

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Agenda Meeting of Council  
June 9, 2021

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery, and President Bucy answered to roll call. Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Lt. King, Borough Engineer Glistler, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also Present. Mayor Cmar was not present.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions .
5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items.
6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills.
7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll.
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting May 5, 2021.
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting May 10, 2021.
10. Discussion to approve minutes of special meeting May 24, 2021.
11. Discussion to approve minutes of special meeting June 1, 2021.
12. Discussion to appoint Mr. Ronald Dziezgowski as Police Chief for the Borough of Jefferson Hills.
13. Discussion to appoint Mark D'Angelo to join the Planning Commission Steering Committee.
14. Discussion to approve Borough of Jefferson Hills Council Code of Conduct Policy.

Mr. Reynolds inquired where this came from and who had input into this.

Mrs. Bucy stated we asked the Borough Manager to put this together and there have been several rough drafts that have been sent out at various times.

Mr. Reynolds asked if we utilized the personal committee for it.

Mrs. Bucy asked what would be the reasoning for that, we all looked at it?

Mr. Reynolds asked who is going to police this?

Mr. Stinner stated Council will.

Mr. Reynolds stated, so we are going to be policing ourselves?

Solicitor Gabriel stated the one legal concern that I raised was enforceability of some of the provisions that are contained therein. Primarily, what it is going to do is, it will allow Council to do a review. If there is any wrongdoing or anything found in violation of the Code of Conduct, that would need to be referred to PA Ethics Commission. There is no provision in there where Council will be removing members of Council that are independently elected because that would be contrary to the law.

Mr. Reynolds stated he wanted to make sure that there will be an appeal process. So, I guess the appeal process will go to the Commonwealth? Solicitor Gabriel replied, yes, it will go to the higher authority.

Mrs. Steffey asked if after we vote on this next week, we will all sign a copy, correct?

Solicitor Gabriel stated yes, there is a mechanism for each Council member to review it and sign it.

Mr. Reynolds asked and if we do not sign it?

Solicitor Gabriel stated if majority signs it, it becomes the Code of Conduct policy. Obviously, it will be followed unless the majority disapproves that policy.

Mr. Reynolds stated, so if I disagree with some of the items that get voted in, I do not have to sign it?

Solicitor Gabriel stated obviously the Council cannot force a member to sign it. You have to make a decision based on your review of it. The agenda meeting is the time to discuss any particular provisions that needs to be discussed.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, regardless to what happens, any one of us that sits up here are subject to the Code of Ethics through the state, am I correct? Solicitor Gabriel stated that is correct. To have a document for us is fine, but essentially it goes to the state anyway and it applies to every single Councilperson, Commissioner, and every single appointed person in Boroughs around the state of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reynolds stated so what your saying is this document is worthless?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, I do not mean worthless, we cannot police ourselves. Let us say we have a school with three Principals, the one Principal is in charge of all the principals. We are all voted in, and we have a say so. We are expected to follow a certain guideline as far as ethics are concerned. Any one of us at any point in time can file a report with the state if we feel a behavior is improper or something has been done that violates Robert's Rules, etc.

Solicitor stated the primary thing with the Code of Conduct in my review is it can affect committee assignments and certain self-policing benefits for being on Council.

Mrs. Steffey added it is a safety net for Council members to maintain a decent conduct during a meeting. If you are not going to familiarize yourself with what you can and cannot do

during meetings when it comes to Robert's Rules or violating Ethics or pertaining to the Ethics Commission, then this is kind of your small version of it. I think we should all be familiar with it.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, you said it pertains to committees, could you explain that to me?

Solicitor Gabriel stated if there are violations, it could affect one's ability to sit on certain committees.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated so if the majority should decide that they do not particularly care for me, then they can pull me off of Planning Commission for example?

Solicitor Gabriel stated it is not supposed to be a situation where it is a political thing. It is specific on certain behaviors and standards, not designed to allow for any type of witch hunt or political considerations to be the driving force for it.

Mr. Reynolds stated I looked at it and I think it breeds that, in my opinion.

Mrs. Bucy stated we do have a Standard of Operating Procedures for the Boards and Commissions, and everyone follows that. Unless you can cite a specific passage that you want to have eliminated, this has been redone at least three or four times.

Mr. Reynolds stated I did not agree with the first Code of Conduct policy that we put in place. Case in point, who is overseeing the policing of it? We had an incident up at Beedle Park on the Monday before election day where one of the coaches threw a ball and assaulted one of the residents. Have we done anything about it yet? No, and the Police were called to the scene on that. I see that it breeds the double standard and I have said that from day one. In that case there, it was definitely a violation of the Code of Ethics, and we haven't done anything. We talked about reviewing some of the different organizations where we would have the ability to take a look at TJ Youth Baseball, but was anything done along those lines there? No, it is not. It is giving us an opportunity where the majority can have more authority and I look at it as a way to silence some people and create a double standard.

Mr. Stinner stated the Code of Conduct policy has been resent to the leagues and asked them to sign and Rec Board will be evaluating the response as it comes in.

Mrs. Steffey asked about the incident with the ball. I am not sure how that could fall under the Code of Conduct if the Police were not able to enforce anything?

Mr. Reynolds stated when a coach throws a ball at a resident, I think that should be something that should be reviewed as pulling their permit 100 percent.

Mrs. Steffey stated, none of us were there, will it be brought up at the Rec Board? Should the Police be at the Rec meeting? It is definitely something that should fall under the Code of Conduct in my opinion, I agree.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked Lt. King if that did happen.

Lt. King stated he would have to review the incident; I do not have it in front of me.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated if a Police report was filed then the Police should be there to discuss it.

Mrs. Steffey stated, she agrees, but nothing can be done about it if it is not enforced or taken to the next step.

Lt. King stated any Police action is going to be independent of anything that you are speaking of now. I do not see a Police Officer testifying per say at a hearing regarding a Code of Conduct policy.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated it is not a hearing, but the Rec Board did adopt a Code of Conduct as did Council and if it did happen, then the Rec Board should look into that to see.

Mrs. Steffey stated she agreed, but if the Rec Board does not have any knowledge of that, then it is kind of hard for them to do.

15. Discussion to approve Resolution 22-2021 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.
16. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 23-2021 approving participation in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD).
17. Discussion to amend 2021 Borough of Jefferson Hills Fee Resolution with updated recreation rental information.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated she saw it but needs some clarification. So, we are going to be charging people to use the facilities is that correct?

Mrs. Steffey stated what it comes down to was anyone coming in here to run a clinic in order to be paid and they are making money they will have to rent the facility.

18. Discussion to approve the purchase of an ice machine for Beedle Park concession stand from Allegheny Refrigeration in the amount of \$3,273.00.

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Drager if he printed the items they discussed at Sam's Club. I discussed this with Mr. Drager a little earlier, this is a commercial grade ice machine for Beedle Park. We really just need some ice in case there are any type of injury like a twisted ankle, pulled muscle, bee sting, stuff along that line. This is more than what we need. We walked through Sam's Club with Mr. Drager and showed him a couple of options that they have that would certainly give us more of what we are looking for but at the tune of \$1,600.00 instead of the \$3,200.00. At that point, I think what we should do to properly equip the concession stand is purchase it from Sam's Club for \$1,600.00 and then purchase a grill so if soccer has 200 kids running around there, someone from the soccer program can throw some hotdogs on the grill and feed the kids. We would come in under the number and give us everything we need.

Mr. Stinner asked if this option would work as well? There were some health concerns regarding melting down ice at the end of the weekend with refrigeration systems, keeping ice cool,

and bacteria building up in the lines etc. Could we do a trunk like a cabinet or chest cooler full of bags of ice?

Mr. Reynolds stated it is a commercial grade ice machine, not something like PNC park would use. It is just a unit that can make ice and keep it frozen. That way you are not worried about any bacteria build up because it stays in the unit frozen.

Mrs. Bucy asked if it has to be kept in a temperature-controlled building because that building is going to get hot.

Mr. Reynolds stated no, because the unit controls the temperature inside of itself, and it stays cold. It is no different than saying an ice machine in a restaurant in a hot kitchen.

Mr. Stinner stated you have to melt the ice down every day.

Mrs. Steffey stated she has plenty of bar and restaurant experience so I can speak to the multiple times we had to have maintenance come in and melt the ice and clean the lines because it is attached to a water line which just like a soda machine has to be cleaned out and maintenance for bacteria build up in the lines. Unless you have somebody that is going to take responsibility after every game every weekend to burn down all of that ice and completely wipe it out and dry it out, it will contain bacteria and mold. I can also attest that the ice machines were never in the kitchen area where it is 90 degrees. That concession stand is not temperature control to keep it cool so you will be burning a lot of energy. I am not opposed to ice either, but I do not think this is a healthy way to go. If we are talking about twisted ankles or bruises there are cold packs, you can buy and snap. If we are talking about ice for drinks, then I am in favor of a chest. Running a water line for this is not sanitary. Especially if you are not going to have someone that is going to take responsibility for it.

Mr. Montgomery asked if the Allegheny County Health Dept has any requirements for this.

Mrs. Steffey stated that I know, but when we were discussing food, the food had to be prepackaged food and that was it. I am not opposed to soccer teams or any other teams up there that want to grill out up there, but I don't think the Borough should be involved in it or purchase the grill because the County did state we are not allowed to cook food in that concession stand.

Mr. Reynolds stated I was talking about a gas grill that would be stored on the storage side and taken outside to use. So, it would not be cooking inside.

Mrs. Steffey stated but it would still be purchased with taxpayer dollars and that would go back to the Borough being involved.

Mr. Sockman made a recommendation that we remove 18 from the agenda.

Mr. Reynolds stated he disagreed and should leave that on there. There are health issues that you need that ice up there when you have a lot of kids running around. I really believe we should have ice up there and as soon as possible.

Mrs. Steffey stated none of the other fields have ice machines. They have cold packs stored there.

Mr. Sockman stated they could always bring bags of ice each time.

Mrs. Bucy stated she would like to see how much an ice chest would be.

Mrs. Steffey stated there is a deep freeze at 885 Park.

Mr. Drager stated there are a bunch anywhere from \$1,200.00 to \$1,800.00 that are similar but smaller. The one on the agenda has a deoxidizer that flows through the tube and cleans it and that would have to be refilled periodically. It is very comparable of all the ice machines.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated so, all the drinks going to be served are going to be in a cooler, correct? It is not like in a restaurant where you are going to be taking scoops of that ice and putting it in someone's drink, it is mainly for injuries. Maybe put signage that this ice machine is intended for cooling down of objects and not for refreshments?

Mr. Montgomery stated it depends on the County Health Department's regulations on this. They are pretty strict on this.

Mr. Glister stated he will have to get the answers to that. All along the plan for the concession stand was for prepackaged food. We have our final inspection on Tuesday of next week based on the setup we have now. I will try to get information from them prior to Monday's meeting. I am sure there are regulations on how often you would have to maintain the machine and it would have to be commercial grade as the refrigerator had to be. The contact that I have been working with is on vacation this week, so I was not able to follow up with him on that.

Mrs. Steffey asked Mr. Glister to check to see if we go with an ice machine, does that give the County free range to come in and inspect that at any time. I know kitchen wise in a restaurant, they can pop in at any moment and inspect that.

Mr. Glister stated he will get additional information on how they would regulate an ice machine.

Mrs. Bucy asked Mr. Drager to also get some prices on some ice chests as well.

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Volpe what they had down in the Borough garage for their coolers.

Mr. Volpe stated they had a little ice machine. The problem is, it is in the garage and on hot and humid days the garage isn't air conditioned and it's hard to keep the ice. We have to clean it out and flush it every week. It was a cheap Sam's Club \$300.00 ice machine. We tried to insulate it, but it just melts.

Mr. Reynolds stated we do not have Board of Health coming to the garage inspecting our ice machine, so I think we are over thinking this.

19. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 24-2021 granting approval of a Land Development Application Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the land development plan known as SP-1-2021, Southwest Greens of PA.

20. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from SHACOG for Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$32,822.50 for work completed on the CD 46 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 2 Project.
21. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 from SHACOG for Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC in the amount of \$28,690.00 for work completed on the CD 46 Jefferson Hills Demolition Project.
22. Discussion to approve Invoice #INV3440 from DuraEdge Tools & Equipment, LLC in the amount of \$2,710.00 for the infield improvement work completed at Tepe Park.
23. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated June 2, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for general 2021 GIS assistance in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.
24. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated June 3, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough with construction administration and inspection services for the 2021 Paving Program in the amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.
25. Discussion to approve execution of a permanent sanitary sewer easement agreement for the Chapel Ridge Bypass project between the Villas at Jefferson Pointe Condominium Association in favor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills for the consideration of \$1.00.
26. Discussion to approve execution of a permanent easement agreement for the Waterman Road East soil nail retaining wall between the property owner at Lot and Block 1005-K-300 in favor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills for the consideration of \$1.00.
27. Discussion to release 2020 Property Tax to Jefferson Fire Rescue for truck purchases and repairs in the amount of approximately \$145,000.00.

Mr. Reynolds asked out of the 145,000.00, have we received any type of bids for the new fire truck? Any formalized proposal of what we are paying for, what they are getting?

Mr. Sockman stated we never asked for one.

Mr. Reynolds stated, I'm asking for one, do I need to do a right to know?

Chief Chalfant stated JFR/EMS took a vote and we purchased the truck along with 885 and the members of Jefferson Fire Rescue. We all approved the purchase of the truck, and the contract is signed, and the truck is a Co-Star truck, so I do not understand what the problem is.

Mr. Reynolds stated, I do not understand what the problem is with you turning a spec sheet over to us to see what the tax dollars are going to purchase.

Chief Chalfant stated I had it here the night we approved it, and everyone reviewed it.

Mr. Reynolds stated I had no knowledge it was there to review.

Mrs. Bucy asked Chief Chalfant if he could get a copy for us?

Mr. Chalfant stated he would get a copy for them.

Mrs. Bucy asked if we could get a copy made before Monday? This process for getting the truck was not overnight can you explain the process on how this went?

Chief Chalfant stated over a course of about eight months we met with various vendors and discussed various aspects, styles, and models of the truck. We worked with three different manufacturers that gave us bid books and costs. We had a meeting, we discussed it, we picked the truck we wanted. It is a Co-Star bid and that is what we went with.

Mrs. Bucy stated, to my knowledge the EMS and all fire depts were involved including Gill Hall Correct?

Chief Chalfant replied, correct.

28. Discussion to create/finance a full-time two-person shift crew for JHFR Floreffe station

Mrs. Bucy stated as a fire liaison we had asked to explore numerous properties with Mr. Glistler and anyone else with the Engineering. It has come to our attention that the owner of the Matthews bus garage is planning on demolishing that territory out there with all the bus garages, not only the tin ones, but also the block buildings. The developer stated he was delayed due to COVID and was having a hard time getting people to work on that. Repeatedly I have heard from numerous Council members that they would like to have better fire protection. I would like to note that when there was a fire at the Pleasant Hills P-Bar, the first truck on scene were JHFR even though around the corner was Pleasant Hills. The reason for that is because we have a shift crew. We pay \$12.00 an hour for that shift crew. They are able to get out that door and get there. I have always been a proponent to people on the fire department have their turnout gear in their car. As long as we get the truck to the site, they could meet them there. That was proven to be true in that one incident because it was on the weekend and 4:00 a.m. If we need to have better fire department, I do not have and neither does anyone else in this Borough, have one closer to Gill Hall at this time because we are still in a legal situation with Gill Hall and the doors are not open. As a result of that, the closest one to them is JHFR Floreffe station. \$12.00 an hour to have better fire protection in Jefferson Hills is something I feel is a worthwhile expenditure. I happened to be at McDonalds the other day and they were having a \$16.50 an hour hiring event with a \$300.00 bonus. The people at McDonalds do not have to have a firefighter one certificate with over 200 hours and multiple tests. I wanted to put this on the agenda because I feel if we are interested in improving the fire protection in Jefferson Hills, this is a possible avenue to do that. There is a hearing on July 8, 2021, with Judge McCay about the truck that is at Gill Hall and maybe at that point in time that would be ended.

Mr. Reynolds stated outside of the original questions that I have; I don't understand where the court case over that truck really has anything to do with Gill Hall opening or not. It is just a matter of who is going to get the truck and who's going to get the proceeds when it eventually gets sold.

Mr. Bucy stated, you repeatedly said to me that they are not able to let anybody into that fire station while they are still in a court case.

Mr. Reynolds stated they are not going to allow somebody into that building if this truck has to get liquidated by a Judge and gets taken off of them, a place that they spent over \$100,000.00 building a garage to house that. If that truck gets taken away from them, liquidated and the assets split, I do not know if at that point and time that is going to do anything to build a relationship to sit here and say you had the truck taken off of us and sold, yea come on in and play with the rest of our equipment. I think it would be foolish if we thought that was actually going to happen. I think it is a little misleading to say that.

Mrs. Bucy stated I am about fire protection here.

Mr. Reynolds stated that truck getting sold, the only thing I foresee happening out of this is the truck getting sold and the money getting divided in between the two entities and the only thing that truly is going to happen is for Jefferson Hills and the residents is that we just lost a truck that was 100% usable, but that is a different discussion, that is a different day. In terms of this shift crew here, while we have the fire hall here, Chief Withers, has there been a dramatic decline in your membership down there that is forcing this?

Chief Withers stated it is just a benefit to this community.

Mr. Reynolds stated for two years you have come up here and stated how much of an asset this operational merger was to your department. Mr. Sockman even stated how you pulled yourselves up by your bootstraps and so forth. I have listened to you stand up at the podium stated you felt that you have gained an extra 50-60 firefighters at times. So, if you have gained an extra 50-60 firefighters; for the residents, this is going to cost you close to \$250,000.00 to put these two people down at Floreffe; why all of a sudden do we need to spend an extra quarter of a million dollars whenever you gained that many volunteers?

Chief Withers stated its just to get the trucks out the door faster.

Mr. Reynolds stated 50-60 firefights cannot get the truck out the door?

Chief Withers stated we are all volunteers, no one is sitting at the station waiting for calls.

Mr. Reynolds stated I go around and see Blaine Hill and Gill Hall Volunteer, since we will not let them go out the door, sit over there and man that station over there and protect Elizabeth now and they do that as a true volunteer, not paying additional money. So there has not been a decline?

Chief Withers stated this is just to get our truck further into the Borough and provide a service to our community.

Mr. Reynolds stated my issue with this is; and again, I'm a Floreffe resident and if there's one person that this has the most effect on that's on this Council, it's myself; I truly want to say I find it's hard to believe we are going to put an additional \$250,000.00 into the Floreffe area and we are going to take the taxpayers money from Gill Hall and we are going to spend it in another area. This does not do anything to help the Gill Hall residents that have been denied adequate fire protection and is still going to be denied adequate fire protection. This puts individuals in a truck,

but this does not get the truck any closer to them and not going to help them long term for any fire protection.

Mrs. Steffey stated as a member of the finance committee, I would like to just say that this is not taking just the taxpayers from Gill Hall's money and that is what you just said.

Mr. Drager stated there was roughly \$100,000.00 that was allotted for parks this year and we are currently about \$55,000.00 out of the \$350,000.00 in that account. Other than a few smaller expenditures this year, there will be plenty out of that account to float for the shift crew this year.

Mr. Reynolds stated you are saying there is money left over. We talked about putting a hockey rink in at Lobb's Park to fix up the Lobb's park, nothing has been done there. We talked about redoing the tennis courts in 885 has that been done.

Mrs. Steffey stated that has already been budgeted for this year. So, at this point Councilman Reynolds are you saying that hockey courts are more important than fire safety? I think that when there is money that can be found and has been found and allocated from other accounts that we feel is not going to be applied or need be in direr to be applied to something this year and we can utilize it, especially for safety of our residents, then that definitely has my vote.

Mr. Reynolds stated we still have not allocated any money to protect the residents of Gill Hall. We have not solved the problem.

Mrs. Steffey stated I disagree, I think that just because one in particular fire station is not open does not mean that we haven't developed any safety for the Gill Hall residents.

Mr. Reynolds stated, if we want to go through and look at individual fire calls, you can look at the fire call that happened right across the street from Gill Hall fire hall, Broughton was there first and Pleasant Hills was there second and that is a recurring theme in the Gill Hall corridor on these fires. You cannot get a truck from 885 fast enough and you cannot get a truck from Floreffé. This is a dead horse that has been beat. Nothing has changed, we are spending money in other areas. There has been no money spent to protect these residents in the Gill Hall area. This has been going on over a couple of years. We talked about the bus garage and that garage is not there. We are nowhere near having any solutions for the Gill Hall residents, and I think it is a shame that we would spend money to address another area and still continue to disregard the Gill Hall residents. If I were a Gill Hall resident, I would take offense to this. Mr. Drager, in terms of money, if I'm a resident out there and I'm listening to this, Council has been writing a lot of checks, whether it's taking on additional funding for the CMA, we know we have to renegotiate the Public Works contract, that's up, we have to renegotiate the Police contract, that's up, we are going to turn around and add a quarter of a millions dollars here, we are talking about other areas that need funding for the fire hall.

Mr. Stinner stated that has all been budgeted already.

Mrs. Bucy stated, I think the point was, there were certain things that were already budgeted. My point was we wanted to have an improvement and the shift crew down at Floreffé provides that on this side of the Borough. That was closer. Obviously, I would like to see Gill

Hall be part of the mix, but they indicated in May to the Judge that they were interested in possibly merging. That has not come to fruition, I have to deal with what's in front of us.

Mr. Sockman stated, we are talking \$225,000.00 and it is actually half of that, since the year is half over and who knows what's going to happen between now and the end of year. This could be a short term between now and December and then we can make a decision of what you want to do. Let us see what happens with Gill Hall, do they merge or do they not merge. Mr. Reynolds keeps saying they don't have protection; well Gill Hall does have protection if their fire station would get off their you know what's and get with the program. We have said this for how many years. I have said this when Calvin Felix sat here, tell us what the problem is, they never said a word. Every time it comes up, they change it and it is always something new that comes up. Until it is finalized, this is a short-term solution for more protection for the Borough.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated may I suggest then, to go along with what Councilman Sockman said and make it interim.

Mr. Reynolds stated again, I have never heard Gill Hall say they were going to take part in the merger. They have always had issues with closing their charter, turning over assets and I think it is a bad representation that we sit here and tell the residents it is 100% Gill Hall's fault. Gill Hall does not want to give up their organization or their fire hall. I have always stood behind them on that because I do not believe we have the right to take that away. Is it not true the state still views them as a fire hall?

Solicitor Gabriel stated they still have the state charter.

Mr. Reynolds stated, so they are still a fire hall, we just choose not to let them go out the door. That leads into another question, did we pull them off our insurance?

Mr. Stinner stated yes. The truck is insured, however there are no drivers authorized to drive it at this time.

Mr. Reynolds stated, I thought that we were not supposed to pull insurance away from a state recognized fire department?

Mr. Stinner asked in what capacity?

Mr. Reynolds stated in the capacity that we were not supposed to eliminate their insurance because they are a state recognized fire department and we were to supply that for them.

Solicitor Gabriel stated they were provided an opportunity to procure their own insurance, but I do not know if they did so or not. There was consideration as to how much time they had, and I think Council voted to give them additional time to obtain their insurance. I believe it was determined it was not all that costly to do so. Currently with their situation now, they are not an active fire hall on the run cards, so the decision was made by Council due to liability concerns that they are not covered on our insurance.

Mr. Reynolds stated, one last time, Chief Withers, your membership has not declined, you still have 50-60 fire fighters, correct? Chief Withers stated that is correct. Those 50-60 fire fighters

cannot handle the calls, is that what you are saying? Chief Withers stated, they do not sit at the fire station.

Mrs. Bucy asked Solicitor Gabriel, when Judge McCay wanted to have the hearing, did he not say that he felt there were global issues that needed to be addressed and he wanted an opportunity for the fire halls to address those issues?

Solicitor Gabriel replied, correct, when Judge McCay held a status conference on what he called larger global issues and he was hoping in the bigger picture that some resolution could be made between the fire companies within Jefferson Hills Borough. He held multiple status conferences, but the one you are referring to in May, it was discussed that Gill Hall, through their legal counsel, they would review the by-laws and come back and identify areas of the by-laws that they disagreed with and what they felt might need modified in order for that to become acceptable to their board. They came back at the next status conference and said they were unable to form a consensus as to which particular areas of the by-laws that they had issues with and therefore there were no further discussions at that point. They told the Judge that Chief Calvin Felix would like to explore resolutions, however, his memberships could not reach a consensus to move forward in any shape or form. The judge said they would schedule this matter for a non-jury trial on July 8, 2021, and asked the parties to consider having no appeal rights to have some finality to it. The replevin claim that was initially presented was withdrawn. They are not trying to take their truck back at this point in time. It is my understanding there is obviously a claim for money damages pending.

Mrs. Bucy stated and that was the reason why, at that point in time, that we knew that the Judge had intervened, it was not successful, so we were looking for another option and the bus garages were going to be torn down. There's still property out there that can be successfully acquired if that is a possibility. This was in interim solution. I thought you wanted to have better fire protection in Jefferson Hills. I thought that was the whole goal of fire protection.

Mr. Reynolds stated this shift crew does not get a fire truck any closer to the residents out at Hunter's Field and along Gill Hall. Nobody can represent that it does.

Mrs. Bucy stated, well, it is out the door at least and it is on this side of Rt. 51.

## 29. Reports

Fire Chief:

Chief Chalfant stated Madam President, I just wanted to clarify one thing that you said earlier. JHFR was not the first truck on the scene at the P-Bar fire. Pleasant Hills was the first truck there, we pulled in shortly after them and we worked hand in hand with them. I just wanted to clarify that to our residents and theirs that their fire department was the first one there.

Mrs. Bucy stated, my apologies to Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Department then, I thought you were actually there first because you had a shift crew.

Mr. Sockman asked Chief Chalfant how close behind them did your guys pull in?

Chief Chalfant stated, I honestly could not tell you because that call came in as an automatic fire alarm and it was upgraded. When it was upgraded to a commercial structure fire was when we got notified. I can only give you a true answer if we were dispatched at the same time. But it was within minutes.

Mr. Sockman stated it is amazing that you made it from your station to there in that short of time.

Chief Chalfant stated at 4:00 o'clock in the morning, there is not much traffic.

Mrs. Bucy stated I would like you to introduce your truck outside please.

Chief Chalfant stated the truck that we purchased from Whitehall is in service and up and running. Council President Bucy has asked us to bring it up several times. It is out there if anyone would like to take a look at it and see what we purchased and what it can do for the Borough.

Mrs. Bucy asked if he would tell the Borough what it costs for that?

Chief Chalfant stated it was \$35,000.00.

EMS:

Not present

Engineer Glistler:

Mr. Glistler stated I have a couple additional items tonight. The first one is in regard to the Mon Fayette Expressway Extension Project. Everyone is familiar with the PA Turnpike Commission moving forward with that project for some time. Part of the stage in the design they are getting to be, they are getting ready to submit their NPDES permit application for their erosion & sedimentation control of stormwater. Part of the application requires a storm water consistency and flood plain consistency letter from the Municipalities that the permits are situated in. This permit is not going to be just the Borough of Jefferson Hills, it is going to be West Mifflin, Duquesne and so forth, as the expressway continues from where it terminates right now. This is pretty standard with our land developments and our major subdivisions that come through the Planning Commission and Council. We do issue these letters, but we have already had Gateway complete their review of this as part of the land development or major subdivision applications process, so they have already reviewed the stormwater and are familiar with it, so it is not a big deal. But the turnpike is asking for us to review the section of the proposed expressway that falls within Jefferson Hills and issue a stormwater and flood plain consistency letter and they are offering to cover any fees accrued by the review process through Gateway since there are not escrow fees established under a land development or major subdivision application. If there are no objections, we will get this added to the agenda on Monday for approval.

The other item is an update. We heard back about CDBG 47 from SHAGOG. In the fall of 2020, we applied for Tepe Park ADA Updates Phase I that consists of a couple of ADA compliant parking spots, a sidewalk and an ADA compliant spectator viewing area at Tepe

Park. We also applied for Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA upgrades Phase III for an extension from the Phases II project that just wrapped up where we added three ADA compliant parking spots and an ADA compliant spectator viewing area and some concrete sidewalk in front of the concession stand. Phase III is where we will put an ADA compliant sidewalk out between the fields and put an ADA complaint spectator viewing area between both fields, so it is easier to see the back field and the T-ball field. We were not expecting to get approved on both of these grant applications, but we were approved for both when usually, they only approve one. The allotment for both is \$20,000.00 or 50% of the construction costs, whichever is less. So, there is potential for approximately \$40,000.00 in CDBG grant funding. We have to move forward and notify SHACOG that we are accepting the terms and they will have to go through bids and getting contracts in place and so forth. Realistically, these projects will not be built until next spring.

Consulting Engineer:

Nothing further

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Mr. Drager stated I wanted to make a clarification. Councilwoman Bucy, I believe you stated it was the 2021 property tax, it is 2020 tax. We have not received any 2021 property tax yet.

We started the financial audit for 2020 today. We still have a long way to go to complete it, but it has begun.

All of the reporting to date are completed.

I wanted to give a special thanks to Mr. Glister for working with the grant money.

I want to thank Mr. Volpe for putting all the military banners up.

In honor of Memorial Day, thanks to all the veterans and a special thanks to Robert J. Clarity, who is a veteran that just had his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday last week. Happy birthday.

Public Works Director:

Nothing further

Lt. King, Commander in Charge:

This Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Jefferson Hills Community Room, there will be an Office Dale Provins Memorial Blood drive that his daughter has put a lot of effort in to coordinate. There will be a 50/50, bake sale and Chinese auction. If you are available and eligible to donate blood, we ask that you participate and show up if you can.

Mayor Cmar:

Not present

Borough Manager:

On Monday we will be swearing in and hiring a new Police Chief and will be added to the agenda for Monday.

Solicitor:

Council did not meet for executive session prior to this meeting; however, they will be meeting immediately following this meeting and will not return.

### 30. General Business

Mr. Montgomery stated:

Recap of the SHACOG meeting as follows:

- Police Chiefs Advisory Committee:
  1. All training on hold, due to COVID.
  2. CIRT (Cooperative Incident Response Team) had two call outs.
  3. CIT (Cooperative Investigation Team) had two call outs.
  4. ART (Accidental Reconstruction Team) had two call outs.
  5. Truck scales were calibrated, overseen by Lt. King.
  6. Civil Service test is on August 7, 2021, at Castle Shannon VFC. Physical agility testing is in the AM and written exam is in the PM.
- Fire Chiefs Met
  1. Basic training underway, major training event planned.
- Salt second year option exercised by Cargill. They were authorized to get a 2.6% increase making price \$80.25/ton, which they have not done, so we will be paying \$78.82/ton. Borough provided salt requirements.
- Act 152 Demolition had 70 applicants. Reviewing applications early July for awarding contracts.
- CDBG 46 for July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, all out for bids.

- CDBG 47 for July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, projects are under review.
- Golf outing is July 15, 2021, banquet is October 21, 2021.
- Municibids is being used to sell old equipment, we should look into using it.

Mr. Volpe stated we already use it.

Mr. Sockman stated:

We had talked awhile back about multiple families living in single family homes and I wanted to know where we are at with that.

Mr. Stinner stated I have reached out to a local interfaith group that works directly with this community and we will be conducting some outreach in the near future in addition to working on the pertinent ordinances etc.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I have had a couple of residents contacting me dealing with traffic control and speeding. When does a traffic study happen for a Borough for Speeding?

Lt. King stated it would have to be requested. Mr. Glister can answer more direct questions on the engineering, but there is generally a cost to the Borough.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated, I do not need a specific question answered.

Lt. King stated there are various locations throughout the Borough where this has come up through the years and we have had discussions about it. Do you have a specific location you are asking about?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated there are a couple of locations. My question is when was the last time the Borough had this done? We are a growing community, and we have lots more traffic than we have had in the past, and we have a reasonably sized Police force, but obviously we cannot be everywhere all the time. I think maybe it would be pertinent to look into this in the future since we are a growing community with a lot of speeding issues.

Lt. King stated these studies are directed at specific locations. We have discussed Chamberlin Road for instance, 885 @ Coal Valley, some of these things Mr. Glister is already working on. They have to be for specific locations and often times what the traffic engineering study revolve around is crash data. That is why we got the second speed sign that is out there. The Mayor has requested numerous times that that sign be put on 885. We have collected data from that and off of Chamberlin Road. We know we have speeding issues in certain areas, and we do a pretty good job at enforcing traffic laws throughout the Borough, however we do also get complaints that are also perception. Even on my street, there are times when you think a car is going 60 miles an hour, in actuality it is really 10 miles over the speed limit.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated in some areas, they have done away with the 25-mph speed and gone with 15-mph.

Lt. King stated that is a state law that residential areas are 25-mph.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated other Borough have adopted ordinances to make it 15-mph.

Lt. King stated that would be a solicitor question, I do not know how you would go around state law for that. For instance, Decker Avenue is 15-mph, I was not here when that was adopted, and I do not know how you would go about that.

Mr. Glister stated to justify less than 25-mph you do have to have a traffic study with speeding. Where you see 15-mph, it has been there for years and years. We have actually updated those on occasion.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated that goes along with us being a growing community and she hopes we can explore this more.

Lt. King stated as a growing community, he hopes that their police department grows with it and develops a traffic division in the future.

Mr. Reynolds stated:

For the agenda, I would like added in and around number 14 to eliminate any political signs in our parks and at recreation events. I think the parks and recreation communities should remain neutral to that. I do not think we should turn them into political discussions whether it be local or national politics.

Solicitor Gabriel stated he would look into that.

My monthly ask to add reactivation of Gill Hall as an independent fire hall as item 26.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

I like the idea of doing away with all political signs in the Borough. I think it looks trashy and people do not come back to pick them up. It is an addition for our Public Works to remove them and put them back after cutting the grass and people do not come back after elections to pick them up.

Community markets are every Thursday. It has been fantastic and a special thank you to the Rec Board and especially to Ashley Delgado for all her hard work in organizing and running it. It is rain or shine from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Andrew Reilly Park.

Community Day is this Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 10:00 p.m. when fireworks are over. There will be parking behind the 885-fire station, and we will be running a shuttle from

Jefferson Hospital Employee lot on the lower level. Keep in mind the All-Star Day with baseball will also be that day. Good luck to all the All Stars.

Mr. Glister, great work getting all the 885 concrete and ADA area done and looks very nice.

Mr. Stinner, this is a reminder about the Wakefield property, I still have not received an email from Mr. Seskey updating us on school district facilities and want to make sure the people on Wakefield understand and know I am still working on that.

For my update, last week I received a call from a former DEA agent who is now an interview investigator for the Real Estate Commission. Most people know I am a full-time real estate agent for Costa Select Realty. In our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting this report to the Ethics Real Estate Commission cites in our May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting the fact that I was asked to abstain from voting in the Deer Hollow Plan. I am going to refer back to that meeting in the minutes and reiterate exactly what I said. I want to clarify again that my company has no way shape or form any involvement in this plan. Never did, never will, it is a Ryan homes plan, they are going to be the builder. I stated in that meeting that it does not involve my employer. And again, at the end, I also clarified that Mr. Housley and I are agents at Costa Select Realty, he is serving as just the surveyor of the property. We will not be selling or listing any homes there. It is clearly going to be a Ryan Homes plan and I put all this in my statement in the minutes and on record. I do not know if that was not efficient enough for whomever filed the complaint. I am not complaining about the complaint itself. Everyone has a process, and they have a right to look into something that they don't feel comfortable about or question me and my ethics about. You have every right, that is what the Real Estate Commission is there for, same as the Ethics Commission for us as Council members. I like that there is a policy or process in place. I feel that it should keep us honest people. In my case, it certainly does. I had no problem meeting with this gentleman. I spent some time with him last week on Thursday. He interviewed me, and I gave him plenty of clarification of exactly what I stated in the meeting. As a matter of fact, I had the meeting queued up for him on my Apple TV so that he can see in past tense, I have already specified that my company was not going to be affiliated with Deer Hollow Plan whatsoever. He said he already looked it up, watched the meeting and got a lot of good information from it. Again, no problem with this process at all, but I certainly do not want to, it was my first report, and I am allowed to talk about this. I clarified that with the agent as he was leaving, nothing is confidential. I think whoever filed the report or the complaint will get a letter as to whether or not clearing us or citing us for a wrongdoing. That will take some time, so I will update you when I get the letter myself. He takes the interview back to the legal team. The legal team of the Real Estate Commission discusses the findings and then I am issued a letter on whether or not I'm cleared of any wrongdoings. I also filed a Right-to-Know through that process to see who filed the complaint against myself and my company. He also spoke with my Broker of Record, asked if he was aware that I was on Council and he also stated he understood that there may be in the future, times where I would have to abstain from voting on development because of my conflict of interest. I am totally fine with that. In taking the Oath of Office knowing that that would possibly come into play, I have no problem with that. In this particular instance, knowing that my company was not affiliated, I voted on it. I am comfortable knowing when and when I cannot vote on things. I am also comfortable in going through the process and clearing my name of any wrongdoing and making sure that whoever filed the complaint that their concerns are no longer their concerns. But I hope that this does not continue to be repetitive. This is something that is my livelihood, and it is also something that puts food on the table for my children.

I will have an update as soon as I get the clarification from the Real Estate Commission, and I'll be happy to share that with you.

I had a nice discussion with Representative Mike Puskaric, and we will have further discussion on how to get some small business opportunities rolling here in Jefferson Hills. He implemented a lot of grant money that was funded for Elizabeth Borough to get their small businesses opportunities up and running and that is definitely something I'm looking forward to bringing here to Jefferson Hills, especially along the 51 Corridor where it looks pretty run down.

Mrs. Ielase stated:

Not sure who to direct this too, whether it is Mr. Volpe, Lt. King, or one of the Engineers in regard to N. Lewis Run. It is one lane traffic in front of Annhurst Apartments. Do you know who is working on it and when it will be done? That road is traveled heavily and there is going to be an accident there.

Lt. King stated my understanding is there is a sink hole there on the Pleasant Hills side and crews are working on it. I am not sure who the contractor is and other than the traffic issue, it is not tied to our Borough. We are left of the 50/50 split there of the jurisdiction. We will respond and handle any traffic issues that arise there.

The library's book sale will be held Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Friday and Saturday will be from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All books are either \$1.00 or \$2.00. Sunday is bag day and books are \$5.00 per bag. They will accept donated books on Monday and Tuesday of that week from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The summer reading program is going to start for the children on June 17<sup>th</sup> and run to July 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:30. You can register at: [jeffersonhillslibrary.org/eventkeeper](http://jeffersonhillslibrary.org/eventkeeper) or call the library directly. The title of the programs is Tales and Tells, that is what they will be working on. This is a six-week program that will be held on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is no program on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Anyone that takes out books or movies between now and the end of summer, you will get a ticket with your name and phone number on it. There are baskets throughout the library that you can win.

There is an adult program called Take a Journey to Each of the Continents... With Books! Introducing the "Read Around the World" adult summer reading program. Simply pick up a passport from the library and jot down the title of one book that you read from each of the seven continents. Eligible books must be set on one of the continents or the author must originate from that continent. Once your passport log is complete, bring it to the library to be entered to in a \$50 Visa gift card. Our passport journey will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Happy travels.

So, the summer program is for both children and adults this year.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I forgot one thing; Councilwoman Steffey refreshed my memory. Mr. Stinner, if you can also, when you check with Mr. Seskey, I have a couple that I have been in

communication with too in the Floreffe area about neighboring properties and I have not gotten anything back yet. If you could double check for me? I will give you the details later.

Mrs. Bucy stated:

I would like to thank the Floreffe VFC, JHFR and Elrama VFC for putting on a Parade in front of the Floreffe VFC monument on Memorial Day. That was a very good event with approximately 85-90 people who attended. Anything that we can do to signify the ultimate sacrifice of our men and women in service for this country is a good day.

On that note, I would also like to thank the Mayor for organizing the Memorial Day event at Lobbs field that was also attended by people. We honor our servicemen, and I would like to read these statistics when it comes time for memorializing our deceased soldiers. In the Civil War there were 489,332 union and confederate soldiers that died; In World War I, 53,402; World War II, 291,557; the Korean War, 36,574, Vietnam, 58,220; The Persian Gulf war, 383; Iraq war, 4,410; the war in Afghanistan, 2,184 soldiers. And all of the residents of Jefferson Hills and surrounding Boroughs that made Memorial Day to commemorate this ultimate sacrifice of giving their life for our country, I thank you very much for attending these events and holding the torch high to keep the faith and cherishing poppy for these men and women who gave their lives for our country.

I would also like to remind you that on Monday, its June 14<sup>th</sup> and that is flag day. I would ask all the residents of Jefferson Hills to please put out your flags. Remember that the colors of the flags are symbolic as well as the 13 colonies and the 50 stars in the corner representing the 50 states. The red symbolizes heartiness and valor, the white symbolizes purity and innocence, and the blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

I would like to remind people that we are still looking for Comprehensive plan people. We have had some people apply. Mrs. Ruscitto, Mr. Stinner and I have worked to together to make an absolute description of what is in the comprehensive plan and some categories. We will be posting that in church bulletins and on social media.

I would also like to remind the people of Jefferson Hills to please do not liter. I am on a liter campaign picking up liter around the Borough. Please deposit your trash in trash cans. It will make our community a much better place.

I would like to thank Rec Board. I feel they have had great time with some new ideas this year and I am appreciative of their services.

Lastly, I would like to make sure members of Council know there will be an exec session afterward.

For the residents, please be careful, school is ending, and students will be on the road and outside so please drive safely and slow down.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy at 8:40 p.m. adjourned the meeting on motion by Mr. Sockman, 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