

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council Members Bucy, Vice President Budd, Lynch (via zoom), Montgomery, Reynolds, Ruscitto, President Steffey, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner, Finance Officer Drager, Solicitor Gabriel, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer Glister and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Consulting Engineer Minsterman was absent.

Mrs. Steffey announced we are going to change up the agenda a little tonight because our guest who is receiving the proclamation will be coming shortly.

#### REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None

Mrs. Steffey stated we are going to retain any borough resident and taxpayer comments that are not on agenda items until the end of the meeting.

#### BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

#### AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting September 7, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to approve minutes of regular meeting September 12, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to table the approval of the new job descriptions and evaluations for Borough of Jefferson Hills at-will employees until the next voting meeting, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto move to approve new five-year ambulance services agreement with SouthEast Regional EMS (SEREMS) in the amount of \$528,020.00 or \$105,604.00 per annum, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to pay proceeds from the 2022 Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation to the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$79,554.95 within 60 days of September 21, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Bucy. 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Drager stated I noticed on this motion; it was the Foreign Fire Tax not the Volunteer Fire Relief. I'm not sure how much of a difference that is, but it comes in as the Foreign Fire Tax. On the remittance, it did come through as Foreign Fire Tax. On the email, it does state the Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation.

Mr. Montgomery stated that is the correct verbiage. It is Foreign Fire Tax.

Mrs. Budd moved to amend item #13 to state "2022 Foreign Fire Tax", seconded by Mrs. Bucy. After discussion Mrs. Budd rescinded her motion and Mrs. Bucy rescinded her second.

Mrs. Budd moved to distribute the remaining 2021 Real Estate Fire Tax of \$30,814.02 to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue & EMS, seconded by Mrs. Bucy. 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 33-2022 directing distribution of the Borough's allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid for 2022 in the amount of \$316,007.56 as follows: Police Pension Fund \$528,635.00 and Administrative Pension Plan \$9,498.00 with the Borough's contribution being \$222,125.44, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to transfer up to \$3,000,000.00 into a short-term CD through PLGIT account, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to present a Proclamation honoring Brian Verbanick for his lifesaving efforts in the community, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mayor McCaffrey stated I asked Councilwoman Budd to come up here with me this evening. She was instrumental in bringing this information to the Council about what a heroic act you performed. I would like her to present this to you this evening after I read it.

“Whereas emergency preparedness is a responsibility for all community members as crises can arise at a moment's notice. Whereas being prepared for emergencies like stroke, cardiac arrest, choking or a heart attack can increase a victim's chances for survival if one has the knowledge and training for CPR and first aid. Whereas thousands of people die each year from choking deaths and even more experience choking-related injuries or distress. Whereas the first response agencies of police, fire, and EMS actively promote and conduct trainings for CPR and first aid within their ranks as well as in the community. Whereas during the Thomas Jefferson High School Varsity Football camp in late summer, a freshman player began choking during a break in play. Whereas Brian Verbanick a junior firefighter and teammate, acted without hesitation, executed the Heimlich maneuver, and as a result, saved his teammate's life. Now, therefore, I, Carrie McCaffrey, Mayor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills due by proclaim our appreciation and admiration of Brian Verbanick for his life-saving effort and for providing a wonderful example of the necessity of CPR and first aid training in our community. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to be affixed this 10th day of October 2022, in recognition of his efforts in the community.

Mrs. Bucy moved to renew Ford IT Contract for 24 months at a rate of \$1,389.00 per month conditional on any disputes to be handled in the Allegheny County Court System, seconded by Mr. Montgomery. 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.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Montgomery stated there is an item in here about any disputes. It must be settled in Fayette County. If the dispute occurs here, why would we have to go to Fayette County?

Solicitor Gabriel stated the home office is in Connellsville, Fayette County. Council options would be to approve the contract upon us making that amendment or table the matter.

Mrs. Bucy and Mr. Montgomery amended the motion and second conditional on disputes to be settled in the Allegheny County Court System.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 and Final from SHACOG for Swede Construction Corporation in the amount of \$10,479.37 for work completed on the CD 47 Tepe Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 1 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare all necessary “Declaration of Taking” documentation for Parcel ID 1134-J-116 for the PICCO Pump Station Project, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 34-2022 for a Sewage Facilities Planning Module for the subdivision plan known as S-2-2022 and S-5-2022, Mill Stone Village, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 35-2022 authorizing the proper Borough Officials to file the (GEDTF) Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund Grant application in the amount of \$172,500.00 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Bathroom Renovation Project, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 36-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$86,157.00 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 5 Project, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 37-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$45,175 for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 6 Project, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 38-2022 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$35,100.00 for the Demolitions at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 39-2022 declaring the structures proposed for demolition at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road as blighted structures, 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 Preventative Maintenance Project-Year 12, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to authorize the execution of an administrative agreement with the South Hills Council of Governments concerning CD 48 7.5 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 4, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve the Work Authorization dated September 30, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to assist the Borough in the preparation of plans and specifications for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades Ph. 4 project in the amount not to exceed \$8,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd move to approve the proposal from McLean Architects, LLC dated September 30, 2022, to assist the Borough with preparing conceptual plans and cost estimates for renovations to the Borough building in the amount not to exceed \$6,500.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

#### BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

Mrs. Steffey read an email from Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road.

“At the last meeting, I came asking for an update on the lack of adequate fire protection in the Gill Hall area. Council refused to not only give me an update, but I was not allowed my full time to speak. We allow residents 4 minutes to speak. I was cut off at 2 minutes and 45 seconds. I even emailed all Council members after asking if we could please have a conversation on the matter of fire protection. Only Council members Reynolds and Ruscitto responded. I then rearranged my work schedule so I could attend the Public Safety Committee meeting to try and get an update on the fire situation. The meeting was canceled with very little notice to the residents. This is the only committee that meets during the day when few residents could actually attend. Even the Library Committee meets in the evening. When questioned the President of Council stated she can't ask employees who she handpicked for this committee to meet at night, and that very little is even discussed concerning the fire protection.

At the last Council meeting, Brian Hutson came to speak on the results of a right-to-know that he had filed. It concerned the motions over the years to decertify Gil Hall Voluntary Fire Department. The Borough's official response was that there is no certification process for a volunteer fire department making those motions pointless. The only certification that exists for a volunteer fire company is a state certification which Gil Hall has. After bringing this up, our President of Council attempted to shame and attack him claiming he costs the Borough \$1,600 in these right-to-knows. And let's not forget, President Steffey herself has come to meetings and discussed information she herself has received from filing a right-to-know and even stated anyone can get this information the same way. When we cannot come to these meetings and get information concerning the safety of our Borough or the actions of our Council members, what other option do we have? There is no accountability with our Council. There is no transparency.

After three years of closing Gil Hall, it appears our Council has made no progress to rectify the issue. And when asked for an update, you are denied. I will give an update from information I have. Our solicitor has been feeding our State Attorney General's Office false information about Gil Hall to steal the Fire Department out from under them. The last settlement in quotations "the Attorney General's Office" offered was for Gil Hall to hand over all equipment, land, building, and assets to our remaining fire departments, all based on false information our solicitor is providing. If I'm not mistaken, he gets his direction from our President of Council. Our President of Council has also reached out to the church that rents out the fire hall asking if they managed to get ownership of it, would the church still consider renting it? Our solicitor has also contacted other

local fire departments asking them to contact the Attorney General's office, asking them to report false information.

What a great message we are sending to our children. If you can't get what you want, lie, cheat, and steal until you do. I wonder how much the defamation lawsuits against our Borough will cost probably a lot more than the alleged \$1,600 President Steffey claims, the simple request for information is costing us. Just imagine if instead of all of these lies and deceitful methods to take down a volunteer organization that served and protected our Borough for over 70 years, we worked together to make a difference in our community.”

Mrs. Steffey stated last week I prepared a statement to Mr. Doel. I will read this in case he is watching. Mr. Doel, I would like to respond and apologize for your time being cut short during public comment. I personally spoke with our staff regarding the time clock, and I will take on the responsibility of calling for the clock to begin with each new speaker. Obviously, the clock does not face me, so I await the cutoff time from the staff, and for that error we apologize. The right to comment publicly comes from the Open Meetings Law of Pennsylvania, where it states, it is reasonable and common for 3 or 4 minutes to be provided to each resident. There are other municipalities and school boards that only allow a total of 3 minutes, but we agreed a few years back to allow 4 minutes so that our residents' concerns can be voiced without feeling so rushed. We, as Council, will have the right to vote on changing that amount of time at any given point. I would also like to point out that it states on each agenda that Borough resident taxpayer comments are supposed to be on agenda items only. There have been many speakers that have spoken on items that are not listed on the agenda, including yourself, yet we feel that we should continue to offer that courtesy to allow all the taxpayers to freely voice their concerns, whether they be on agenda items or not. My point being is that we strive during the public comment portion of our meetings to allow our residents to express their grievances, generate ideas, and sometimes even give kudos and credit when due. But in a manner to where it cannot distract us from performing our duties as elected officials. At the end of the meeting, you were called back up by Councilman Reynolds to finish your comment, which is not typical parliamentary procedure. Your total speaking time was calculated by also watching the video, and you were given a total of 3 minutes and 59 seconds of speaking time. It certainly is not a total of 4 minutes to which we set the standard. The next time that you sign up to speak, we will be sure to add an additional second to your initial 4 minutes to hopefully make this up to you. I do hope you accept my apology on behalf of Council and the staff. We are human and sometimes do make mistakes.

## REPORTS

### Fire Chief

Chief Chalfant stated today I met with the contractors from Peoples Gas and Pennsylvania American Water about the plan going on behind Deer Park. In that conversation Pennsylvania American Water asked me if Council would consider writing them a letter advising them what type of fire hydrants, we want to put into the Gil Hall section of the municipality. Currently, we are running three different types of fire hydrants. 75% of the Borough fire hydrants are a national standard thread with a four-and-a-half-inch discharge off the side. The two-end discharges or side discharges are two-and-a-half-inch national standard. It was brought to my attention that there is a reverse thread. It also has Pittsburgh six threads on the side discharges. That is not the hose threads

that we run. I asked them from this point forward, can we change everything over to a standard fire hydrant so the whole entire municipality can be one. Also, in the Gil Hall area is a bliss fitting. Those have been proven to be a dangerous connection. You must slide the hose on the front of it and it has four wing nuts versus a standard thread where you can get a secure thread. They said they have no issue in doing it. Any new plans going in, or if a fire hydrant needs to be replaced, they can change to the standard fire hydrant. I am not asking that every hydrant be changed at this time. If Council would write a letter on Borough letterhead saying, from this point forward, we will go ahead and make it a standard fire hydrant, like the rest of the municipality. Can put on for discussion for next month's meeting, it would be greatly appreciated.

Last month was a very busy month with 81 calls. This month is off to the same start. In the first 10 days of this month, we have had 17 responses already. There was a significant response today.

EMS

Chief Pascoe stated today a 9:45 a.m. we were dispatched to Gil Hall Road for a person that collapsed. The police were on scene within 2 or 3 minutes of the encounter and recognized that the person was indeed in sudden cardiac arrest. The officers on scene immediately started nonstop CPR on the patient. A minute later one of the squads from the Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue pulled up and an AED was applied to the patient. It indicated a shock was advised. As the paramedics were walking in the door, the defibrillator did discharge. We got pulses back intermittently. Emergency services worked her, got her to the ambulance, called the doctor, and did advanced life support. When she arrived at the local emergency room, she had a very good blood pressure, and a good pulse. She was making purposeful movements. The doctor elected to take her straight to the Cath lab. I will be following up tomorrow morning with an update on this patient. We keep her and her family and our thoughts and prayers. It goes to show you what good teamwork and effective CPR can do.

Engineer

Nothing Further

Consulting Engineer

Not Present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Nothing Further

Public Works Director

Nothing Further

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski stated Halloween is coming in a couple of weeks, I will have extra officers on patrol. They will have candy. If you see them be careful approaching but they will have candy for you.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey congratulated Officer Honick on joining the team. I was very honored to be a part of her swearing-in. Amazing job to Brian for his life-saving measures. That is so awesome to hear. To our Police, Fire, and EMS today, amazing. Great job to everybody involved.

Manager

Nothing Further

Solicitor

Solicitor Gabriel noted for the record the Council and the Mayor did meet an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss litigation matters. They will return to executive session immediately following regarding a personnel matter. Council will not be returning to vote.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Reynolds responded to Mr. Doel's email. We have enough members of the Public Safety Committee here. I think it is time that somebody update the residents in the Gill Hall area if, in fact, we are ever going to replace that fire hall, and what plans there are. We have moved from putting a deposit down to looking at a piece of property. That was the last that any of the residents have heard. I think they would all appreciate to know where we are at. Could somebody from the Public Safety Committee be here in November to give Mr. Doel and the residents an update?

Mrs. Steffey I will check with the solicitor to make we can have someone from the Public Safety Committee here.

Solicitor Gabriel stated there is a hearing scheduled before Judge McCarthy. An action brought by the Pennsylvania Attorney General that is on November 10th. I cannot answer it until we see what transpires in that.

Mr. Reynolds stated can we give an update to the residents just on everything that the Public Safety Committee is doing. Most of the people cannot attend it even if they would choose to.

Solicitor Gabriel stated we can give an update on any recommendations to come forth from the Public Safety Committee. To my knowledge, there has not been any recommendations that would concern Gill Hall.



Mr. Reynolds stated the residents would like to hear from us. This has gone on for so long, and we de-certified a fire hall that did not have a certification. There is no certification the right to know proves that we overstepped our boundaries. We made it a two-year, three-year process of arguing and fighting up here. We divided the community for something that was not even there in the first place. Should have never have even been discussed because there is no certification. I would think that they at least deserve an update.

Mrs. Steffey stated we can give an update. I would be happy to put something together. Either I or Mr. Stinner can give an update in the next Council meeting. We also have copies of the agendas. We can compile those. As far as, Gill Hall, we have not really discussed it a lot. There were some options that we had presented during our Council meetings that are no longer options. Now with the Attorney General being involved, there is not very much that we can talk about.

Mr. Reynolds stated it is something that has gone on for years. We still have not developed any type of solution to the lack of fire protection that we created.

Mrs. Steffey stated let us not forget that they were offered, and actually given, how much money was given to Gill Hall VFC? \$1,500 for an attorney fee, \$20,000, plus another \$20,000, for a total of \$41,000.

Mr. Reynolds stated one of the reasons why I voted no was this whole fire hall conversation. If you go back a decade or more, it all started just because one group. The 885 Fire Department did not think that they should have to split the money equally. I would have thought that our residents would have deserved a more planned out response other than to take a fire hall away with no solution or nothing to be added back.

Mrs. Steffey stated we cannot keep throwing money at something that is not performing. I think the residents had a bigger issue with that.

Mr. Reynolds congratulated the two Gill Hall firemen that just finished our firefighter two training.

The way Brian Hutson was treated was at the very least unprofessional by being told he is costing the Borough residents \$1,600 by exercising his right to request the information. To call an individual out for \$1,600 when we have spent that much of taxpayers' funds on lawsuits against Council members. I do not see it being fair. I will apologize to Brian Hutson next time I see him, and I am doing it now publicly.

Mrs. Budd thanked Brian Verbanick for his efforts. His actions have been very inspiring and have caused me to think about what is offered for our community in the way of CPR and First Aid. I spoke to Chief Pascoe today about what Southeast Regional EMS offers. Every other month at their Jefferson Hills base, they have an American Heart Association CPR class, and by request offer first aid and group classes. Further details on these classes and registration can be found on their website or you can call the EMS base at (412) 384-0111. We also discussed the potential working together to bring back classes held here at the Borough building in other ways of promoting this life-saving training to our community. I asked Chief Pascoe how long these classes

generally last, and he said roughly two hours. Two hours is a short amount of time to learn an invaluable skill. I encourage you, whether it is a group of family or friends, or an organization to contact Southeast Regional EMS to schedule training. As we come up with different programs here at the Borough, we will be sure to keep you updated.

I also wanted to thank Jefferson Hills Fire Southeast Regional EMS, and Jefferson Hills Police for the outstanding effort today.

Mr. Montgomery stated last discussion meeting I brought up the possibility of a joint comprehensive plan with Pleasant Hills. They are interested in it. They did a little checking with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the zonings in each community can stay the same, which is a very good factor to this. The possibility of getting grants is very high as a multi municipal comprehensive plan. Pleasant Hills is going to meet tomorrow to talk about it. I encourage them to pick Pashek. If they do, we can save a considerable amount of money to get this done.

Mrs. Bucy stated first I would like to read an update about the Reapportionment Committee that has been trying to solve the problem of having an equal number of voters at each voting poll.

“This is an update of the Borough's efforts in reapportioning our voting districts. In August, the volunteer committee agreed on changes that will add a new district number nine to our existing eight districts. The changes will move approximately 2,700 voters from their existing districts to other existing districts or to the new district. This arrangement will result in a more equitable distribution of voters with hopefully no more than 1,200 voters at each poll. Please remember that these changes must be agreed upon by the County Board of Elections and the County Common Pleas Court. In August, there was a prepared summary of the committee's work, which was included in the fall issue of the, IN West Jefferson Hills Community Magazine. In September, Hillary Budd and Dave Oster prepared a large map of the Borough that shows the suggested changes. This map was prepared for Council's information and to help with the process of obtaining approval of the changes. Also, in September, Solicitor Gabriel started discussions with the Board of Elections on our changes. Due to the county's focus on the upcoming November 8th election, it is expected that the Borough will not begin detailed discussions of our changes with the county until after the election, hopefully by the end of November or the beginning of December. Lastly, the members of the committee would like to personally thank Dave Oster for his continual work on trying to solve this problem of distributing the numbers of voters equally and in close proximity to their poll. He personally has spent a great deal of time counting numerous numbers of voters on each street to make sure that these numbers match up. We thank him for his efforts.”

The second thing I would like to point out is that this past Friday and Sunday, I had a woman on Alta Vista, Tracy Sycmanski, contact me to state that she was willing to help with picking up litter. She assisted us on Chamberlain Road and also on Gill Hall Road. If anyone else would like to help in this process of cleaning up the Borough, specifically Elliot Road and Coal Valley Road # 4 need done. We try to pick up litter on a road that we know a lot of people travel on daily. Anybody that is interested, please contact me at [kbucy@jeffersonhills.net](mailto:kbucy@jeffersonhills.net).

I attended the Connect Conference of the Future of Fire through the University of Pittsburgh. This event had many speakers from all over the state. Their main thrust is recruitment, retention, and an inventory of equipment. I would like to recognize that John Thatcher from this community also attended this conference.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated as a mother of two sons, I would like to say how proud I am of Brian Verbanick and his heroic actions. It is just such a joy to have a young man like that in our community. I wanted to extend my thanks and express how proud I am of his actions.

Mrs. Steffey reminded everybody that in Jefferson Hills when you are putting out signs, this election season, we do require a sign permit with a \$50 deposit. The deposit is returned to you after all of your signs are picked up. Currently, we have two sign permits on file. One is for Mr. Kuzma, and the other is for Comfort Keepers. The zoning and code enforcement officers are going to be instructed to pick up the signs. They will not be thrown away. They will be returned when there is a permit on file and there is a deposit. Our public works and our code enforcement spend way too much time after the election is over, picking up everybody's remaining signs that are left here. We are going to start keeping your \$50 if that happens.

I was asked by Mr. Gabriel to go over the makeup of the Public Safety Committee meeting. It appears that the Public Safety Committee meetings are being confused for meetings where we all convene and discuss nothing but our Fire Department or Gill Hall. This is not the case. These meetings are held with our Emergency Service Department heads and at times, different members of our staff here at the Borough Building, depending on what is on the agenda. It is not a committee such as our Recreation Board, Planning Commission, EAC, Library Board, et cetera. Therefore, it does not have the exact same makeup to where residents are appointed to the Board. It is not a voting meeting of any kind. Therefore, we are not required to keep minutes nor live stream, nor allow public comment. I felt it was important to be transparent and open it up to the public. When we have attendees, we do allow public comment. There will be times like last month where the staffing committee will not have anything pressing or urgent to be placed on the agenda, which will result in the meeting being canceled. When it is canceled, it will be posted on social media, and in the future have a sign posted on the door even though that is not a requirement. I would much rather cancel a meeting that has no agenda instead of pulling our chiefs and staff out of their day-to-day workload to attend a meeting for 10 minutes that did not have any pressing agenda items to be discussed. But certainly, we were not trying to purposely inconvenience anyone for that cancellation.

My response to Mr. Hutson, last week was absolutely 100% a fact in the amount of money that was being spent on the right-to-knows. I said when I was addressing him that I understand it is the resident's right to file right-to-know requests. I would never want to discourage that. I was not discouraging him from filing them either. The fact is, I was voted in here to be a steward of Borough tax-payers money.

I also sit on the finance committee. Mr. Reynolds, it is a fact that you also have a rolling tab here at the Borough for conferences that you signed up for your first year that you did not attend and, iPads, you did not pay for. For you to sit here and say to Mr. Hutson, you apologize,

do not do it on my behalf, because you certainly like to spend the Borough taxpayer's money as well.

Mrs. Bucy stated I am a volunteer at the Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank. Come to the Cloverleaf Food Bank. We get a lot of donations from different stores such as Giant Eagle, Panera, and Fresh Thyme. We have about 25 freezers that have food in. Tomorrow is a distribution day. If you would like to come, we're open from 9 to 12. I just want the residents to understand that due to that merger of St. Thomas A' Becket, St. Elizabeth, St. Clair, and Holy Spirit churches, that circle of opportunity for distribution has become larger. If you would like to come up and fill out an application, no questions are asked, feel free to come up.

Mr. Lynch stated when I hear about what JHFR has done along with Southeast EMS and good citizens like Brian Verbanick, I feel like I am in good hands. I know that if I am in trouble, I will always have somebody to call on.

Brian, I'm sorry I could not be there tonight. I really wanted to be there to shake your hand. It is an honor to have good upstanding citizens like yourself in Jefferson Hills.

For anybody who is looking for something to do and seeing what is going on around our community we are going to be having our next EAC meeting on Wednesday, October 26th at 6:30 PM down at the first-floor conference room.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager

*Executive Session: Personnel, Lawfully Privileged/Confidential, Public Safety Preparedness, Litigation 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, 328 WAL 2021, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County Appeal No. 871 CD 2020, SA-19-000748; PICCO Superfund site- potential litigation involving WESA and Ashland; Potential acquisition of real estate; threatened litigation from WESA.*