Borough of Jefferson Hills

Agenda Meeting of Council

January 6, 2021

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman (via zoom), Steffey, Vice President Montgomery, President Bucy and Mayor Cmar answered to roll call. Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Lt. King, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also Present.

1. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Solicitor Gabriel stated before the meeting, Council met in executive session to discuss personal matters prior to meeting.

Solicitor Gabriel also stated, in regards to two comments that were submitted, one of the resident’s comments implicated a lawsuit, which there is a confidential settlement agreement in place so I had to consult with the Borough’s insurance counsel who handled that lawsuit. She advised the resident comments should be read to protect the resident’s first amendment rights. For the record, this residents’ views do not reflect any views of Councilpersons sitting up here.

Dave Oster, 6009 Walton Road, stated Good evening, I believe that at one of your meetings last Fall, Brian Hutson made a good point that even if the Gill Hall VFC could only provide 2 firefighters on a truck, that would be much better than having no Gill Hall firefighters responding to a call.  I don’t think anyone would disagree with Mr. Hutson on this, but besides just two Gill Hall firefighters being on the truck, wouldn’t it be even better if two or more JHFR fire fighters were also on that truck?   Giving those JHFR firefighters living in the Gill Hall area access to the Gill Hall station can only provide better protection to the Gill Hall residents.  I hope you will keep joint access in mind when you recertify the Gill Hall Company and also consider these additional items.

1. Joint training - requiring each firefighter to train with members of the other company is a commonsense action to provide the best protection for our residents.  It would not be every session - maybe 2 or 3 times a year.
2. Joint access by all of our firefighters to all of the fire halls - as already mentioned, this will provide better protection for all of our residents.  Councilman Reynolds has mentioned that in the Gill Hall area, the JHFR firefighters living nearby could literally wait outside the hall to board the responding truck but that misses the big point - joint access allows whichever firefighters are first at the hall to start preparations for the response.
3. Council access to each company’s bylaws.  I believe Council has the JHFR bylaws but I do not know if Council has Gill Hall’s bylaws.  I realize that the bylaws are the sole responsibility of the respective fire companies but in reviewing the two sets of bylaws, Council could encourage the two companies to use the best features of both sets of bylaws especially the requirements for line officers.
4. Clarify Resolution 12-2009 - this resolution was obtained by Councilwomen Ielase and Steffey and provides guidelines/requirements for our fire fighters.  The tables list “requirements'' for the firefighters but the resolution is entitled “...Guidelines…” and the discussion preceding the tables discusses “guidelines”.  A key point is the necessity of Firefighter 1 certification for both new interior firefighters (Table I) and existing interior firefighters (Table II).  Is this a “requirement” that must be met or a “guideline” that is desirable but not mandatory?  I believe that the JHFR company requires Firefighter 1 certification for interior firefighters while the Gill Hall company does not believe that this added certification/training is needed.
5. In January 2020, Councilwoman Bucy requested detailed monthly reports from the JHFR Company on their responses.  I believe Council has received these requested monthly reports.  It should be obvious that the Gill Hall Company should provide the same detailed reports on a monthly basis.

I hope you will consider these items in recertifying the Gill Hall Company and if agreement can be reached, include the agreed-to items in the recertification resolution.

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road stated, First, I’d like to discuss the lawsuit by JFR against GH. As we’ve discussed countless times, this lawsuit serves no good purpose for the Borough. It’s held us back from activating GH, and it’s costing this borough a fortune. This suit is most likely going to cost us a truck that we can’t afford to replace. When GH didn’t want to merge, you decertified them and stopped funding them. So, I’d like to see a motion on this month’s meeting to either defund JHFR or decertify them until this lawsuit is dropped or settled. I know it sounds absolutely crazy to defund a much-needed fire department, but you’ve done it before. Twice. If not, then I’d like to ask the residents of JH, when you get a post card in the mail from JHFR asking for donations, throw it away. Better yet, send a donation to GH. If you get information about a fundraiser for JHFR, boycott it. It’s time they start working with GH and the residents of this borough, rather than against them. In addition, I have a question regarding this month’s meeting with the fire liaisons, GH and JHFR. Is it true, that Fire Chief Brian Chalfant made threats that unless he gets his way in these discussions, he will padlock the garage doors of his fire departments, and not let the trucks out? If I’m not mistaken, this threat was made while discussing the distribution of funds. Is this true? If so, then it’s time he removes himself from this position. This proves without a doubt that he’s no longer working to serve and protect this borough. No one should be holding the Borough’s residents and their safety hostage, over money.

Next, in light of the November meeting, I’d like to once again call for the resignation of Frank Sockman. In January 2019, he was part of the council who voted to decertify GH, because council failed to negotiate a merger. Not because GH had done anything wrong, simply because council failed to negotiate a merger. After that time, we’ve had multiple fires in the GH area, where we needed to rely on surrounding boroughs for help. One at GH elementary where students needed to be evacuated from the building, and two on Cassia Drive. One Cassia Drive fire burned for 25 minutes before a fire truck showed up. That’s unacceptable and shows how destructive to the Borough that action was. That fire may still end in a lawsuit against the Borough.

He was also the cause of a gender discrimination lawsuit against the Borough, that cost the borough between insurance funds, money directly from taxpayer dollars, and lawyer fees / court costs, close to $200,000. It also cost a woman her job. Out of respect to her, I won’t go further on that, however, I’d like to add, while I understand council agreed to a non-disclosure of that case, all of you sitting up there, I believe, know the truth of the actions of Frank Sockman. You all voted for the case to be settled. That says a lot. Many of you ran because you were tired of the corruption of council and were tired of the way women were treated. You have the ability to speak with him, voice your concerns, and pressure him to resign. If you don’t, you’re sending a destructive message to the women, and young women of this borough, that it’s ok for men to bully and push women around, with no repercussions.

Finally, at the last meeting, Frank Sockman made a motion that was not on the agenda, to decertify GH Fire Hall. Per the Sunshine Act, the public must be given notice as to the date/time/ purpose of meetings. I firmly believe Sockman (and council) violated this act, by allowing a motion that was never on the agenda. The sunshine act also gives residents the right to speak when a motion is made, as well as to ask questions. Council refused Residents that chance. Not only did Sockman’s actions violate law, which most likely will result in yet another lawsuit against the Borough, but the decertifying of GH had other repercussions that are inexcusable. As a result, a young man may have lost his scholarship to CCAC. We may lose the opportunity to have 8 new men go through Fire Fighter 1 training. Yes, there is a possibility for them to sign up under a different fire hall, but they shouldn’t have to. There was no valid reason for this motion. GH wasn’t active. The ONLY logical purpose for decertifying GH, was so you could move on to the next motion, which was distribution of funds. At which point, you were then able to distribute every penny of our relief money, to JHFR. To me, this reeks of corruption, and has made the Borough liable for yet more legal repercussions. The violation of the sunshine act can result in fines against the borough, as well as criminal charges for those who willingly violated this act. I think it’s time he steps down. If he’d like, I’d suggest you add a motion to the meeting to set up a town hall where you can let the residents speak on the matter. Otherwise, I will be here every agenda meeting and every regular monthly meeting to bring this up, until it’s addressed. I’ve also attached information on the Sunshine Act that clearly shows Sockman’s acts violated the act, as well as the potential penalties.

Mr. Sockman asked Solicitor Gabriel if the motion he made was a violation of the sunshine act. Solicitor Gabriel stated it did not. There were ample discussion from multiple meetings and residents have been given multiple opportunities to speak.

Mr. Sockman addressed Mr. Doel, I did not cost this borough $200,000 I didn’t cost the Borough anything because the alleged charges that were made against me went to the EOC Commission and they were thrown out because of the lack of evidence. The comments that I made were made in Executive session and certainly did not in any way disperse or displayed the former employee. The Borough did not pay $200,000 it paid $70,000 and in addition to that, what comes out of your mouth may come out of your wallet. I am investigating this for liable and slander.

Mr. Chalfant asked the fire liaisons that were at the meeting if he threatened the Municipality if I didn’t get my way if I was going to padlock the doors? Mrs. Bucy stated she did not. Mr. Reynolds stated he heard him say it. Mr. Chalfant stated that you heard me say is if you keep threatening us, because these guys are all volunteers and they don’t have to come. Mr. Reynolds stated you said you would put padlocks on the door and we would have to see you to gain access. No, what I said Mr. Reynolds, is if you keep threatening us and coming at us, we have that option. We did not turn our back. And I also told you, you, Mr. Reynolds are the driving force to the problems of this situation. I disproved several of your lies in the meeting that you put out into the public. We can keep it in that meeting or we can bring it back out again.

Mr. Reynolds stated you said the merger that was sold to this community for over a year and created all this, was nothing more than public safety, but you did say that if the disbursement of funds were not to your agreement you would cancel the merger and stop the merger so you could get the correct funds. That sends the message that as long as you are not getting your money you will stop the merger.

Mr. Chalfant stated if we cover 75% of the Borough we deserve 75% of the funds, but you continue to sit there and say we are going to split the money 50/50 so why would we do the merge if we can get 1/3, 1/3, 1/3? We will continue to do an operational merger but won’t sign the papers to be a complete merger.

Mr. Reynolds stated all we are trying to do is find a solution to all this. If you keep saying you will stop the merger if you don’t get your way, isn’t a solution. I just want to see us move forward.

1. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

1. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
2. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting December 9, 2020
3. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting December 14, 2020
4. Discussion to reappoint Pervaiz A. Alvi to the Planning Commission (Term ending 12/31/24)
5. Discussion to reappoint Derek Reckard to the Planning Commission (Term ending 12/31/24)
6. Discussion to reappoint Christopher Hynes to the Planning Commission (Term ending 12/31/24)
7. Discussion to reappoint Daniel Chiacchia to the Zoning Hearing Board (Term ending 12/31/25)
8. Discussion to reappoint Rhiannan Miller to the Recreation Board (Term ending 12/31/24)
9. Discussion to reappoint Katie Snodgrass to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/23)
10. Discussion to reappoint Lisa Albricht to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/23)
11. Discussion to open the position to the Library Board of Directors (Term ending 12/31/23)
12. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 01-2021 authorizing the disposition of certain public records consistent with the schedules and procedures for the disposition of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual approved on December 16, 2008
13. Discussion of joining Clairton Municipal Authority ligation with other members of upstream communities.
14. Discussion to accept addendum to MDIA fee schedule for permit reviews

 Mr. Montgomery asked what services we use MDIA for. Mr. Stinner explained it was for commercial building permit reviews.

1. Discussion to approve the repair of a 2007 International 7400 in the amount of $9,728.85

 Mr. Volpe stated the cost is $550 less to remove the taxes since we are exempt

Mrs. Ruscitto left meeting 7:25

1. Discussion to approve the purchase of a 2021 Peterbilt 4x4 dump truck complete with hydraulics, body & snow removal from Hunters Truck Sales & Service in the amount of $151,450, after trade in of truck #8 (Costars Contract 025-102 & 025-019)
2. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 02-2021 granting preliminary approval for a land development known as SP-4-2020, Southwest Greens – Century Drive
3. Discussion to approve Change Order No. 3 from Swede Construction Corporation dated December 30, 2020 for installation of a 40 Gallon hot water heater as required by the Allegheny County Health Department Plumbing Division in the amount of $1,200.00

Mr. Reynolds asked how a 40 gal hot water tank is $1,200.

Mr. Glister stated it stems from the Allegheny Health Dept. Plumbing Division. The original plan called for a 10-gallon hot water heater and during the final inspection the plumb inspector changed their mind and said they wanted a 40-gallon. There is no negotiation with them. Because the permit was through the plumber, so we are at the mercy of them. The original change older was $4,500 and that was not acceptable and negotiated down to $1,200. A lot of that cost is the re-inspection cost of $600. Swede construction is splitting that cost and we are getting the credit for the 10-gallon hot water tank.

7:20 Mrs. Ruscitto returned

1. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of $20,190.25 for work completed on the Joint Municipal SHACOG Preventative Maintenance – Year 10 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG
2. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from A. Liberoni, Inc. in the amount of $40,130.01 for work completed on the 2020 Road Program

Mr. Montgomery asked if that was for Frontier Drive. Mr. Glister confirmed. We were able to add that road and even with that road, our price is $403,000 and the awarded contract amount was $430,000, so we are still $27,000 less. This was our goal to help offset the price of the Waterman Road landslide project.

Mr. Montgomery asked if the project was done. Mr. Glister stated there are a few punch items left to work out before final payment.

Mrs. Bucy asked if that was the Waterman Road project. Mr. Glister stated that was for the paving. The Waterman Road project is under way and hopefully will be complete in the next couple of weeks.

1. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated December 29, 2020 from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for general planning assistance in 2021 in the amount not to exceed $10,000.00
2. Discussion to recertify Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company

Mrs. Ielase stated, right now, you have 5 units responding to fires on the run cards. If we open up Gill Hall their run cards only have 2. Most fire halls including Gill Hall supposed to have their new firefighters get their Fire I within 18 months. We are trying to make things fair for all three fire halls. I’m trying to do what’s right for everyone. Gill Hall just needs to turn in all their certificates. Their own bylaws say their new recruits need to get their Fire I within 18 months and they are not doing that and not sure why. Even with COVID there were classes this summer and fall. They can still be taking classes. There is no reason why they can’t be taking them. We are trying to do what’s best for the community and we are being slammed on Facebook, Neighbors, phone calls and people showing up at our houses.

Mr. Reynolds responded. We discussed that and it’s 100% false. The run cards are before they were deactivated. The run cards were not updated yet because we as a Council stopped that. You can put 100 fire halls on their list to response. It all comes down to who can get there in a timely fashion. County stated Gill Hall, Broughton and Pleasant Hills are the best fire companies to respond to the fires in the Gill Hall area.

Mayor Cmar responded, they go by the closest. Pleasant Hills and Broughton would be called first with Gill Hall not JHFR. By Mathews bus garage it would be Floreffe, Elrama and Finleyville, depends on the area of the call. It’s broken into three zones.

Mrs. Steffey stated the time stamps of the two issues we are discussing. When you and the mayor went down to Pittsburgh those run cards started but when Council decided to stop, the run cards from Chalfont was prior to when Council put a stop to everything. What is the discrepancy of the run cards?

Mr. Reynolds stated the update never got finished because we stopped it.

Mrs. Bucy stated if something is in the Gill Hall area, since Gill Hall is not reactived, JHFR, Pleasant Hills, Broughton and South Baldwin and Clairton are on the run cards.

Mr. Chalfant stated they have 3 zones. Depends on the zone. Closest companies on the fire calls get called and the second alarm out are additional companies.

Mrs. Steffey asked what the discrepancy was? Mrs. Bucy asked if the run cards on December 11th was the current situation and stated they have to be address.

Mr. Chalfant stated he is tired of Councilmen Reynolds attacking us. I never refused to put them on my run cards. This council couldn’t decide what they are doing. Unless they are permanently open I am not changing my run cards it’s too much work.

Mr. Reynolds stated you said if they get recertified, you would not be adding them to your run card and I don’t believe that anyone taking taxpayer money can say they are not adding Gill Hall to their territory.

Mr. Chalfant stated, Mr. Reynolds, you are the biggest problem between the two of us working. You continuously spew lies and attack us.

Mrs. Bucy stated, I have sat through this as well as many other people. We have spent repeated times on this. I personally only have two issues. 1. Certifications. I want you to have training. I’m very glad that people from Gill Hall are signed up for classes. I am disappointed you didn’t sign up for them before. 2. I am in complete agreement with Mr. Oster. Those doors, to every station needs to have access to every member. To deny people that provides volunteer service to this community to be stopped from entering and helping another fire hall. I understand there is a lawsuit, but it was brought to my attention that even if there wasn’t, there are grudges against other firemen. These grudges don’t have any place in our community. We should be the role models here. Those are my two issues. Confidence and access. If they can be addressed, we can get this moved forward. If you can proceed to comment in a rational manner please raise your hand.

Mr. Reynolds stated to give access to 20 members of their organization and if four of them are not granted access, how are going to give these orders to these organizations. We should entrust them to put who they choose too we shouldn’t be micromanaging them. Mr. Felix and I are in a discussion right now to have an ambulance park over there when necessary. Gill Hall is willing to work with these organizations. Mr. Montgomery stated we have to be careful what we say cause we are not running the organization so how can we tell them they have to open their doors, that’s micromanaging them.

Mr. Montgomery stated management would be hiring them giving them orders that’s managing, opening doors do not mean we are managing them.

Mrs. Steffey stated I’m assuming that we are ordering or telling them that we want access to their building. It’s not for 4 people that want access it’s for people in that area that travel that area the needs access. When all this started a year ago and I kept saying yes, there is a building there and I want to know how many people are there how many are certified and a roster I want to know who is coming to the calls and I want to know why someone isn’t coming. It’s my understanding Pleasant Hills isn’t on their run cards and I want to know why? They are close and they are mutual aid and they should be. I want to see the run cards and I want access for all volunteers for the residents of the community. I will vote no until all the certifications are met, access is granted to all buildings for all volunteers, and I want to see the run cards. Unless someone can show me something different, that’s my vote.

1. Discussion to rescind Resolution No. 5-2019, certifying JHFR as the sole fire company for Jefferson Hills Borough
2. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 27-2020 acknowledging that Jefferson Hills Borough has two certified fire companies; 1) JHFR, comprising of Jefferson 885 Volunteer Fire Co and Floreffe Volunteer Fire Co; and 2) GHVF Company as an independent volunteer fire company
3. Discussion to distribute Real Estate Fire Tax of approximately $290,000

Mr. Reynolds stated he doesn’t know how this can be discussed until we know if Gill Hall is going to be recertified.

Mrs. Bucy stated in past practice $20,000 to each fire company with the remaining money went to JFR EMS to be used for truck payments and truck expenses.

Mr. Reynolds stated he agrees with Mrs. Steffey, no one says anything until the Monday meeting. I find it hard to believe that we didn’t say anything about the CMA. Can we at least explain to the residents what the CMA is about?

Mrs. Bucy returned to #18. We met yesterday in executive session to discuss this Clairton Municipal Authority. This is where we send the sewage. We met with Mr. Rich Lattanzi, Mayor of Clairton, the three supervisors of South Park, Mr. Walt Sackinsky, Mr. Ed Snee and Mr. Brian Lucot and their Borough Manager, Ms. Karen Fosbaugh. There were other people from Clairton Municipal Authority that sits on the board that are appointed, Mr. Nick Nickolich and Mr. John Vitullo and Mr. Jim Cerqua. They presented information to us to digest. We were also given a book called the “The Proud History, Bright Future, The Value of Authority Ownership and Public Water and Sewer Systems”.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I thought I heard Mrs. Busy state we will have an executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday. This was a prompt to meeting and a lot of things that were brought to light. I was confused why CMA was here. And found it unproductive having them here. The other communities had nothing to say since they were sitting there.

Mr. Reynolds stated, the residents need to know what this lawsuit is about.

Mr. Montgomery stated the municipal authority was founded in 1950 to treat Clairton sewage only. As the residential development grew, there was sewage that needed to be treated up the Peters Creek valley. In 1977 we wanted to build our own sewage plant under the Ravensburg Bridge, but the EPA said no we want you to be part of Clairton’s plant. Same thing with Peters Creek, South Park and Union Twp. along with a few others. City wants to take over the authority and filed suit to do that. They said they wanted to operate the plant for a while and then maybe sell it. That’s why Petersan entered the lawsuit because they are concerned about the long-term effect of privatization puts us in higher rates. My goal would be have been for the City to act and put representatives from the up stream communities on the board and help manage it, since we have approximately $30,000,000.00 invested in that plant now and probably will have more. It’s a concern that I have that the rates will be higher then they need to be in 6-10 years.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, back to the meeting, I don’t know who orchestrated meeting but I don’t understand why Municipalities had multiple representatives and Clairton only had one person there to speak. We didn’t even know who was invited or who was going to be there. Mr. Nickolich was here and the two other gentlemen that came to the meeting with him were offended they were not invited to the meeting.

Mrs. Steffey stated they said Mr. Nickolich invited them to the meeting after he was told about it.

Mr. Montgomery stated he asked Mr. Nickolich because he has been very supportive to us with the taps and he said he was coming by himself.

Mrs. Ruscitto I’m not sure how Mr. Nickolich felt. No one felt comfortable saying anything. I do recall Mayor Lattanzi stated several times it’s the last resort for them to sell. If they do decide to sell to PA Water Company or anyone else, there are protocols that they have to follow as far a rate hikes. They are very competitive. They have to go to DEP to ask permission to raise rights. Right now there are no protocols for CMA. They don’t have to answer to anyone and can raise the rates $10 tomorrow.

Mr. Reynolds stated he thinks the residents should know the background of CMA. They have put fracking water and raw sewage into the Monongahela River. I don’t believe in their morals and their activity they have already done. I can’t support someone that does that.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we fight pollution every day in Jefferson Hills from surrounding mills and industry in the area. We had people received payments to handle fracking water and that’s the way they handle it? I’m very concerned about the environment. I don’t think it’s necessary to join if we don’t have too.

Mrs. Bucy stated, the rule of Jefferson Hills Council is to make a decision. We have three options. Join lawsuit by Peter San to force CMA to regulate. People on the board are all appointed by City of Clairton and want additional representation of all up stream communities. Second option is we sit and wait and see what happens. The third option is we join with the City of Clairton.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated she doesn’t think we were ever proposed the third is an option to join the City of Clairton. She thought it was to either join the suit or sit back and see what happens.

Mrs. Bucy stated, due to the fact that our solicitor, Deron Gabriel, is also the solicitor for City of Clairton we are having Kerry Fraas handle the case for us regarding CMA and provide options that are available to us.

1. Reports

Fire Chief:

Mr. Chalfant stated the yearend report for 2020 should have been received. We responded 363 calls for service. One of the good things about COVID is it slowed us down a bit on calls and that’s a good thing. Despite the heighten of COVID, we managed to document 1,569 man hours of training.

Mrs. Bucy stated she wanted it to be known in this whole Jefferson Hills area shift crews are at 885 so vehicle are out as fast as we can. How long does it take to get the vehicles started and out the door.

Mr. Chalfant stated because of the various apps there are times we are on the road two min or less. Sometimes we are out non-emergency prior to be dispatching. Minimum of two people at all times for safety.

Mrs. Bucy stated it’s taxing for all fire depts. What you can’t take away is the volunteers that serve. We need more and we value our volunteers. They are needed and are backbone of the communities fire protection service. Thank you for having them certified and keeping their certification’s up.

Mr. Felix update Council that Gill Hall is ready to respond anytime and we are still training even though we are not activated. We are having CPR, First Aid and AED training tomorrow night at our station.

EMS:

Not present

Engineer Glister:

Nothing further to report

Consulting Engineer:

Nothing further to report

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Nothing further to report

Mrs. Bucy stated a list of bills is in packet. Also the budget has been completed and thanked the committee for all their hard work.

Public Works Director:

Nothing further to report

Mrs. Bucy stated she received many phones calls about snow removal. I think it was a well worth investment and we got $35,000 from the County for our crews to do the County roads. People feel safer and people really value the job that your crews are doing.

Mr. Stinner informed me you had your garage evaluated and it was told to our risk management co it was one of the two best shops they have ever been too and well maintained.

Lt. King, Commander in Charge:

You will have my report on Friday for 2020 year end stats and as well as December stats

Mrs. Bucy stated we will be submitting statewide chief of police search and are hoping to select a candidate through them.

Mr. Stinner stated we will be advertising for Chief of Police position through PA Chief of Police Association commencing tomorrow or the next day.

Mayor Cmar:

Even though this was a presidential year and turn out has been heavy, voting districts need to be reconstructed. Jefferson Hills has 8 districts averaging 1,097 voters. Our adjacent neighbors Clairton have 4,370 voters in 12 districts. There needs to be a way to accommodate elderly and disabled voters. I was told two years ago that changes couldn’t be made until the 2020 census was completed. I’m compiling a letter to the election depart to address our issues. Mrs. Bucy is helping me with this.

Borough Manager:

Nothing further to report

Solicitor:

Noted for the record the litigation involving CMA and City of Clairton is presented by Obermayer Law Firm.

1. General Business

Mr. Montgomery stated:

I agree with what the Mayor said about voting districts. He suggests getting the election board involved. In the early 80’s there was realignments. It is more effective if we have a plan in place to present them with it.

Mrs. Bucy spoke with mayor about the realignment and it is needed. She is going to ask Ms. Duda to establish something on Facebook so we can have specifics to get this done. Residents wishing to provide positive suggestions on how to improve this or make a claim to please give their input. March 15th we will have a pubic meeting in the Community room at 7:00 p.m. and form committees to get this fixed.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

The Recreation Board is working on new events and happenings in the community. We just posted on the Jefferson Hills Recreational Initiative page of what’s coming up. On February 13th and 14th, collections of used sports equipment and will have a resale day on April 10th. It’s also on the Borough website and my website as well

Mrs. Ielase stated, the library is open during COVID pick up only and residents can call or order online Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The program for resident’s taxes will start January 18th and you can call to set up your appointment.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I want to thank Mr. Volpe for managing a group of grown men and women to do such a great job. Things work well down there and that says a lot about you.

Mrs. Ruscitto also thanked Lt king thank you for work ethics. She asked if the speed awareness sign could be placed on Chamberlin Road.

Lt. King stated:

As far as the sign goes it was just repaired. We typically limit how much we a ploy it in the winter because the batteries don’t last. We have placed it there many times I can give you the data pulled from the signs and we will work for enforcement down there.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated whenever the weather is accommodating is fine and appreciates the efforts there.

Mr. Reynolds stated:

I want to ask Mr. Chalfant, you brought up when we were speaking that I attack you on multiple occasion. Could you gather up the statements and sit down with me to discuss them with me?

I am grateful over the Christmas holiday to have received a gift card in the mail. I talked to them and thanked them but feel it’s not appropriate. We should not accept it and will be giving to Gill Hall Fire Company to help assist in their organization.

Mr. Sockman stated:

I wanted to call attention to two items 20 & 21, No. 20, that truck is 13 years old and spent almost $10,000 on it and that is why it’s imperative for No. 21, that we update the trucks.

Thanked Mr. Volpe and his crew for their long hours Christmas Eve and day giving up their holidays. Taking over the county roads helped the residents. County would never been able to keep up the roads the way our guys did.

I hope you don’t have to do a zoom meeting at home view tape give you the idea how people treat each other inappropriately. I hope we will be a more positive Council and have a better understanding of everyone.

Mayor Cmar stated:

She also received a gift card and wants to donate it to Gill Hall also.

Mrs. Steffey stated if that is what this card is, I’m taking it either and will return it.

Mrs. Busy stated we recollected them and are giving them back.

Mr. Montgomery stated he returned his immediately also.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated she feels slighted she did not receive a gift card for the record.

Mrs. Bucy thank you for coming and for you patience and cooperation. I would like to see Jefferson Hills as a place that moves forward in every aspect in 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy at 8:51 p.m. adjourned the meeting on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Ielase and carried unanimously.

Executive Session:*Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation (Jefferson Estates Homeowners Association v. Zokaites Properties et al., Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Docket No. GD-17-011526; Peters Creek Sanitary Authority, et al. v. Clairton Municipal Authority, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, GD-17-017711; AUUE, Inc. v. Borough of Jefferson Hills Zoning Hearing Board, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Appeal No. 871CD 2020, SA-19-000748;* *PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland.*

John P. Stinner

Secretary/Borough Manager