

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Regular Meeting of Council  
July 12, 2021

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Bucy at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Ielase, Reynolds, Ruscitto, Sockman, Steffey, Vice President Montgomery, President Bucy and Mayor Cmar answered to roll call. Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Borough Engineer Glistler, Public Works Director Volpe, Police Chief Dziezgowski and Borough Manager Stinner were also present. Mr. Minstermen was absent.

Mrs. Bucy moved item 9 to the beginning of the agenda.

Mrs. Ielase moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-2021, acknowledging the achievements of Lieutenant Kevin King who served as Officer-in-Charge during the absence of a Jefferson Hills Police Chief throughout the Chief selection process, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION TO LT. KING BY MRS. BUCY AND MAYOR CMAR:

Today, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2021, the Jefferson Hills Borough Council has acknowledged the public service of Lt. Kevin King in the passing of Resolution No. 26-2021.

Lt. King accepted and successfully executed the duties of the Officer-in-Charge for the Jefferson Hills Police Department from December 31, 2020, to July 1, 2021, after the retirement of Chief Gene Roach. During the past six months, Lt. King was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Jefferson Hills Police Department. He kept the Borough right in step addressing the needs, concerns, and the protection of the residents and his fellow police officers. Some of Lt. King's duties included maintaining the expenses of the department within the confines of the 2021 budget, keeping a fleet of vehicles in good operational working condition, scheduling of officers on duty, representing the Jefferson Hills Police Department at SHACOG (South Hills Area Council of Government) meetings, and fostering a positive working relationship within the community and school district. Also, Lt. King reciprocated in honoring the SHACOG mutual aid agreement by providing Jefferson Hills Police Department coverage for Mt. Lebanon Police Department. Displaying benevolence, compassion, and respect for fellow Mt. Lebanon officer Jerrod Withrow, who lost his hard-fought battle with cancer, Jefferson Hills Policemen patrolled their community.

Looking toward the future, Lt. King established and implemented a Jefferson Hills testing day for potential new law enforcement candidates. Candidates, desiring to fill a vacancy on the Jefferson Hills police force completed both written and physical testing. A current list has been composed for future use in the competitive venue between municipalities searching for the best law enforcement officers. All of Lt. King's efforts were guided by a sense of purpose and direction for the betterment of the Jefferson Hills Police Department and the community.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and this is sincerity and integrity". Therefore, it is with heartfelt appreciation that I present on behalf of all the Jefferson Hills Council members

Resolution No. 26-2021 to Lt. Kevin King for his services as a public servant to the Borough of Jefferson Hills. Congratulations to you and your family members on receiving this award.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

Sandy Seeman, 1221 Gill Hall Road, I would like to comment that I am happy to see that Council is working to get all residents adequate fire protection. However, as a Gill Hall resident I believe we still do not have adequate fire protection which is a great concern to me and many of the Gill Hall residents which I have spoken with.

It is important that this Council please step up and let Gill Hall fire hall reopen at this time. I think it is time that the ridiculous dispute regarding the firehall be put in the past and let this firehall operate and let the volunteers, who are so willing to give of their time and training, to serve the community. It is unreasonable and even childish to think that this matter cannot be resolved so the residents of Gill Hall have adequate fire protection. We have a beautiful fire hall in Gill Hall and volunteers willing to serve. It does not matter if they serve independently or under a merger. It is only important that they are able to serve the residents. There is no reason that taxpayers' monies need to be spent in order to construct a new substation when we have a totally perfect firehall available and could be in operation.

I do not want to see Gill Hall residents suffer with inadequate protection because of personality differences or whatever the problem is that this matter cannot be resolved. Council needs to step up to the plate and do whatever is necessary to reopen Gill Hall firehall. I would think that all the firefighters who serve Jefferson Borough would be happy to see Gill Hall operating, whether independently or under a merger, as not only would this benefit the Gill Hall residents but would also lighten the load for those who are trying their best to serve the entire Borough. This is a large residential Borough with many new homes, and we all need as much fire protection available as possible.

I am, therefore, asking this Council to please set aside all differences and get this firehall up and operational for the residents of Gill Hall. We have elected you to serve us and are hoping that you will recognize the importance of this matter to the Gill Hall residents.

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road, from last week's Agenda Meeting, it sounds like the addition of a paid shift crew for the Floreffe Fire Hall, has had a positive impact on the residents of the Floreffe area. As a resident of the Gill Hall servicing area, I would like to ask when we can expect to also receive adequate fire protection. It has been 2.5 years since Gill Hall has been shut down. Some of you have been on Council since that time, the rest had 1.5 years on Council. Why is it, the only solution you have managed to come up with, is to take money from the recreation budget and use it to give a paid shift crew to the Floreffe area, while we in the Gill Hall area, are still without adequate fire protection.

The Gill Hall area is the area that is seeing the most growth. We have Chamberlin Ridge, Hunters Field, Patriots Pointe, Old Clairton Road, Deer Park, and soon a new plan. This has added hundreds of homes, hundreds of families. These families have been asking for much needed recreation, new ball fields, parks, a rec center, and maybe a community pool. They supply around half of the residential taxes to the Borough, yet we cannot even get adequate fire protection. And

you have now taken money from recreation, to give another area of the Borough even better fire protection than they already had.

And while it is great that this new shift crew has helped residents in that area, how many more cases do we need like the fire on Cassia Drive, the strange smell in Deer Park, the fire on Gill Hall Road, the fire at Gill Hall Elementary, and many more, where the first truck on scene did not get there for 15-16 minutes? No one is blaming JHFR, or questioning their skills for this, it is simple logistics.

It is clear you have decided to move on from Gill Hall, so I certainly hope you finally have a plan to give this area the much-needed fire protection it deserves and pays for. Action is long overdue.

Patty Felix, 1211 Cochran Mill Road, I am hoping to open some eyes in the Borough Council & the residents of the Gill Hall area. Now that Floreffe has 24 hour paid coverage at their fire Hall, the residents of Gill Hall still have no coverage. Floreffe has bragged for years that they have 55 people down there to fight fires. Why do they need a paid crew? 885 brags they have 70 some firefighters, why do they need a paid crew? Now they are combined to one company, that is 120 some firefighters! Still, no one for Gill Hall.

Thanks to mutual aid, there is a chance there will be a quick response, as long they do not have a fire in their own Borough. But our taxes are paying for our Borough coverage. Now that Gill Hall firefighters are not allowed to respond to your calls, most of them are going all the way to Elizabeth & responding to their calls & continuing their firefighting classes. Isn't there something wrong with this picture? Open your eyes people!!!!

Dan McConeghy, 143 Butternut Street, I am a member at Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company, and I am here to tell you some things that I found. I am into history, so I wanted to look into the history of the fire department and the Gill Hall area itself. We have all heard that the Gill Hall area needs fire protection, we have heard it for two years now. Well, I looked into it, and this isn't the first time in the Borough's history that this has happened. Years before in 1948, the Gill Hall area and its residents wanted fire protection. In 1948, the residents got their first fire truck. One fire truck, no station. The residents of Gill Hall being as great as, they are stepped up. A farmer on Waterman Road allowed that truck to be stored in his barn. And if the truck were not there, it could be found at the local gas station off of Gill Hall Road in the garage. In 1957 they finally got a station. The Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company had a station to house their truck. Not only that, but the residents had hope, a symbol of comfort, that in their time of need, the Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company would be there. Now, just like the station, the area has changed. No longer rolling hills, farms, and large wooded areas. Now we have housing plans after housing plans, buildings going up faster than we can blink. I think now is more time than ever that they need actual fire protection, I do not want to say adequate, because that is not fair to everyone else, but now they need fire protection in the Gill Hall area. When you guys go to make your decisions, I hope you remember that your names will be going into the history books of this Borough whether you decide to save or destroy Gill Hall Fire Co, a fire company that was built with one truck and a community that had a need.

Mr. Reynolds stated you did a fantastic job. When I use the term adequate up here, what I am referring to is, never a knock on JHFR, it is just the fact that, like Mr. Doel said in his letter,

the fire stations are too far away, therefore the coverage lacks because of the closeness, the proximity, and the response time in which they can get there. At least whenever I say the Gill Hall residents do not have adequate fire protection, it is simply because they stations are too far away. I was coaching a baseball game at Beedle Park this weekend and listening to some of the residents talk. Some of them complained that Beedle Park is too far to bring their kids out for soccer practice. I said, well, you do understand that could be where your fire truck could be coming from. If it is too far to take your kid to soccer practice, I do not know if I would want my fire truck coming from that far away. That is when I say inadequate fire protection.

Mr. McConeghy stated I think people should say fire protection in the Gill Hall area because we may be worlds apart on a lot of things, but in the end of the day, we are fire fighters, we volunteer, we all put in the time and the training, some more than others and we should not be bashing each other left and right.

Mr. Reynolds stated I think you are actually more similar than you give yourself credit, both of you are there for the cause, for the residents, to protect the residents. You both have that in common. Another thing you have in common is you are both willing to dig a line in the sand and fight for your rights for your organization. And that is just where we are at, so I think you are actually more similar than you give yourself credit. You are fighting for the life of your organization; they fight for the life of their organization. Somehow, somehow we have been stuck in the middle of this tug of war.

Rod Campus, 611 Cochran Mill Road, for the last ten years the house next to me has been abandoned. The roof is ripped off, the gutters are ripped off, the back is covered with a blue tarp, the windows are rotted out, and animals are running in and out of the house. I saw the owner's son in there, I did not know who they were, so I walked over and talked to them. I asked if I could come in and look and he said you do not want to go in there it is toxic that is how bad it is. I called the health department today, but I have not heard anything back from them yet. Something has to be done, I have health problems and I don't need more health problems from that house. Now there is a reddish black mold growing along the side of that house. Something has to be done. Tear it down or something.

Also, the speeding is getting really bad on Cochran Mill Road, numerous wrecks, rollovers, my house got hit years ago and it is just getting too bad. There are other issues, but I will leave them for another time.

Mrs. Bucy stated we had a blight program that we used through Allegheny County and asked Mr. Montgomery to speak about that.

Mr. Montgomery stated there were 70 applications for demolitions submitted through SHACOG for demolitions and I think that was on there. He asked Mr. Glister if that house was on the list.

Mr. Glister stated it was not. I looked back on the history, and it looked like May 2020 we were down there. We will be making another round of CDBG grant application in the fall and we will look into that to be torn down. There are other requirements that need to be in place before we can put it on the grant list to be demolished, but we will get the process started.

Mr. Campus stated the owner is deceased and the brother is not doing anything about it.

Mr. Montgomery stated we will file the application but there are a lot of legal steps that has to be done before they can tear it down. That is the hardest part of the whole process, but now that we have it on the radar, we will start the process as soon as we can.

Chief Dziezgowski stated he will look into the speeding issue.

Mr. Montgomery stated there is more money available now for demolition with this County 152 program. We can get a lot more than we did with the CDBG program since it is a very lengthy program that takes a lot longer and we only get two houses torn down at a time. This blight program will help a lot.

Bob Gulla 1301 Collins Avenue, presentation of Council for the Borough of Jefferson Hills achievements, I think that is the first time I ever seen that happen. That the Council would let the residents of the Borough know their achievements and I think it is a great thing. I commend all of you for letting the residents know maybe more so what is going on than they realize. To add to that, I think a great thing to add to that achievement if today you would be able to say by the end of this week Gill Hall Department station 179 independent will be on the run cards to answer calls.

#### AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Sockman moved to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Mrs. Steffey, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery asked if the coding for Allison Park was corrected?

Mr. Drager stated it will be when Meghan gets back from vacation.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting June 9, 2021, seconded by Mr. Sockman, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve minutes of regular meeting June 14, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Steffey, and carried unanimously.

Presentation of Council and Borough achievements from January 2020 - July 2021.

Mrs. Bucy stated Mr. Stinner and I have put together this PowerPoint, it is a living document, and we might get more feedback from other Council members. The reason we put this together is that some people have asked very pointedly what exactly we do. This is a combination of things that we do throughout the year.

General Administration presented by Mrs. Bucy:

## Personnel & Volunteerism

Since January 2020, the Borough of Jefferson Hills replaced, transitioned, and/or installed:

- A New Borough Solicitor
- Three department heads
- Promoted two police officers to supervisory positions
- Hired three additional staff members to the Administrative and Public Works Departments

February 2020	Deron Gabriel, Solicitor
May 2020	Grace Duda, Community Relations Coordinator
June 2020	Jon Drager, Finance Director
July 2020	Erika Horvat, Clerk
September 2020	JHPD Officer Kevin King Promoted to Lieutenant
January 2021	Dana Farabaugh, Director Jefferson Hills Public Library
	JHPD Officer Corey Brunetti Promoted to Sergeant
June 2021	Brian Henze, Public Works Lester Nolder, Public Works
July 2021	Ron Dziezgowski, Police Chief Jefferson Hills Police Department

All of this gets funneled through our personnel committee then voted on by Council.

Mrs. Bucy state Borough Council has either renewed or appointed a total of 47 volunteers across 11 Borough boards and commissions since January 2020.

## Personnel & Volunteerism

- Expanded and filled the Borough's 11 boards and commissions to resolution-authorized volunteer levels
- Established additional short-term volunteer positions for sanitary boards, water authorities, and comprehensive planning

Borough Planning Commission—Expanded to Nine (9) Members
Civil Service Commission—Three (3) Members, Three (3) Alternates
Recreation Board—Expanded to Nine (9) Members
Zoning Hearing Board—Five (5) Members; Five (5) Alternates
Jefferson Hills Library Board—Seven (7) Members
Environmental Advisory Board—Expanded to Nine (9) Members
Vacancy Board—One (1) Member
West Elizabeth Sanitary Authority (WESA) Board—Two (2) Members
Clairton Municipal Authority (CMA) Board—One (1) Member
UCC Building Code Board of Appeals—Four (4) Members

Mr. Stinner presented:

## Information Technology

### Updated Borough IT Infrastructure

- Purchased new servers, computers, and operating systems
- Replaced existing ethernet infrastructure with fiber-optic cable network

### Replaced telecommunications infrastructure

- Moved to Borough-wide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) telephones
- Fully integrated messaging system
- Portability in cases of emergency or off-site work assignments

### Other Software Upgrades

- Converted payroll management software to ADP
- Installed RecPro field and facility management software

Mr. Stinner stated Borough awarded contract to David Davis Communications. Implementation is underway, however, due to supply shortages implementation is taking longer than expected. The Borough will look to gather secure the administrative facility by bulletproofing and installing ballistic film throughout.

## Building Security

### Borough Security and Hardening

- Contracted and installed a scalable global camera network
  - Replaced, rewired, and repositioned existing Borough security camera network
  - Significantly upgraded range, clarity, and number of cameras employed
  - System currently is using 30% of the available camera ports; can be expanded for Borough-wide camera coverage
- Access Control System
  - Provide dual access control, magnetic locks, and remote ingress and egress points through municipal complex
  - Cloud/App based system to provide remote control of access/lockdown
  - Installed secondary auxiliary locks (Auxlocks, Inc.) in the event of system failure

## Community Outreach & Communication

### SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



### MEETINGS & INFORMATION

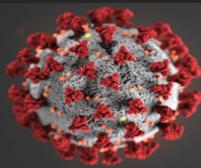
Provided live streaming for the following on Facebook:

- Planning Commission Meetings
- Borough Council Agenda Meetings
- Borough Council Voting Meetings
- Specially Scheduled Borough Council Meetings

Meeting recordings offered via YouTube and Facebook

All meeting minutes uploaded to website

## COVID-19 Response



- Declared State of Emergency on March 17, 2020
- Fully operated following the move to "Category Yellow"
- Applied for CARES Act Stimulus, received \$150,000 reimbursement
- Opened a Community Food Bank for residents-in-need
- Established a vaccination clinic for first responders
- Facilitated vaccinations for staff once available
- 03/20 – 08/20 FEMA Reimbursement: \$17,472.72
- 09/20 – 12/20 FEMA Reimbursement: \$26,356.51
- CDBG Project "Match" dollars of \$39,925
- American Rescue Plan Allotment: \$1.1 Million
- Rescinded Municipal State of Emergency on June 14, 2021

As a testimony of the dedication of our staff, we operated nearly full capacity following the move to “Yellow” under Governor Wolf’s “red, Yellow, Green” matrix of statewide occupancy limits. Conducted business with mask compliance and thorough sanitary practices by staff and visitors throughout the pandemic.

The Community Food Bank successfully delivered food to at-risk residents and families in need.

FEMA Reimburses at 80% of the submitted \$23,296.96.

09/20-12/20 – amount submitted to FEMA; awaiting approval as the Trump Administration significantly limited the eligibility of specific goods and services for reimbursement. The Borough Manager has submitted an appeal for specific itemized charges and is awaiting the result.

CDBG supplementary dollars were contributed to approved 2020 CDBG projects providing 100% funding for project completion.

Mr. Glister stated we applied prior to pandemic for three properties to be demolished in the Borough. The way the CDBG program is generally operated if you are awarded funding, the last couple of years 20% or 50% of the estimated cost of the project whichever is less is reimbursed. We usually shoot for somewhere around the \$40,000 range so we are maximized how much money we can get for reimbursement. We were awarded the 50%, but thanks to the Cares Act, we were awarded 100% of the funding of around \$35,000 for the three demolitions.

American Rescue Plan will be distributed over two years meaning that the Borough will receive \$550,000.00 in 2021 and \$550,000.00 in 2022. The Borough is not required to spend these dollars during the year of distribution but will count towards the \$750,000.00 Federal spending threshold. To reiterate an earlier point, the Borough cannot spend more than \$750,000.00 Federal dollars during any fiscal year without triggering a single-point audit.

## Memberships, Outreach, and Awards

- Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM)
  - Awarded 2020 & 2021 ALOM Banner Community
- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB)
- South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG)
- Working with Allegheny County Elections Board to increase size and number of polling locations
- Councilwoman Nicole Ruscitto facilitates “Talks With Councilwoman Ruscitto” monthly
- Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT)
  - “Future of Fire Safety in Allegheny County ” Subcommittee
  - “Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Subcommittee
- South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)

## PSAB:

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) is a statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to serving 956 Borough governments. Since 1911, PSAB has represented the interests of Boroughs and helped to shape the laws that laid their foundation.

## SHACOG

Incorporated in 1973, the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation composed of member municipalities who voluntarily collaborate to pursue and address areas of mutual interest and concern. Within the framework, it undertakes projects and implements programs for the benefit of its members while taking advantage of the economy of scale afforded by its size.

Currently, SHACOG serves 22 municipal members

- A population in excess of 312,000
- A geographic service area of 223 square miles
- 22 police departments
- 456 uniformed police officers
- 40 fire departments (mostly volunteer)
- 1,300 + firefighters

The tangible benefits achieved through this association are in the form of actual savings (like that which is realized through the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance), avoided administrative costs (as is done with the complex multi-municipal bid for Solid Waste Collection, Removal and Disposal), or the ability to do collectively what no one municipality can effectively accomplish individually (such as the development, training and staffing of the SHACOG Critical Incident Response Team).

## ALOM

The mission of Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) is to foster local government in Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania by educating elected officials, delivering essential resources, and advocating for sound policy and legislation. ALOM is helping public servants make their communities better.

The Banner Community Program awards member communities who exhibit an “outstanding commitment to professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability and proactive communications to engage community stakeholders.”

## CONNECT

The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) is a nonpartisan initiative that convenes neighboring municipalities, including the city of Pittsburgh, that share borders, challenges, and opportunities in Allegheny County, PA. The organization provides resources, research, relationships, and opportunities to work together. The CONNECT network serves as both a policy think tank and membership organization, housed by the Center for Metropolitan

Studies based in the University of Pittsburgh’s nationally ranked policy school, the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

Karen Bucy and Melissa Steffey serving “Future of Fire Safety in Allegheny County” and Borough Manager John Stinner chairs the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Subcommittee (LEAD) for CONNECT.

Finance and Legal:

## Financial, Legal, and Community Development

### Financial

- 2020 Incoming Borough Council Reopened and Reevaluated Budget passed in 12/19
- Onboarded Duncan Insurance as Borough Insurance Provider
- Hired East Coast Risk Management to consult the Borough Safety Committee and assess risk
- Municipal Bond Rating Increased from AA3 to AA2
- Renegotiated Contract Cost Savings (Need Amount)
- Contract Execution by Vendors
- Conducting Due Diligence on establishing a Borough-wide Pension Board

Vetting potential Community Planners and forming a steering committee for a ten-year Comprehensive Plan.

Joined Clairton Municipal Authority (CMA) litigation with other member municipalities.

Resolving PICO Sanitary Sewer Line Dispute with Hercules, Inc.

## Financial, Legal, and Community Development

### Legal

- Joined Clairton Municipal Authority (CMA) litigation with other member municipalities
- Resolving PICCO Sanitary Sewer Line Dispute with Hercules, Inc.
- Conducting Due Diligence on establishing a Borough-wide Pension Board

### Community Development

- Vetting potential Community Planners and forming steering committees for a ten-year Comprehensive Plan
- Reevaluating International Property Maintenance Codes for the Borough
- Applied for *Walkworks* multi-modal transportation grant to enhance safe non-vehicular transportation for Borough residents

Engineering presented by Mr. Glister:

The WESA Act 537 Project has been underway for a long time and wrapped up over the last year. The intent of this project was to reduce a designated sanitary sewer overflow that existed at the end of Walton Road. During wet weather, the sewage was not able to get conveyed down to the West Elizabeth Sanitary Authority treatment facility. It did not have the lines or the capacity and ultimately the sewage went out into Lobb's Run. DEP is going around and making communities eliminate these problems. It was a two-part project. One was the upgrade of the WESA treatment plant. WESA undertook that project alone, even though we contribute significantly to the cost of that. This project here is next to the old Johnny's Drive-in and it is a pump station/flow equalization facility. The intent of this project is to act like a shock absorber when we get the heavy rains and the high intensity short duration rain events that overwhelm the system, just because of infiltration and leaks in the sewer system itself, the pump station will then pump the excess flow into the tank and once the storm passes and the flow exceeds, then sewage is slowly pumped back into the sewage plant to minimize how much sewage overflows during wet weather events.

It was a huge project overall with four contracts totaling Total Construction Project Cost: \$7,289,915.64.

Mr. Stinner asked Mr. Glister how long did the project take from start to completion?

Mr. Glister stated from when DEP made the Borough initiate the Act 537 project was about 15 years. Pump Station startup January 6, 2020.



## Jefferson Hills/ WESA Act 537 Plan Project

---

PUMP STATION  
FORCE MAIN &  
GRAVITY SEWERS

## JH/WESA Act 537 Plan Project



Mr. Stinner stated this was another large-scale engineering project caused by landslides. Just so the residents understand, Allegheny County is home of more active landslides than any other counties in the United States currently. It is becoming a more and more pressing issue. Some of us that recently attended the ALOM Conference at Seven Springs and our local government officials all talked about utilizing more money to combat landslides in the future. We are hopeful that some of these funds we are hearing about start to actually get capitalized in some way to start helping address with this issue.

This project landslide was a result of a storm strong event. It eroded the stream bank, which undermined the parking lot and exposed the sanitary sewer line. There was a potential risk of the sewer if it was not corrected.

Mr. Glister stated what you are seeing in green matting is part of the reinforced soil slope. The landslide was actually on the opposite side of the stream. The mass that came down from the hillside was directing the stream directly into the bank. Our line had not broken yet, but it was a 21-inch interceptor, probably the second biggest interceptor that we have in the Borough and conveys a lot of sewage down the Route 51 corridor where it meets up with the Peters Creek interceptor. Ultimately what we did was build a retaining wall made out of Bim Blocks at the base of the reinforced soil slope. We did not build the retaining wall all the way to the top because once you get over six or eight feet, it changes the permitting allowed by DEP, so we came up with a hybrid approach where we have the shorter retaining wall and were able to get the reinforced soil slope installed and match up with the existing conditions prior to any erosion.

Route 51:

Caused by a landslide that occurred as a result of strong storm events which:

- Eroded stream bank
- Undermined parking lot
- Exposed sanitary sewer
- Potential risk to sanitary sewer if not corrected

Contract was awarded to C. Crump, Inc. in the amount of \$112,000.00.





## 2020—2021 Road Improvement Program

### Road Improvement Program

#### 2020

A. Liberoni, Inc.  
\$430,000

- Deer Park West
- Fawn Drive
- Antler Drive
- Bambi Drive
- Hillview Drive
- Waterman Road East
- Misc. milling

#### 2021

Mele & Mele & Sons  
\$530,000

- Check Drive
- Quincy Drive West
- Quincy Drive East
- Stettler Drive
- Taber Drive
- Redcliffe Drive
- Sontino Lane
- Royal Court
- Regency Drive

2021 Borough Paving should be completed by late August early September.

Borough utilizes “Roadbotics” software to map road conditions throughout the Borough to triage accepted Borough roads for improvement. Roadbotics is a service out of Carnegie Mellon University.

Mr. Glister stated the Roadbotics is an outfit out of Carnegie Mellon University that started out as a student project that has grown into a pretty interesting business. They were able to figure out how to use an iPhone mounted on the dashboard of a car, and they drive the roads. We hired them to drive the Borough roads, which we own just under 50 miles of road, and every five or ten feet it takes a picture and using artificial intelligence it assesses the road to determine if there are any cracks, potholes, asphalt peeling, things of that nature. Then it automatically rates it from one to five, one being great shape, five being bad shape. For the costs that we pay for it, it is very beneficial. In the past, we would have to have someone walk the roads with a notepad and make the assessment themselves. This is much more efficient way to rate the roads. When we put together a paving program every year, working the Mr. Volpe, Public Works Director, we are able to pick which roads that will go into the paving project for that year.

Parks & Recreation:

## Andrew Reilly Memorial Park



### Andrew Reilly Memorial Park

- T-Ball Infield installed by Duraedge, Inc. Retreated other baseball and soccer fields, installing underground irrigation system in fall, 2021.
- Replaced and roofed on of the two small pavilions in the park.
- Boy Scouts refaced and replaced the existing signage, and the Girl Scouts added a sand volleyball court for the community with the assistance of the Public Works Department.
- The Recreation Board began a series of “Night Markets” highlighting the local vendors throughout the summer as well as renewing Community Day in 2021 and initiating three community concerts during the months of May, June, and July.

## Gill Hall Park & Community Center



The Borough invested over \$42,000 in renovating the Gill Hall Park and Community Center. Some of the high points of the refurbishment:

- Updated kitchen with new appliances
- Cabinetry and serving window

- Fresh paint throughout inside the building and out
- New light fixtures
- Overhauled and re-dug sewer system; and the exterior

Students in the Interact Club at Thomas Jefferson High School created a Free Lending Library as part of a community service project that was installed at the Gill Hall Community Center.

Summer Recreation also made a strong return to Gill Hall Park in 2021. The camp enrollment filled inside of one-day and has helped inform the decision to expand the camp in 2022.

## Tepe Park

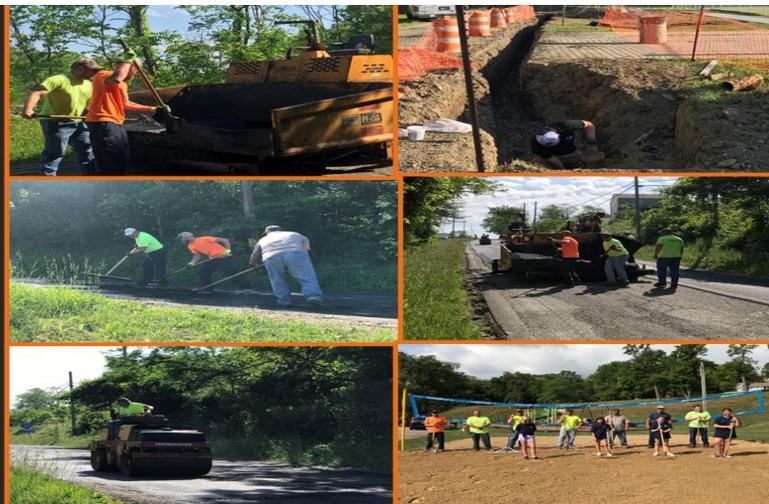


The project specifically involved the rehabilitation of the infield including re-grading the existing field and redefining the turf edge. New infield mixture was added, and laser graded to ensure positive drainage away from the field. Additionally, a top-dress material was installed over the new infield mix.

The contractor conducting the work as DuraEdge Tools & Equipment, LLC out of Grove City, PA. The work was completed at Tepe Field in May 2021. The total contract amount was \$11,560.00.

## Public Works

- Paving Program
- Parks and Recreation
- Construction and Repair
- Storm and Sanitary Sewer Repairs
- Equipment and Vehicular Repairs
- Snow Removal and Storm Response



## Public Works:

Everything we have talked about so far in this presentation, really cannot be done without our Public Works Department. Mike Volpe has done an excellent job managing the department. The East Coast Management has gone through and did a review for our safety committee and said it was one of the finest shops they have ever visited.

### Highlights

- Assumed Allegheny County Winter Maintenance of County Roads in the Borough
- Improved the Borough's ability to televise storm and sanitary sewer lines
- Increased Parks and Recreation ability to maintain playing fields
- Jefferson Hills/WESA Act 537 Plan Project Operations
- Added three significant vehicles to the Public Works Fleet
- Equipment and Vehicle Turnover
- East Coast Risk Management Review

We were told by members of the WJHSD that this has been one of the single biggest safety improvements for students living in the Borough. Due to the heavy snow fall, the Borough has received \$8,000 for maintaining state roads in addition to annual stipend provided by the Commonwealth. The Borough is awaiting a determination from Allegheny County for a similar heavy snow increase to the Borough's annual stipend.

The Borough upgraded the televising software and equipment; purchase of 2021 Ford Transit Cargo Van with software and equipment upfit.

Added two new mowers with additional field grooming attachments. Further consulted with Duraedge for better infield upkeep as well as former field groomers for local professional and college teams on how to better treat the fields. Due to COVID-19 and delays in receiving the purchased field grooming equipment, many of the fields were not able to receive treatments in the early spring prior to spring/summer sports beginning as was initially intended. Much of this work is currently being performed on the soccer field at Beedle and will be performed on baseball fields prior to fall.

Currently using CME Consulting to assist in training three Public Works employees for their certification to the Jefferson Hills/WESA Act 537 Plan Overflow Tank.

Mr. Volpe stated in order for us to do the different projects, we bought some equipment to maintain the fields, we bought an excavator skid steer, and we are updating all the dump trucks purchasing a 2020 Ford F-550 chassis with dump truck upfit; 2021 Peterbilt Dump Truck; and 2021 Ford F600 Dump Truck. This will allow us to take care of all the Borough, County and State roads.

Successfully merchandised used and/or outdated equipment through Municibid and continued to utilize the Perry Auto Auction to sell used vehicles.

Safety Committee Consultant East Coast Risk Management has stated that the Borough's Public Works garages is one of the best managed garages they have reviewed.

Jefferson Hills Police Department:



- Transition from the Retirement of Chief Gene Roach to the installation of Chief Ron Dziezgowski
- Establishing a JHPD memorial in memory of Officer Dale Provins
- Received Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant for *Watchguard* body cameras and updating in-car *Watchguard* dash cameras for 2021-2022
- Purchase and installation of intersection cameras
- Purchased or replaced five police interceptors since January 2020
- Anchor Community in Law Enforcement Assistant Diversion (LEAD) South Hills cohort pilot program
- Replacement and upfit of portable radios for half the department; the second half to be purchased in 2022

The successful candidate search for Chief Dziezgowski through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association (PCPA).

Training and implementation of the Watchguard Body Cameras was completed in May 2021.

Vehicular replacements were due to unforeseen circumstances related to vehicular crashes in addition to normal vehicle replacement.

Intersection cameras are proving to be highly effective investigative tools for the JHPD. The department uses these cameras on a near-daily basis and plan to install more in the future.

Chief Dziezgowski is planning on implementing a five-year replacement policy for all vehicles and related equipment in the fleet.

The tangible benefits achieved through this association are in the form of actual savings (like that which is realized through the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance), avoided administrative costs (as is done with the complex multi-municipal bid for Solid Waste Collection, Removal and Disposal), or the ability to do collectively what no one municipality can effectively accomplish individually (such as the development, training and staffing of the SHACOG Critical Incident Response Team).

Officer Haas is one of approximately 200 Drug Recognition Experts in the State of Pennsylvania. Additionally, because of the multi-jurisdictional need for this specialization, the State of Pennsylvania pays for Officer Haas's overtime while acting as a DRE.

## Program Management Representatives, Specialized Certifications, and SHACOG Team Memberships

- Sergeant Corey Brunetti – SHACOG Special Support Team and Project
- Officer Ryan Pokorny – SHACOG Crash Team Reconstruction Specialist
- Officer John Haas – Certified Drug Recognition Expert and Project Lifesaver Liaison
- Officer Nicholas Sell – SHACOG Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)
- Officer Marcus Constanza – SHACOG Ceremonial Honor Guard
- Officer Cole Domke – SHACOG Ceremonial Honor Guard
- Officer Bailey Fertig – Special Support Team, SHACOG Ceremonial Honor Guard
- Chief Ron Dziezgowski – SHACOG Police Chiefs Advisory Committee

### Fire Safety:

## Fire Safety Efforts

- Currently have two acting Fire Liaisons
- DCED sponsored mediation
- Drill nights and trainings
- Monetary Compensation to each fire hall
- Presented a Roadmap to recertification for Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Department
- A compromise was not accepted
- GHVC provided no access to other certified JH Borough firemen
- Explored Possibility of Leasing Alternative Garage for Gill Hall area
- Councilwomen Karen Bucy and Melissa Steffey attending Allegheny County Fire Academy
- Expanded Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue shift crew to Floreffe station for better fire protection

Karen Bucy and Vickie Ielase act as fire house liaisons for Borough Council.

Representatives Madra Clay, DCED and Floyd Wise, Battalion Chief of Harrisburg conducted six remote mediation sessions on behalf.

Fire House liaisons attended multiple drill nights and trainings at all three fire halls.

A detailed probationary plan that was informed by the DCED mediations and deliberations.

Expected Firefighting Essentials Mods 1-4 and Burn certification expected on July 17.

## 2021 Shift Crew Expenditures

885 Station

$\$12.00 \text{ per hour} \times 24 \text{ hours} = \$288$

$\$288 \times 2 \text{ crew members} = \$576$   
 $\times 365 \text{ days} = \$210,240$

$\$210,240 \div 11,148 \text{ residents} =$   
 $\$18.85$

$\$18.85 \div 365 \text{ days} = 5 \text{ cents per day}$   
per resident

## 2021 Shift Crew Expenditures

Floreffe Station

$\$12.00 \text{ per hour} \times 24 \text{ hours} = \$288$

$\$288 \times 2 \text{ crew members} = \$576$   
 $\times 200 \text{ days} = \$115,200$

$\$115,200 \div 11,148 \text{ residents} =$   
 $\$10.33$

$\$10.33 \div 200 \text{ days} = 5 \text{ cents per day}$   
per resident

## 2021 Total Cost of Fire Protection

Floreffe and JHFR Stations

$\$210,240 + \$115,200 = \$325,440$

2-person crew @ 885 station  
1/1/21 to 12/31/21 AND

2-person crew @ Floreffe station  
6/14/20 to 12/31/21  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

$\$325,440 \div 11,148 \div 565 \text{ total days}$   
 $= 5 \text{ cents per person per day}$

## 2021 Total Cost of Fire Protection

Shift Crew	Location	Rate	Hours	Days	Total	Grand Total
1	885	\$ 12	24	365	\$ 105,120	\$ 210,240
2	885	\$ 12	24	365	\$ 105,120	
3	Floreffe	\$ 12	24	200	\$ 57,600	\$ 115,200
4	Floreffe	\$ 12	24	200	\$ 57,600	

Totals (Based on 2018 U.S. Census-11,148)			
Floreffe	\$ 115,200	\$	10.33
Per Month	\$ 16,457	\$	1.48
Per Day	\$ 549	\$	0.05

Mr. Reynolds stated the confusion and where we had our discussion the other night, where this is misleading, and this is the oldest salesman trick in the book, to make the numbers as small as possible to show it's the least amount of impact. As you can clearly see in this, this is only including Floreffe for six months. This is not an annualized cost of what this will cost you. If you want to do the annualized cost for it, you will simply multiply the 885 number by four since next year they will be there for 12 months and that will give you a more accurate number for what it is. I think we should recognize the annualize cost.

Mrs. Bucy stated the motion was intermittent it was not for 2022. This report is showing for 2021, not 2022.

Mr. Reynolds asked Mr. Glistler, I have a message from a resident on Rt. 51, he lost an estimated 1,900 sq. ft. because of this slide, is there any course of action to help this gentleman to get his square footage back in some way?

Mr. Glistler stated we put the parking lot back to where it was prior to the slide. There was a small amount lost beyond where the cars would park and the slide, there was probably three- or four-foot area, but we worked with him extensively and it was my understanding that we satisfied his needs. In regard to the water coming down from the Public Works garage, we did look at that as well and based on where the pond outfalls, there is a ravine that takes it down to Lewis Run and it's downstream where the slide actually happened.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to set a public hearing date and time on August 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. for the conditional use application at 115 Gill Hall Road, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery stated we have to have a date and time and I would recommend doing it after the July Planning Commission meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>. We usually do it before a Council meeting. August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. would be the best night.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to authorize the purchase of two WatchGuard 4RE in-car dash cameras from WatchGuard Video for \$10,415.00 to be installed into recently ordered police

interceptor utility vehicles as part of the upfit by Rally Specialist, Inc., seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 and Final from SHACOG for Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$18,797.50 for work completed on the CD 46 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 2 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Sockman moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 and Final from SHACOG for Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC in the amount of \$3,810.00 for work completed on the CD 46 Jefferson Hills Demolition Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$80,072.65 for work completed on the Joint Municipal SHACOG Sanitary Sewer Lining – Year 14 – Contract B Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint O&M CCTV Inspection and Cleaning Project-Year 11, seconded by Mr. Sockman and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ielase moved to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning the SHACOG Joint Municipal Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – Year 15, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

## 18. Reports

### Fire Chief:

Chief Chalfant stated he has two requests. I have been noticing a lot of fire hydrants where residents are planting shrubbery, flowers and decorative pieces around the hydrants blocking them from our view when responding to fire calls. During the day is not so bad, but at night it is a lot harder to find them. I did speak to Lt. King and Mr. Stinner, and they said there is a Borough Ordinance, and I am asking if you would post that on the website as a friendly reminder that would be appreciated. We do not mind flowers, but when the shrubs get really big, we cannot find the fire hydrants than that becomes an issue.

Chief Chalfant also asked if the Borough would consider adopting a resolution to a require commercial grade fireworks permit free of charge. Just so the proper authorities are notified that there are going to be commercial grade fireworks launched in the Borough. This year there was fireworks display for the high school. I know they stopped up to get a permit, but it was not required. I did not find out until I watched it on Facebook that there were commercial grade fireworks being launched. Had I known that I would have sent a crew up just in case something happened. Just so they would fill out a permit and all the proper authorities are notified so we can make the appropriate safety precautions.

Mr. Reynolds asked Chief Chalfant, now that you have four shift crews are there any restrictions responding to mutual aid outside the Borough at the same time? Residents are coming to me and saying if we have four shift crews here, they should not be out of the community at the same time.

Mr. Chalfant stated they are not. If the rescue truck or ladder truck from station one is requested out of town, the shift crew from station two is moved up to station one to cover the whole Borough more centrally located. If the shift crew from station two is requested out of town, we still have the crew from station one and I would not send both crews out of town.

EMS:

No present

Engineer:

The Council authorized Gateway earlier in 2021 to look into a traffic impact fee for development that is going on throughout the Borough. We did not actually start preparing for the analysis of the study because it is a very extensive process to go through that requires a lot of time from a traffic engineer, a planner, getting traffic counts and things of that nature. But what we opted to do instead is to complete a DIMS (Does it Make Sense) study on whether or not we should pursue the actual traffic impact study. We were hoping to get that ready to present to Council for this meeting, but Gateway was not able to get the report finalized in time. We did get the results at the end of last week and I will be sending out to all of Council to give you time to review it. It is a pretty big document and I wanted to give you time to review it before the August engineer meeting. The results of the study indicated it did not make sense at this time to proceed with pursuing a traffic impact fee just because of the cost that goes into preparing the study versus the reward we would get over the long run does not seem to justify that.

Mr. Montgomery asked Mr. Glistler on the study, it is for anything new development, correct? So, if you have a current problem, you cannot resolve that with this?

Mr. Glistler stated correct. One example that we discussed in the engineer committee meeting last month was on 885 new Coal Valley Road near Jefferson Hospital, that area has had higher accidents over time and that would be considered a preexisting condition. This traffic impact can only go towards traffic impacts that are the direct result of development throughout the Borough whether commercial or residential. The portion of the report that I did read was that what has the most impact is commercial development. So, something like a Walmart or commercial store that would generate a lot more traffic than residential. In Jefferson Hills, we have a greater residential development which I think sort of tipped the scale towards it not being something we want to pursue.

Consulting Engineer:

Not present.

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Nothing further.

Public Works Director:

Nothing further.

Chief Dziezgowski:

Nothing further.

Mayor:

Lieutenant King, thank you for your service during the interim period between Police Chiefs. It is very much appreciated.

I mentioned last week that I had met with Ashley Delgado from the Recreation Board. We are in the process of planning two events, but as of now, there have been no dates set. Details will follow once the days are set.

Occurring this weekend, Friday through Sunday, the Jefferson Hills Library will be holding their book sale. Details are on the Borough website.

Chief Dziezgowski and I had a discussion about the National Light-up Night. It is a little too late to make plans for this year, but both of us believe it would be worth pursuing beginning next year.

Just a quick note about the Road crew. I saw them this morning doing a job in the Borough. Mr. Volpe was right there with the crew working side by side. I know that other department heads do this, and we appreciate their efforts.

Manager:

Nothing further.

Solicitor:

Council did meet in executive session prior to meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

General Business:

Mr. Montgomery stated:

Thank President Bucy and Mr. Stinner for presenting an overview of what we did.

Mr. Sockman stated:

I mirror Mr. Montgomery's comment. That was an excellent presentation and I appreciate your efforts.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I would like to remind you of my meetings on Thursdays 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. every Thursday.

The report was very beneficial, and I thank you for that. However, I would like to reiterate that I am not in agreement with lawsuit of CMA. I do not find that beneficial or an accomplishment.

I would like to express my care and concern with all the people that have dealt with flooding during the past storms. JHFR, you did a fine job helping people stuck in high water. I grew up up the street from Mowry Park and in all my years of life I cannot recall that area of Pleasant Hills being flooded, so I would like to extend my passion and concern for the residents of Pleasant Hills as they go through some adversity at this point. If you need help, please reach out to me, I will be glad to see what I can do.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

I mirror the same sentiments, thank you John and Karen; I know you met after hours and on weekends putting that together.

Thank you, JHFR Swift Water Rescue Team, aiding in the three rescues that you made and all of the flash floods and high waters. I know it is a difficult task and I thank you.

Mrs. Ielase stated:

The library's summer reading program continues through July with special programs featuring a magician and the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. We have had 102 kids from Pre-K through fourth grade attend three programs.

Adults can win a \$50 visa gift card by participating in the Read Around the World Challenge. Pick up your reading passport at the library, and if you read a book set in or written by someone on each continent by the end of August you will be entered into drawing for the gift card.

The Friends of the Library will host a book sale July 16-18. Do nations can be dropped off July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup> during library hours.

The library continues to add in-person programs for children and adults. Visit [www.jeffersonhillslibrary.org](http://www.jeffersonhillslibrary.org) for a full schedule of events.

The library will be working with Plus Public to develop a new logo and branding identity and to do a complete redesign of the library website to make it easy to navigate and accessible. Plus Public will hold two brainstorming and development sessions and I think we would benefit

from having a few Council members participate. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please email her at [farabaughd@einetwork.net](mailto:farabaughd@einetwork.net).

The library started a monthly e-newsletter highlighting our events and services. If you would like to be added to the list, email [farabaughd@einetwork.net](mailto:farabaughd@einetwork.net).

Mr. Reynolds stated:

In response to the outcry from the residents also recognizing that we do not have a plan B to offer those Gill Hall residents adequate fire protection and recognizing the fact that the most financially responsible and most efficient way would be to reactivate Gill Hall VFC as an independent Station 179, I would like a motion to reactive Gill Hall VFC as an independent Station 179 as soon as possible.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated she would second that motion only because it is not to discredit JHFR or Floreffe station, I commend you on your excellence and you service, it is just the fact that Gill Hall has stated they can be opened and functioning as an independent and I do not see why that would be issue.

Mr. Reynolds moved to recertify and reactivate Gill Hall VFC Station 179 as an independent Borough Fire Company and restoration of the Allegheny County 911 run cards as to reflect their territory prior to January 12, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto. The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken. Per the Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member:

President Bucy	NO
Vice President Montgomery	NO
Vickie Ielase	NO
Mr. Reynolds	YES
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mr. Sockman	NO
Mrs. Steffey	NO

Mrs. Bucy stated:

I would like to say I am a Gill Hall resident and I have spoken with many people from Gill Hall. Their point is they do not care who shows up as long as they get there. This is my personal opinion as being a resident, Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Department was offered a compromised situation with going on the 911 as 180-3 for 6-9 months as recommended by a member of the Department of Community Economic Development, Floyd Wiess that was rejected. As a Councilwoman up here, I am responsible for making sure that people are out there and certified. I have recently been taking these fire fighter classes, I am in currently in Mod 4 and today is probably the hardest thing I have ever done. With the air pack on crawling through drywall 16” apart and under a picnic table with wires hanging down from it on my back and through a maze of total blackness trying to find your way out. It is an unbelievable task to be a volunteer fire department person and I commend any of those people. It is also a Borough of Jefferson Hills. We have a Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, and we have a Borough of

Jefferson Hills Police department. You can have three stations. But the offer was not accepted, and we were really not told the reasons why other than the fact that you wanted to be independent. We have a current situation with the Judge now and the Judge also asked why for the reasons according to the bylaws on why Gill Hall did not choose to merge. It was told to the Judge about a voting procedure. But when it came down to it, according to our solicitor since I was not present for these, there was no more information presented about that. I am disappointed as a resident of Gill Hall that this plan could not be accepted. Because if we were sitting here today and the plan was accepted in August, you would be up and running. You would have gone through your probation period. I just wanted you to know why I voted no.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked Chief Withers what his number was at Floreffe. Chief Withers stated 180-2. That number does not mean anything to us it is just a number.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m. on motion by Mr. Sockman, seconded by Mrs. Steffey and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager