an email from a resident in the Wassergass area, and this was probably maybe a month ago, and he happened to be a physician, and he was out of power for 56 hours. I think that's just unacceptable, and you know, it's 56 hours, I was like shocked. So anyway, I have concerns not only for him, but for people that live and I don't want to just you know, center on Wassergass, but the whole Township, you know, when the electric goes out there's people on CPAP machines, they're on oxygen and they're on other medical devices that they need and they have no idea when the power is coming back on, so I'd like to either get together with a meeting with PPL officials, um

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

What, what was your, was this outage related to it, like

Ms. deLeon

It wasn't a storm. It just, it just happened? He says this isn't the first time.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Like a rolling thing.

Ms. deLeon

Yeah, he has but and I I'm sorry. I left my email on at home, so, but anyway, there were other instances, it wasn't just the one, but 56 hours at one time, that's long

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Unrelated to a natural event?

Ms. deLeon

Right.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

So, I don't know what would be better sending a letter or having them come out and have a meeting with us.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I think the meeting is nicer, more collaborative.

Ms. deLeon

A meeting, so I don't need a motion for that. Thank you, Cathy.

N. **ARTISANAL STRUCTURES LLC – RELEASE OF FINAL PAYMENT AND ENTER INTO MAINTENANCE PERIOD - HELLER HOMESTEAD WIDOWS HOUSE WINDOWS**

Ms. deLeon

Artisanal, and I don't know if I'm saying that right, Structures LLC, release of final payment and enter into maintenance period. Heller Homestead Widows House Windows. Staff is requesting release of final payment to Artisanal Structures LLC in the amount of \$31,560.00. Release of their performance and payment bonds conditioned upon receiving required maintenance bond for a 12-month period for the widow window construction and insulation at the Heller Homestead. Cathy, do we have an update?

Ms. Gorman

I did, he was out there at the site. Our Director of Public Works went out there today. The windows still, the window in question with that was not the correct one, but Mr. Rasich is firm in his belief after his conversation with him today that he will come up, and come out and fix that window. So, if you want to make a motion to approve contingent upon that window being fixed

Ms. deLeon

No, there's been too many issues.

Ms. Gorman

Then we can wait until the August meeting.

Ms. deLeon

Right, this is too many issues. So, I recommend voting no, and when we have to come back

Ms. Gorman

We can table this until the table until the next meeting?

Ms. deLeon

Table it until the next meeting. Do I need a motion to table?

Mr. Goudsouzian

You should, just to be safe. It's the better way to do it.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved to table this agenda item until the August 21, 2024 Council meeting.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just so I'm clear. We're tabling because there's some outstanding issues with the window.?

Ms. deLeon

He did sha, I don't want to be, I already started saying it.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

There's issues with the window that have to be addressed.

Ms. deLeon

There's been issues with the window

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

that's unacceptable, I guess would be a better word, and there's been other issues. So. Alright, so I have motion to table.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

It's getting late, everybody. So, any other discussion, Laura? Anybody in the audience?

David Boulin

At one time, we had somebody from the Council that was overseeing these things. Who does that now? Does anybody do that?

Ms. deLeon

Overseeing what things?

David Boulin

Overseeing the things like the Heller Homestead? I know we've spent a lot, a lot of money. Does anybody keep track of that?

Ms. deLeon

The Manager and the Public Works Director, I don't know.

David Boulin

Was that a statement or sort of a question?

Ms. deLeon

They are here on a day-to-day basis, and if there's issues, the Manager takes care of it and the Public Works Director.

David Boulin

Alright, so you're going to table that, I think that's probably a good idea until the work is completed. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, any other discussion? Okay, roll call please.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

O. RESOLUTION #57-2024 – NORCO PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT SUBMISSION FOR AEDs IN MUNICIPAL PARKS

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Resolution #57-2024 Norco Public Safety Grant Submission for AEDs in municipal parks. Resolution #57-2004 has been drafted to request authorization to submit a grant to purchase AEDs to be placed in specific parks listed below. This was submitted previously with Resolution #54-2023 under the Norco Hotel Tax Grant program, which was denied, so we have the Heller homestead, Polk Valley, Steel City, Town Hall, Southeastern, Reading Drive Trailhead, and Lutz-Franklin.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #57-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon

And any other discussion? Anyone in the audience? Okay, can we ever roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

P. RESOLUTION #58-2024 – NORTHAMPTON LEHIGH LOCAL SHARE GRANT SUBMISSION FOR FENCING AT TOWNSHIP HALL PARK AND POLK VALLEY PARK

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have Resolution #58-2024 Northampton Lehigh Local Share Grant Submission for fencing at Town Hall Park and Polk Valley Park. Resolution #58-2024 has been drafted to request authorization to submit a grant to replace the fencing.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #58-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon

And any other discussion? Anyone in the audience? Okay, can we ever roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

Q. RESOLUTION #59-2024 – MONROE COUNTY LOCAL SHARE GRANT SUBMISSION FOR FENCING REPLACEMENT AT TOWN HALL PARK AND POLK VALLEY PARK

Ms. deLeon

Okay. Resolution #59-2024 Monroe County Local Share Grant submission for fencing replacement and Town Hall Park and Polk Valley Park. Resolution #59-2024 has been drafted to request authorization to submitted grant replacing the fence at the Town Hall Complex and Polk Valley Park.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #59-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon

And any other discussion? Anyone in the audience? Okay, can we ever roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

R. RESOLUTION #60-2024 – NORTHAMPTON COUNTY LOCAL SHARE SUBMISSION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL VIDEO DETECTION SYSTEM

Ms. deLeon

Okay, Resolution #60-2024. Northampton County Local Share Grant submission for traffic signal video detection system. So, it's six traffic lights.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #60-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon

Cathy, did you want to talk about this?

Ms. Gorman

Yes, there was previous applications done for Public Works to remove the loop, the current loop detection system, at our traffic signals and update them to a video camera detection system. We contacted a vendor that we typically use for our traffic signal maintenance, and they do have a product that can also incorporate Police Department usage for investigative purposes. So, it would serve as both, both departments.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you. Any questions?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Is that just to clarify, is that just for our maintenance on the traffic light or is it like to detect people running through red lights?

Ms. Gorman

No, it's not to detect, or ticket anybody. It's more along the lines of if a crime has taken place, and you need to identify a vehicle, okay, within a timeframe.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Then the other component of it is just make for maintenance purposes

Ms. Gorman

It is.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Ms. Gorman

The loop detection system that would trigger off, right now the loop detection systems in the road, a car will go over the loop and it triggers the light to go red or green. This system will do it my camera.

Ms. deLeon

Any other discussion? Anyone in the audience?

David Boulin

I have a question? David Boulin, I had a question. Because you're going to look at Resolution #61-2024, which would be the traffic signal video detection system, are you coupling these together because I want to talk about one or the other? No, nobody read it. Oh, boy.

Ms. deLeon

They're the same, but they're different places where she's submitting them, so the, it's the same thing.

Ms. Gorman

It's the same, same application, we're applying in two different sources of funding.

David Boulin

Alright, so nobody's going to make any statements about the literature that was sent out along with this as this submission. The Chief is not going to do that.

Ms. Gorman

The Chief is not here.

David Boulin

I know he's not. I wouldn't be here either, but I'm interested in this because it's important, and I think it's a really great thing.

Ms. Gorman

That's the information that was provided by the vendor.

David Boulin

Yeah, and nobody's going to talk about it. So, we don't know about it. We don't know about all the lights; it's going to sit on and replace and everything. I'll tell you, Cathy, you're great, but the rest of these people they look like deer in the headlights, they have no idea what we're talking about, and that's unforgettable. If I can sit there and read all this stuff, and you can't, shame on you. Shame on me for whatever.

Ms. deLeon

So, we're on R., which Resolution #60-2024. It's been moved and seconded. There has been public comment. There is no other public comment. May we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

S. RESOLUTION #61-2024 – MONROE LOCAL SHARE LOCAL SHARE GRANT SUBMISSION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL VIDEO DETECTION

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have Resolution #61-2024, which is the Monroe Local Share, Local Share Grant submission for traffic signal video detection system. Cathy?

Ms. Gorman

This is the same grant application. We're just going to be applying for funding from two different sources.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #61-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Another discussion? If not, anybody in the audience? Can we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

T. RESOLUTION #62-2024 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have Resolution #62-2024 Transfer of Funds. It's been prepared for Council to amend the 2024 budget to address the items reported in the Semi-Annual Report. Cathy?

Ms. Gorman

Yes, these resolutions are typically done for expenses that are, we're projecting to be over budget for the year. I did not add anything that we won't be at, you already are fully aware of the amount of money that we've spent, such as the Fire Workers Comp. We know that's over budget. We know what it was, we'll make the modifications in the next budget. These particular items we're asking for additional funding, it could be more, because we reached the threshold, as discussed earlier. The one item I did want to bring to your attention is that I should have put on here, which I can bring back at the next meeting is that Planning Contracting Services, I would need to update that amount, reflective of the contract that's the current zoning officer team is doing. So, we're still not expending the money out of

the Zoning Officer's position. We're going to leave that there until a Zoning Officer is hired, but I wanted to increase the funding under Contracted Services, which is more appropriate.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Because they're a contractor and not, not an employee,

Ms. Gorman

Not an employee, so it's more appropriate to put it there, and depending on who we hire for the Zoning Officer, there would be money in there for the rest of the year.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Okay.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, next we have resolutions

Ms. Gorman

Wait, we need a motion for 62.

Ms. deLeon

Yeah, we need a motion. Wait, I turned my page too quickly. Where's my paper? Okay, so #61-2024, and then the next is the transfer of funds. Right, which is #62-2024.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of Resolution #62-2024.

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. deLeon

Another discussion? If not, anybody in the audience? May we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2024 COUNCIL MINUTES

Ms. deLeon

Then we have approval of the May 15, 2024 Council minutes.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of the May 15, 2024 Council minutes

SECOND BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

I know that there were a couple questions about some of the verbiage in that May meeting. I think that was a really long one. I'm happy with the way it is. I think it's fine. People were talking, as is customary, unfortunately. I hope that we can move to a brighter day on that one, but I appreciate the transcriptionist, and I don't want to have any more time spent on reviewing it to just say two people were talking.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so there's a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Anybody in the audience?

David Boulin

So, my understanding was you're going to get new transcription software, is that been installed, does it work? Where are we with that?

Ms. Gorman

We have it. We purchased it. It's working. The staff likes it, and the September, or, excuse me, the June,

Ms. Werkheiser

The June meeting was done. It works very well, but it can't transcribe verbatim when there are a lot of voices.

Ms. Gorman

We still have to review all the minutes because there's back and forth. So, the new format and you'll see it in the one of the, I think it's the June 19th minutes that we actually used it and we're going to use the format. So, you'll be seeing shortly.

David Boulin

Can you give me a guesstimate? For instance, if you have an hour's worth of discussion that's clear, how fast is it transcribed versus doing it the old way? Would you guess?

Ms. Werkheiser

I can give an example. There are several people who, I'll give you the example of landfill. At the Landfill Meeting, when everyone is speaking at one time and someone speaking very clearly it transcribes quickly, there is just grammar that has to be corrected.

David Boulin

Yeah, that's always true and probably also any other scientific notation or whatever not. I think that's wonderful. That will reduce the load, and now if you can just get the meeting so they're run with one person talking, it'll be okay. Hey, give me the gavel. Thank you.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, anybody else? May we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

B. APPROVAL OF JUNE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. deLeon

Next, we have approval of June financial reports. They are ready for Councils review and approval.

MOTION BY: Ms. deLeon moved for approval of the June financial reports.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

Ms. deLeon

Any other discussion? If not, anybody in the audience? May we have a roll call please?

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

6. COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

A. ACTING TOWNSHIP MANAGER – Cathy Gorman

Ms. deLeon

Okay, so, Council and staff reports. Cathy?

Ms. Gorman

I wanted to remind everyone that National Night Out is on August 6th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall Park. Chief has been working very diligently on it. We're expecting to have a good, a good night that night.

Ms. deLeon

Thank you for your sponsorship for the landfill.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Yeah, I just have a question before you get to the next thing. Are you looking for people to volunteer to help with, like Council or anything?

Ms. Gorman

Staff will be doing the volunteer work.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Do you want, I'm just saying I'm available if you need help.

Ms. Gorman

Okay, I will let the Chief know. Friday night's Movies in the Park at Steel City was pretty successful. Everyone had a good time. The next one is that August 9th at Town Hall Park. If you haven't noticed already, Town Hall Parks playground equipment is currently being installed, and we're hoping that everything will be done before National Night Out. The Cherrywood Paving Project is scheduled for the last week of July and going into August. Hopefully, weather permitting, they'll get it done pretty quickly. I also wanted to advise everyone the Northampton County Hazardous Household Waste Residential Collection event is on August 28th at 8 a.m. You need to online pre-register. So, we have that information on our website and on our Facebook, if anybody cares to have some household hazardous waste removed, and I also wanted to advise that Northampton County is having a Senior Farmers Market voucher program that's eligible for County residents. It's, they continue the, it's available from June 4th to December or September 13th, so they, they'll give out vouchers. You have to go on their website to see what how you would qualify. There is income restrictions, but you can contact Northampton County Area Agency on Aging for that. And on a personal note, I wanted to thank Council for having me sit in the seat and have tenure. I won't be here next time, and I hope I served you well.

Ms. deLeon

Well, you did, but let's, let's hope this all works out.

Ms. Gorman

I hope I served you well. I hope I served staff well, and more importantly, I hope I served residents as well. So, thank you for the opportunity.

Ms. deLeon

And also, the staff that also pitched in and did that extra effort. We really appreciate that. So, um, I guess, Victoria reports.

B. STAFF REPORTS - COUNCIL

Mr. Banonis – Absent

Mr. Carocci – Absent

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Just, I was able to go to the second Movies in the Park and I appreciated it. I thought it was really well done. Again, thank the staff that comes, our staff go out after you know, the work day and they go and staff it and they provide lots of free stuff and goodies to really complement the movie, and especially this last time we had the police officers there and they provided some extra fun and the movie was Utopia, which is all about a detective. So, I thought it was really cute. Anyway, so I want to thank the staff for that, and thank you, Cathy, for what you're doing and what you have done, and I look forward to continuing to work with you as hopefully just the Director of Public Finance and not just the Acting Manager also, although I've appreciated everything you did. Thank you and the staff.

Ms. Ray

Yeah, so I'll just go through some of the other boards. So, Parks and Recs did not meet in July. That was already like pre-planned at the beginning of the year that they don't meet in July. I don't know if that's an every year thing, but we'll talk about it next year. The EAC did meet. We're going to start a relook at the plastic bag ban in the Township, and also possibly coordinating with Hellertown Borough on that. We had started looking at that a few years ago and the State had a ban on bans. So, we got, that got put on hold and we're resurrecting. We had a great presentation that our Chair Dru gave to us

on the hydrology and groundwater recharge in our Township and he explained why the ridges, especially in the eastern portion of our Township are so important to the groundwater recharge, and why we should look at special protections for those for our watershed areas. And then also, we had our introductory meeting with our Fire Services Consultant, Jerry Ozog. It was nice having a, somebody with so many, so much experience. He had so many examples of everything and gave everybody a lot of things to think about. So, it was mainly an introductory meeting, like I said, getting ideas on what everybody felt about what the biggest concerns the Fire Services have, at this point, and we'll work on moving forward with some plans to overcome some of our hurdles that we have, and I think that's all my report.

Ms. deLeon

I'll go next. First, I'd like to apologize to our residents for the blatant disregard of our Lower Saucon regulations and the Code of Conduct. Our residents deserve better. I also would like to say that I attended the B. Social event. I forget what day it was, but let's just say, I'm not very good at axe throwing. So, it was a great a great event, and I think hopefully they will do well and, and have another place for our residents to patronize and other people from around the area. Then I, sadness here, Scott Nocek of Steel City, died on Monday, July 22nd at his home. Scott was a longtime member of the Steel City Fire Company, and serving as former Assistant Chief at one time. So, he passed away on July 27th, July 22nd. So, condolences to his family. And solicitor?

C. SOLICITOR

Mr. Goudsouzian

Just a very brief update on some litigation. I know it's late. With regard to the Sunshine Act violation claim filed by the landfill that's scheduled for arguments, oral argument in, towards the end of August, we've had some discussions with regard to the library attorneys with regard to resolution and I hope to report back shortly, and with regard to the case, with regard to the landfill, and St. Luke's and so on, that was before the court earlier today. There's been some updates, but they haven't been finalized yet, and I anticipate updating Borough, I'm sorry, the Township Council when that happens. There's nothing official to report, but I just wanted to give you some general ideas of where some of this going.

D. ENGINEER – Not present.

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

Ms. deLeon

Okay, thank you, and wait, I closed my paper too quickly. So, public comment, non-agenda items, there's a five-minute time limit. Is there anyone that would like to speak on a non-agenda item? Did you? Okay, Allan come to the podium, and I don't always see your hand. So, I don't want to miss your, just lower the microphone, please.

Allan Johnson

I just want to mention that the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant timeline, the implementation grant application due April 1st, 2024. I think that's where, remember we wrote a letter to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. You wanted to plant flowers and different things around Route 22.

Ms. deLeon

Was that just recently? I think that we supported that program.

Allan Johnson

Yeah, and I think that program is part of this implementation grant. The \$4.5 billion thing, but that's for the whole country and that's very important because what they're talking about there is CO₂ sequestration. The plants take the CO₂ out of the air and as many plants as we, and besides that, you know, they're beautiful. As, as much sequestration as we can do, is going to help us in our fight against climate warming. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has done a lot of things to try to implement ideas to reduce the use of gasoline. Big problem in the, in the Lehigh Valley is all the trucks and cars we have burning gasoline and diesel fuel and spewing out, you know, the exhaust in the air, but I think

they're a little, they know that they can't go and say, well, we're gonna cut out gasoline, that isn't gonna work. So, they're trying to do these other things, like have you heard the Active Transportation Plan? That's a pretty nice bunch of words because what they really mean there is using your own physical strength to transport yourself, like bicycles, walking, that kind of stuff, and they're trying to get people to not use their cars so that you know, cut down. Now, before I run out, run my time here. Okay, so the region-wide Climate Action Plan is going to go on until June 2025. There's going to be a lot of meetings, something like eight meetings. It's going to be very interesting because everybody in the Lehigh Valley, in the Lehigh County and Northampton County, all the municipalities and Townships, I think there's 60 some of them.

Ms. deLeon

68 of them or something 67 .

Allan Johnson

They are all gonna be in there talking about, worrying about, you know, there are particular things about the climate. I wanted to say that, I wanted to say that I talked before about the Act 167, and I mentioned that, you know, the Saucon Creek Watershed, but guess what, there's another watershed that the Lower Saucon Township is going to be involved with, and that's, I think it's called Fries Creek in the next Township over, Wilson, but part of that watershed is also part of the Lehigh River, and that part of the watershed is the north side of the hill that the watershed, that the landfill is built on. So, I know that you're going to be interested in what goes on, you know, in that part of 167 because I don't know if you knew that or not that, that was a different, a different watershed. Remember, when it washed out the Riverside Drive a couple of times? Well, obviously, there's a lot of storm water problems there, and that is all supposed to be discussed and taken care of in this Act 167 thing. Alright the other thing I wanted to talk about is the electrical outage. I was in that outage to the one that lasted for some hours.

Ms. deLeon

I can't hear you, Allan.

Allan Johnson

The electrical outage that lasted

Ms. deLeon

The electrical outage, the PPL outage?

Allan Johnson

Yeah, the PPL electrical outage that lasted 50 some hours. That was in the wintertime. Yeah, I have a heat pump. PPL for a long time, and also the climate action people are all recommending that everybody get heat pumps because here in the Northeast, we use a lot of heating oil, and that heating oil can also be used for diesel fuel. It's much more important to use it for diesel fuel than it is to heat homes. So, they either want people to go with the natural gas or the electricity. So, out here, you know, all we have is electricity. So yeah, my heat was out and it was, I got cold. I think I'm gonna have to buy some sleeping bags because I had to, I had to dress in my, in my outdoor clothes and get in my bed to fall asleep nights. But PPL, what they're gonna say is, first of all it was a storm related thing, and sometimes the storms are so bad that they can't clean up the trees themselves fast enough, and I think that that one there, that included a lot of people outside of Wassergass, I think. There might have been some damage to some transformers or something like that. So, it took them a long time to fix that. They're doing the

best job they can. But with all the dead ash trees that resulted from the Emerald, Emerald, Emerald borer beetle, right, killed all the ash trees. Now we're suffering from all those ash trees falling down whenever there's a lot of wind, and that's gonna go on to for quite a while. I got three or four of them in the back of my house that are gonna go one of these days. So, the electrical problems are gonna get worse and worse as time goes on. There's gonna be a talk on Tuesday night, called The Mid Atlantic Reaction, The Mid Atlantic Renewable Energy Association is going to be, you can look it up. They're going to have representatives from the Pennsylvania, New Jersey interconnect on there describing the problems they are having.

Ms. deLeon

I think you're over your five minutes.

Allan Johnson

So, I would say listen to it. Electrical problems are going to be big in the future.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, well, thank you, Allan. Anyone else like to speak?

Allan Johnson

I'll be talking about all this stuff at EAC as well.

David Boulin

Yeah, we ran over, don't we, and it just goes on and on, but it's all again, back to the Chair and the way you control these meetings or don't, and you're, and Tom is not the only one. As I said, I find Victoria just absolutely runs the limit. So, it's up to all of us to do it, but you have the power to do it correctly, and I was absolutely stunned when I saw the progress between Cathy and Tom, when they have a good conversation, and that's what I'd like to see you foster. I know how it can be done, but only you can do it, and if you do it, it will make this a much better Council because what I hear going back and forth, somebody says something about this, and then somebody's, it's tit for tat, and if you pay attention and you're watching the meeting, meeting films like I do at the end, you see exactly how it goes back and forth, and it gets people aggravated, and they're gonna get out and say something else. Okay? Because they don't, there's only one person that truly listens, and she's sitting right there, and that's Cathy Gorman. The rest are doing something else. Who knows? Right there. Another one. Yep, so there we go.

Ms. deLeon

Too bad this isn't glass, you could see through it.

David Boulin

Until you give respect, you will not get it. It's really simple. I really don't have much more to say except I thought you were going to talk about PPL power outages because there was an outage over across, Bittersweet, which is down in my neck of the woods, in Lower Saucon and the person was out for three days. So that just happened.

Ms. deLeon

I included the whole township, but this one email that I got was specifically in Wassergass. So, that's why, but I'm talking about the whole Township.

David Boulin

Yep, but if I understood from him, it was in the winter, the Township was out. This was, this was last week. So, it's not just, you know, winter time.

Ms. deLeon

There's a lot of them.

David Boulin

Have that discussion and good luck. I can tell you that person said she called PPL and she got the automated artificial intelligence, and when, and she gave her name and address and this, and they said, well, what's your problem? She says, I'm out of power. What, why? And the answer was the weather. She said, I'm out of power why? The weather. That's all it said. So, you may end up with the same thing. If you can bring something to bear on, hey, God bless you. I think that's great if you can do it.

Ms. deLeon

Okay, nobody else is here for public comment unless you want to go. So, with that, is there a motion?

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Priscilla, there was just there was one thing I totally forgot to mention during my report. It's really quick. I was just hopeful. During budget season, or the next couple months, Cathy could help, hopefully with the new Manager in talking to Public Works about their punch list of things. I know their Public Works building is in need of some expansion and they don't have much space there and they do a lot of work. So, I'm just hopeful we can look at that. That's all.

Ms. Gorman

We'll be adding that to the Capital Plan.

Ms. deLeon

I talked to Cathy about that too.

Ms. Opthof-Cordaro

Oh, great, wonderful. Sorry, that's all I got.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. deLeon

Okay, is there a motion for adjournment?

MOTION BY: Ms. Opthof-Cordaro moved for adjournment. The time was 11:39 p.m.

SECOND BY: Ms. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 3-0 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – Absent)

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A.** Planning Commission: July Meeting Cancelled
- B.** Parks and Recreation Board: August 5, 2024 (Easton Road Ballfield)
- C.** Environmental Advisory Council: August 13, 2024
- D.** Council Meeting: August 21, 2024
- E.** Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: August 26, 2024 (Lower Saucon Township)
- F.** Zoning Hearing Board: August 26, 2024
- G.** Landfill Committee Meeting: October 17, 2024

Submitted by:

Cathy Gorman
Acting Township Manager

Priscilla deLeon
Council President