

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

### BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road, at the agenda meeting, I had discussed a report I received after filing a right to know request with the Allegheny County 911. This report contains response times for all emergency calls within the Borough for the last 8 years. I brought up response times for one emergency in particular. After, Justin Allen from either 885 or Floreffe stated that while those are the times the County shows, they are not accurate. That it was during a storm event, so the times are entered at a later date, and aren't the actual times of the responses. He also stated that the owner of that home refuted those times. First, to clarify, the owner refuted a time given by Keith Reynolds, where Keith stated the first truck from Jefferson Hills arrived in 20 minutes. The owner stated, "It did not take 20 minutes". According to the County 911 records, it took 19 minutes. So, the owner's comment may have refuted Keith's claim, but it in no way refutes the County's records. In addition, I did some checking. I've also filed another right to know asking where this data comes from and how it gets entered into their system. I've also checked with people who've worked EMS and are very familiar with the County's 911 system. I've been told this is a CAD system and these are actual time stamps of when units radio into 911. Some radios even have a button they can push that shows they are enroute, and when they've arrived. I was told they believe these records come directly from the call log and are entered automatically when the calls come in. Each radio has a unique ID (in our case, IDs such as 180EN1, 180EN2, 180CHF, etc.). Each call is time stamped from when the call actually came through. I'm also told a regular user can't go into the system and just change these times. Only a manager with access to do so could.

I work in healthcare software. Everything in our systems have time stamps as well. When a patient arrives, when a film tech starts an x-ray, when they finish, when a doctor reads the film, when they sign. What time the report was printed, when it was sent to other systems, who accessed it. For liability purposes, this data has to be 100% accurate, and can be called upon if the patient has issues with their care. I'd have to think the same would be true of the county's 911 system. They collect this data for a reason, and I'd think it too has to be 100% accurate. All of our emergency services would be at great risk of possible litigation if this data were incorrect.

I'm wondering if Justin Allen, or anyone from 885 or Floreffe would like to retract the statement that this data the county keeps is incorrect. Or, if we might like to invite someone from the county to a future meeting to discuss with us the accuracy of their reports. Either way, I will report back next month once I get a response to my right to know letting me know how this data gets populated into the system, and if it's accurate.

Mr. Reynolds stated I guess I owe everybody an apology for making a statement saying it was 20 minutes when in fact it was 19. So, if my numbers were incorrect, I apologize for misleading you on that one minute's time. I'll try to be more accurate.

Brian Hutson, 420 Old Clairton Road, this I believe goes back to last month's voting meeting when Mrs. Bucy asked a few questions regarding the Gill Hall fire company. You wanted to know what we needed or what kind of condition we're in.

First of all, our building is up to date and it's in good shape. All the fire trucks are inspected and in good work working order with the exception of the ladder truck. Because of the litigation that's involved with that truck, there has been a limited amount of maintenance that has been done on that truck. So, to continue on to what we would need to get back up and running, we would need our Workman's Comp insurance, that would need to be reinstated for all of our membership. We would need to be re-added back to the 911 cards, as we were on December 31, 2018, our funding would need to be restored, we would need the ability to reach out to the public for our fund drive notices, and to do fund drive for ourselves.

In addition to all that, just to bring you up to date, some of our memberships have joined other departments so they could continue on with their education. Because of that, we have two members who were able to complete their essentials class. They have passed the Firefighter One certification and they're now going for their Firefighter Two certifications and EMS certifications. There are several other firemen also that are in the process now of still trying to get their Fire Fighter One certification completed. As I said, the only way they're doing this is just because they went out and joined other departments outside of the Borough. I just wanted to answer Mrs. Bucy's questions.

Mr. Reynolds asked, how far gone is that ladder truck? I mean are you're saying it's been sitting there a while and I understand like hydraulics and stuff like that, it may have issues, could you give us a guess?

Mr. Hutson stated I don't have the logs in front of me. It's been sitting in an enclosed garage, and it's been heated. I'm sure it will still run and move. I had a car that was parked for nine years. I pushed it out of the garage, change the oil and it started right up. It's not like it's been outside in the weather. I don't know to what extent what all it needs to be recertified on it, I would need to have the records in front of me for that and I don't.

#### AGENDA ITEMS:

Mrs. Budd moved to approve the monthly bills, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve the monthly payroll, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve minutes of special meeting February 2, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting February 9, 2022, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of regular meeting February 14, 2022, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

**Presentation of proclamation to Jacklyn Girman, the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation:**

*WHEREAS*, suicide is a national public health challenge that causes immeasurable pain among individuals, families, and communities across the United States; and

*WHEREAS*, the number of veteran and military suicides have significantly increased from 2008 to present day; and

*WHEREAS*, the Borough of Jefferson Hills is no different than any other community, and has experienced loss among the veterans living here and subsequent heartbreak of the friends and family following this loss; and

*WHEREAS*, for every individual who feels alone, ashamed, or believes that they would be a burden if their thoughts or feelings were shared, there are scores of others in every community who want to help but are not sure how; and

*WHEREAS*, Pennsylvania communities are in the unique position to leverage the experiences of their residents, including Veterans, to encourage discussions about mental health, emotional wellbeing, and the development of meaningful solutions; and

*WHEREAS*, Ms. Jacklyn Girman created the “Geo Mack Veterans Foundation” in honor of her close friend and cousin, Army Staff Sergeant George “Geo” Mackulin, who committed suicide on October 12, 2015; and

*WHEREAS*, the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation honors the memory of Sgt. Mackulin by raising awareness about veteran suicide and helps support veterans through fundraising, collection, and compilation of care caddies that are delivered to the Veteran’s Administration and other veteran aid organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Carrie McCaffrey, Mayor of the Borough of Jefferson Hills, do hereby proclaim our support for Ms. Jacklyn Girman and the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation which has grown its efforts to promote suicide prevention and help support veterans in the region; and

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Borough of Jefferson Hills to be affixed this 14th day of March, 2022 in recognition of her efforts in the community.

Mr. Montgomery moved to appoint Kevin Polick to the position on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission to complete the term for Keith Polick – Term Ending 12/31/2022, seconded by Mr. Lynch. 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 Steffey	YES
Vice President Budd	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES

Mrs. Budd moved to appoint Tracey Khalil to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Vacancy Board (term ending 12/31/24), seconded by Mr. Lynch. 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 Steffey	YES
Vice President Budd	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	NO
Mrs. Ruscitto	ABSTAINED

Mrs. Budd moved to advertise position for Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board (finishing the term of Ashley Delgado term ending 12/31/22), seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to advertise positions for Borough of Jefferson Hills Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to appoint David T. Montgomery as substitute crossing guard and Karen Bucy as alternate crossing guard for the Borough of Jefferson Hills, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated I just want to bring it to the attention of the people that are in the audience, that during our monthly discussions with Chief Dziezgowski, he had mentioned to us several times that one of the crossing guards was having a hip replacement/knee replacement. Mr. Montgomery lives probably about three doors down from Jefferson Hills Elementary, and he volunteered to do that position. That started on November 27th. He didn't get paid from November 27th to January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He was willing to do that because we did not want to have the police sitting up there because sometimes the police get a call, and they have to leave. Sometimes they are at a call, and they cannot make it up there at that particular time. It wasn't until after January 3<sup>rd</sup>, I mentioned something to Chief Dziezgowski, about Mr. Montgomery and the crossing guard position. He said,

well you have to get paid because if you don't get paid you don't have Workman's Comp. If you get hit by a car, then it's all downhill from there. Councilman Montgomery has never missed a day. I am only the substitute for the substitute because I said some of these people might not be able to come every single day. I can honestly say I have never been asked to come. We only have two crossing guards in Jefferson Hills, one across from Jefferson Elementary and one by Vine Street. Evidently these people are very diligent and responsible in coming. It's a split day, it's 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the afternoon. I have never had to go because the two crossing guards are so diligent about fulfilling their responsibilities that I have never been needed. That's because both of them, and maybe you can speak to this Chief Dziezgowski, don't miss unless they have to. Many people that are retired know that when you're retired you get to have a lot of little jobs that never necessarily add up to much. I'm there as an alternate in case they have a doctor's appointment or for some reason they can't go. But both of these individuals have never missed thus far.

Chief Dziezgowski stated prior to Councilman Montgomery assuming that role as crossing guard at that location, we did advertise for a substitute crossing guard and received zero applications. That was when Councilman Montgomery approached me about when we were utilizing officers to fill that vacancy and asked if he could be a crossing guard. Now both Councilman Montgomery and Councilwoman Bucy applied for the position, completed all their clearances and certifications, which is important. They didn't just assume that role. They went through the entire process as any applicant would do in this circumstance. These two locations are vital. We only have two locations left in Jefferson Hills as Councilwoman Bucy has said. To fill that with an officer may not always be the best solution because of the call volume that we receive here. Having these two individuals as crossing guards, that will be an alternate and a substitute crossing guard is a very valuable situation that we have right now, and I thank them for stepping up and everything was followed with the application process.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I just wanted everyone to know whenever I vote no or abstained, I like to tell people why. Mr. Khalil's family literally lives in my backyard, so I didn't want anything to come up.

Mr. Montgomery moved to amend the purchase price not to exceed \$4,818.95 and to purchase a new plotter scanner for the Planning Department, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mr. Drager stated I know this was last minute, but we just reached out to follow up on the quotes on Friday and we received word that Print-o-Stat just got in an off lease two-year-old printer, that's almost the identical model to what was quoted to us back in February. This two-year-old model is about \$4,000 less. It currently has the same full-service warranty that we are currently paying now on the one that we have. After speaking with Mr. Glister and the Planning Department this should be more than sufficient and considering that it's just a little bit over half the cost, this would probably be a better option than buying the \$8,998.00 model.

Solicitor Gabriel stated I would just advise that the motion would then be revised to say not to exceed the price of the reconditioned model.

Mr. Montgomery asked what the price was for the reconditioned model?

Mr. Drager stated it is \$4,818.95 and the original quote was for \$8,998.00.

Motion to decide to lease a new plotter scanner for the Planning Department at the price of \$324.00 per month was not necessary, due to the vote on prior item was approved to purchase.

Mr. Montgomery moved to hire William Weeks as a mechanic in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department to begin work in two weeks, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated this is the second time we've gone through this process with a mechanic. The first person that we attempted to hire eventually thought it was too far away. I'd like to say that Mr. Weeks is a graduate of TJ High School. He is also a local young man that lives right over the hill here and he has worked with our Public Works Department with fixing many things that they've had down at another company in West Elizabeth and Clairton. I would like to also say that he had the full endorsement of Mr. Volpe on this position.

Mrs. Budd moved to permit the Jefferson Hills Police Department to advertise, accept applications, and test police candidates toward establishing a police candidate eligibility list to be certified by the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Commission, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to purchase a 60" EXMARK Zero Turn Mower from Jefferson Hills Lawn Equipment for \$9,099.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to adopt Resolution No. 09-2022 amending the existing Borough of Jefferson Hills Fee Resolution to include additional permit fees for the stage rental at Andrew Reilly Memorial Park and raising the flat fee of \$150 to \$200 for all Borough of Jefferson Hills recreation leagues, 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:

President Steffey	YES
Vice President Budd	YES
Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	ABSTAINED
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES

Mr. Reynolds asked, is this for just the stage rental?

Mrs. Steffey replied, yes, just a separate fee for the stage rental and then there is an additional fee if you rent the stage and you already have the large pavilion.

Mr. Reynolds stated I guess at the end it just confused me a little bit with the rate for the stage. But at the end I'm not sure why it says for all Borough of Jefferson Hills recreation leagues.

Mrs. Steffey stated the fee is in there for the stage rental because you have two options. It will depend on whether or not you rent that large pavilion as well. The recreation leagues, that's separate, that's for the permit fees for the baseball leagues.

Mr. Reynolds stated at the very least it should say and for all field rentals, right?

Mrs. Steffey stated right now those recreation leagues do not pay a fee at all.

Mr. Reynolds stated it's a fee for what stage?

Mrs. Steffey stated no, the fields.

Mr. Reynolds stated I don't understand who doesn't pay?

Mrs. Steffey stated I don't think TJYBB has ever paid. That was according to Mr. Stinner.

Mr. Reynolds stated they're the only ones because my recreational pays.

Mrs. Steffey stated that's already set.

Mr. Reynolds stated we are going from \$150.00 to \$200.00? Are we going to supply the needed items, the field dry, the clay to repair the field and so forth like that?

Mrs. Steffey asked, Mr. Volpe, the stuff that is supplied to 885 on a regular basis, is that also supplied to Beedle?

Mr. Reynolds stated no, TJ Youth Baseball purchases that. But if we're going to start to charge for it, then we should give them the supplies they need to conduct the game.

Mrs. Steffey stated we already do charge for it. Meaning your leagues?

Mr. Reynolds stated if we're going to charge TJ Youth Baseball and they've never paid before, now that we're going to charge them, instead of them having to purchase their own, they should have it supplied because we're charging for the field.

Mrs. Steffey asked, what is supplied at 885 Mr. Volpe?

Mr. Volpe stated if the infill needs work after the new in fields, we supply the clay and when they call and need the lime or the field dry, we go and get them some whenever they call and say they need it.

Mr. Reynolds stated they've always ordered pallets on their own.

Mrs. Steffey asked, and you're saying that that's not the same for Beedle correct?

Mr. Reynolds stated to be honest with you that is correct. I believe TJ Youth Baseball has purchased it for 885 and for Tepe. There's never been anything purchased for them. At times TJ

Youth Baseball, if we were in a pinch at Beedle like, the one year that the high school baseball season got wiped out and the high school team went down there to play, it was like a non-sanctioned WPIAL, but they still played down there. We were able to access it because it was kids from the Borough, TJ Youth Baseball paid for that stuff that was up at the Tepe, and we sourced some of that down there. But we've never, not to my knowledge, and I've been around it for a long time, I don't believe that we've ever paid for the field line, for the diamond drive, for the clay to repair a spotter, like a batter's box or pitching mound or so forth, we've never supplied that. I think if we're going to charge, then I think we should supply the organizations.

Mrs. Steffey stated I will say this and I'm speaking as a mother, do you know how much it costs to have a kid in youth baseball right now?

Mr. Reynolds stated that to me is, we're not going to get into all their expenses that they have too.

Mrs. Steffey stated they do have expenses and I get it, but I spend \$200.00 on two boys for Rec in-house baseball, \$100.00 a kid. So, they have expenses, but they also have a concession stand that they run, and they do fundraising. Fundraising might be for travel teams, so, I apologize. But what Rec wanted to do with these fees is make it completely fair across the board. I believe by charging TJYBB or any other recreation that comes in there, that is fair.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm not disputing the fact that we're going to charge them.

Mrs. Steffey stated I think that since you are on the Public Works committee too, we can also come up with a list of how we need to also make that even across the board and what's to be supplied at every field should be the same.

Mr. Reynolds stated that's all I'm saying, if we're going to charge them we should supply them with the material.

Mrs. Steffey stated I know on occasion like field dry and stuff had been purchased in addition, but as far as what Mr. Volpe is saying, I know that there's always the work and stuff done there too. So, let's come up with a list that we want to have dispersed amongst all of the fields. That way there won't be any miscommunication or unevenness.

Mr. Reynolds stated the only other question I would ask is \$200.00 for TJYBB are we charging \$200.00 for the front field, \$200.00 for the backfield, and \$200.00 for Tepe? Because their permit actually goes over.

Mrs. Steffey stated it's just for the permit application and their permit covers all of those fields. Would you want it a different way? Would you suggest having it a different way?

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm just more worried about making sure that we start to supply these organizations with what it takes.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated it's a little different for the adult leagues than it is for the youth leagues. Because the youth leagues do pay for their kids, we pay for our kids to play. But the adult leagues



dish out a lot of their own money just to be able to play. So, that's what we should probably look at.

Mrs. Steffey stated they're paying now. They are paying the same permit fees, so that's what I wanted.

Mr. Reynolds stated I just don't want this to turn into us looking at their money in their wallet. There's a lot of expenses. I can tell you for the 17 and up baseball team for the high school and collegian kids, we're already getting an increase now because the umpires, they were \$65 each per game, now as we all know, we're all paying more money for gas. So, the umpires even want an increase. Just what I was saying to these games so they're becoming increasingly harder.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the adults should receive support assistance from us as a Borough.

Mr. Reynolds stated I think they should also be treated equal.

Mrs. Steffey stated I agree.

Mrs. Steffey stated, actually Mr. Reynolds, the Resolution states it more clearly, \$200 permit fee for all recreation leagues using Jefferson Hills Borough facilities, \$200 rental fee for stage rental only, at Andrew Reilly Memorial Park, and \$75 rental fee for stage rental when accompanied by a simultaneous \$200 rental of the large pavilion at Andrew Reilly Memorial Park

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to adopt Resolution No. 10-2022 authorizing application to the Pennsylvania Municipal Assistance Program facilitated by the Pennsylvania Department of Economic and Community Development (DCED), seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve street opening permit request by Pennsylvania American Water Company to repair line on Tangelo Drive, 2000' width by 2' length, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 11-2022 granting final approval to the subdivision known as S-2-2022, Millstone Village Phase I, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution No. 12-2022 granting preliminary and final approval to a subdivision known as S-3-2022, Moses Subdivision No. 2, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to adopt Resolution No. 13-2022 requiring Pennsylvania Act 33 Child Abuse and Act 34 Criminal Background checks for all Borough of Jefferson Hills volunteers, coaches, and recreation activity sponsors who utilize Borough facilities and/or parks for organized youth activities in the community, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-2022 authorizing participation in the 2023 Joint Bid for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services administered by SHACOG, seconded by Mrs. Bucy and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve Invoice No. 4199W-27 from Lone Pine Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$20,599.00 for work completed on the Lick Run pump station emergency repair project, seconded by Mr. Lynch and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to approve Invoice No. 4199W-28 from Lone Pine Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$7,068.90 for work completed on the Lick Run pump station emergency repair project, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to amend to read the 2022 MS4 Program and approve Work Authorization dated February 26, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for the 2022 MS4 Program in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, seconded by Mr. Montgomery and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to reimburse Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue and EMS for employer withholding Social Security contributions, Medicare costs, and payroll expenses for 2021 Shift Crew Contributions in the amount of \$33,899.45, 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:

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

Mr. Reynolds stated we approved an hourly rate for the shift crew that we pay them. Does this take this up above what we approve to pay them?

Mrs. Steffey stated this was from last year. The shift crew pay differed from last year then this year, so I just want to make sure that you're talking about last year.

Mr. Reynolds stated right, well last year we had an agreement that was approved for what we paid them hourly. This is going to take it up over what we had originally. This is their accounting error; we're going to go back and we're going to pay them more money than what we had agreed to pay them.

Mr. Drager stated in the past we just paid them the straight \$12 per hour and what this is, this is on top of any wage, there'll be a 7.65% Medicare and Social Security tax as well as any additional payroll fees for who they use. I believe they use Paychex, but that's where that \$33,000.00 additional cost comes from.

Mr. Reynolds stated so we agreed to pay them an hourly rate and now their accounting error is going to cost the residents almost \$34,000.00.

Mr. Drager stated it's not an error, it's just that we paid the \$12 an hour and this is on top of any salary wage.

Mr. Reynolds stated I say it's an error because they should have held that out of the \$12.00.

Mr. Drager stated this would be the employer side, the employer side pays on top of that. Just as we pay our staff here at the Borough.

Mr. Reynolds stated well then you get into the discussion of, are they paid employees or are they shift crew? Are we paying JHFR the \$12.00 and they're supposed to cover all the expenses out of that \$12.00 for the shift crew, does this make it now that they're paid employees? Solicitor Gabriel maybe that's a question for you.

Solicitor Gabriel stated no, they're not paid employees, they're still shift crew members. This is shift crew contribution to cover.

Mr. Reynolds stated just because we say they're not, doesn't mean that they aren't, we can call them whatever they want to call them.

Solicitor Gabriel stated we don't as a Borough, we don't direct them and control their employees.

Mr. Reynolds stated but we're paying the wage; we're paying all the withholding taxes were funding and we're paying all this. I don't know how we could sit there and say that they're not a paid employee. Again, if the sky is blue the sky is blue, you can say that it's something else, but the sky is still blue. This takes us in to it being a paid employee and I think we have to look at the liability and we have to look at a lot of the other things that comes along with that. This is not just necessarily paying out almost \$34,000.00. It takes us, I believe, into a whole other responsibility for that.

Mrs. Steffey stated technically since they're not on our payroll correct? They are not on our payroll; this is a reimbursement.

Solicitor Gabriel stated yes, it's a reimbursement.

Mr. Reynolds stated this is a reimbursement for a specific employer where the employer would cover it and we're covering it. A spade's a spade. If we're paying it and we're paying all of it, then I think we need to stop fooling ourselves and saying that these individuals are paid administrators. I believe that this clearly makes it an employee.

Mrs. Steffey stated I think if we had a paid firefighter department, we would be seeing a lot more dollars than this.

Mr. Reynolds stated no, because what you're talking about is a paid union. This isn't about having a union firefighter or not. This is about having a paid department. If they choose to go unionized, they can go unionized. That's up to them. There's no difference than, this is essentially we have our own paid department, but now we have nonunion employees. There's a whole lot more here to consider than just paying out \$33,000.00. Does that in fact set the precedence for us to keep paying it year in, year out? We're setting a precedence here.

Mrs. Steffey stated this year's precedence is budgeted for \$13.00 an hour.

Mr. Reynolds stated okay, so when they pay their employee \$13.00 bucks an hour, are we going to have to come back at the end of the year, who's paying this right now?

Mrs. Steffey stated that is something that the finance committee met over, and we are looking into other options as to how we move forward.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the reason I voted yes, is it is a reimbursement that was promised, so there's really nothing we can do, it was already agreed upon.

Mr. Reynolds stated I can understand that, and I don't think we need to get into it here, but what I'm saying is the Workman's Comp that they get from that SWIF Program that's for volunteers only. If they now become paid employees, are they going to get that?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I definitely agree that we need to discuss this at a later date.

Chief Pascoe stated SWIF is actually in our state, a worker's comp of last resort. When anyone becomes unemployable, any agency, like the ambulance, whatever. If our mod goes above 1.5 and no one wants to touch us, so that the organization doesn't go out of business, the state will ensure you at a higher cost.

Mr. Reynolds stated thank you for clearing that up for one of my concerns.

## REPORTS:

### Fire Chief

Chief Allen stated good evening. I'm not going to make this real long or get into an argument with Mr. Doel or anything, but if Council wishes, I do have the times from that call. If you would like me to read them off, I could be more than happy to do that.

Mrs. Steffey stated sure, and can you tell me where you've received them from?

Chief Allen stated I also have the CAD report here from that night and I'm not going to play this publicly because it does include addresses, phone numbers and names. But I also have the audio from that night as well with the time stamps. I'll be happy to meet with anybody outside of the public setting. I can show you this audio and go over these times with you, but I'll read a few of these times.

The time of dispatch for the Greene Drive incident was 4:18 a.m. I arrived on scene at 4:23 a.m. Pleasant Hill 232 squad arrived on scene at 4:24 a.m., 270 truck called enroute at 4:25 a.m. and 180 engine two arrived on scene at 4:26 a.m. Those are just a few of the important times to document. 180 engine two ended up not taking water supply. They came straight into the incident, pulled the lines, went to work. Pleasant Hills 232 engine took the hydrant and laid into 180 engines to provide the water. Engine two was first on scene for that incident. That's on the recording. Followed by 232 engine who took the hydrant.

Mrs. Steffey stated so for 4:26 being eight minutes from dispatch.

Chief Allen stated I can also tell you; he might want to do a little bit of research on new construction versus old construction because if that house was on fire for 20 minutes it probably wouldn't be standing. I do know that those residents are living back in their home, it has been remodeled and they are back in their home. It was on fire for 20 minutes, new construction probably would not be standing anymore. I just wanted to address that real quick and other than that, I have nothing else. If he thinks he can do it better or faster, he should get an application.

Mr. Reynolds asked, on those, when was the first fire engine from Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue to get there. How long did it take?

Chief Allen stated the time of dispatch was 4:18 a.m. 180 Engine two arrived on scene at 4:26 a.m., so, approximately eight minutes.

Mr. Reynolds stated Engine two?

Chief Allen stated that's Floreffe's engine, Chief Wither's was the driver for the pumper that night.

Mr. Reynolds stated there's a whole lot and I don't know if we want this to play out here, but I personally went over to Gill Hall and watched their security tapes and you can see each of the engine's going down Gill Hall and it was not within eight minutes.

Chief Allen stated you might want to watch those tapes again. Because I can tell you this much, if I drive from my home on Nielsen Drive which is right behind Gill Hall fire hall to Floreffe doing 20 MPH, I can be there in nine minutes. I've timed it. It doesn't take 20 minutes with a shift crew to get out the door, I'm sorry, 19 minutes to get there.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm watching a video tape.

Chief Allen stated also I would like to give just a little piece of advice. Can we quit bringing this incident up out of respect for the homeowner? He was here in August, September, October or whatever it was, and he also requested the same thing. Stop making residents a political agenda topic.

EMS

Nothing further

Engineer

Mrs. Steffey stated Mr. Glister I did want to go back to 885 that you and I had correspondence on with the traffic study over there. Just so that those residents over there understand that the traffic study was concluded, correct?

Mr. Glister stated correct.

Mrs. Steffey stated they came to the conclusion that no stoplight and no stop sign was needed over there. Some trees needed trimmed back in a few residents' yards, but when Mr. Volpe went over there to see if we needed to take care of that for those residents. Since it's the wintertime,

Mr. Volpe stated there was no leaves or anything on the tree. So, it was kind of hard to tell if that was needed, so we can maybe revisit that in the spring.

Mr. Glistner stated yes that's the idea. When Mr. Volpe and I talked after he went out there, he wasn't seeing what PennDOT was referencing in their letter, but like they could have made that observation in the summer growing season. So, we're going to keep an eye on it. We would also need permission because the trees aren't in the right of way, they're actually on the individual property owner's property. We'll keep an eye on that. Then the recommendation from the state was to install a few large double arrows as they approach to those intersections to improve intersectional visibility. But ultimately they thought an all ways stop was not warranted.

Mrs. Steffey stated and those large double arrows meaning signs?

Mr. Glistner stated there will be arrows on the signs on the side of the road.

Mrs. Steffey asked and that's our responsibility to install them?

Mr. stated the letter indicated that PennDOT will perform the work depending on material availability.

Consulting Engineer

Not present

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Mrs. Steffey stated Mr. Drager has a power point that he'd like to share with us.

Mrs. Bucy stated last year the Finance Committee had purchased this Financial Insight Program. It did take a little bit of time for Mr. Drager to get this up and running, but he has mastered it at this point in time. This is also included in the budget book. I asked him to address this one issue and that was the revenue versus expenditures. There seems to be an issue that people were a little bit discrepancy on. Mr. Drager put this together, and I think it's very beneficial.

Mr. Drager stated I think it was late 2020 when we purchased the software, but we previously didn't have anything from a reporting standpoint to either forecast or just be able to monitor expenses properly. It did take a lot of time working with Financial Insights to get everything up and running. I will be incorporating it more in my finance report, and I'm sure some of it will be published on the website for anything that needs to be viewed.

The primary template that I set up is a series of six different graphs. The first one, as you can see in the top left is just the horseshoe graph of the year-to-date expenditures. The second one on the top right is over the period that we had the current accounting software that we use. Over the past six years, you can see the projected expenses and where we actually came in. In all of those years, we did come under budget.

Now, having that said, some of those budgets did incorporate the use of the reserve fund, so it doesn't always mean that we carried over that exact amount. Ultimately, every single year we

came under budget during this time period. In many years we exceeded our revenues, so we did carry over money into the reserve fund. This is just a good visual of being able to see where we were in the budget over the past few years.

This next graph is the same one as the first one, although it's a column with the trend line. You can see every single year in that period, we were well under, hopefully we're going to remain that. Being able to view this, we're able to drill down by department and by fund. We're going to have more oversight between the department heads so that they can monitor that more clearly and ensure that we stay under budget.

The next one is the one that is probably going to be more telling for some of the department heads. It's a breakdown by month and there's certain months, not necessarily in the expenditures, but in the revenues during our real estate tax period. We'll see spikes there. But here, this will be able to make sure that we maintain a balanced monthly budget. There are certain spikes due to our pension obligations in October, and there's going to be certain spikes in the summer with some of the capital expenditures are going on. In particular, this is a good guide of when different departments may be expecting certain spikes and expenditures. They'll be able to see it. We'll be able to utilize that.

The next one is our current to prior year. This one on the right, it's actually by fund. You'll be able to see the breakdown of expenditures by fund. Currently there are three major funds, our general fund, our sewer revenue fund, and highway aid. They make up pretty much over 90% of our expenses. It's going to be that breakdown, that's not going to change too much. Either way, it's nice to be able to see what portion of the total budget comes from each fund, which parts are restricted. We were talking last Wednesday about the total reserve fund. Just because we have that percentage of our operating budget in a reserve fund doesn't mean we can necessarily allocate it all to a certain project. The sewer revenue fund still has to be allocated to sewer projects. Highway Aid can only be used for specific purchases. Ultimately, those reserve funds for each fund can be totaled.

The good thing about this too is many of the department heads reach out to me to see where they're at on budgets. I don't put anything together until my finance report at the end of the month. But now, with this oversight, they'll be able to check it daily, it's going to be updated as soon as there's any entry made into the system. The department heads are able to view it and make sure that certain accounts don't go over or if they're getting close. They can obviously hold back or cut things from the budget.

Lastly, the other one is for revenue projections. I set it up the same way with the same dashboards. That's going to be just our year to date, month over month, where our anticipated revenues are and where we're coming in.

The last one that I will do, it's not complete yet, but we will have the actual expenditures with the actual revenues and that'll be the last dashboard that I put together. We are going to be incorporating that just to make sure that we're being financially responsible and that very few accounts go over budget.

Mrs. Bucy stated Mr. Drager, on your page that has Jefferson Hills expenditure summary 2021 major funds, general fund, it's those bar graphs with the orange line down below there. It says for 2021 that we were 94.72% spent and therefore we did not reach, and it says, "Revenues exceeded expenses by \$530,000.00 for 2021." So, we were under budget in 2021 and the last past six years.

Mr. Drager asked, you're talking about just for 2021, correct?

Mrs. Bucy stated yes, but also the last six years. On that one that you have, this is what it states, it states on that whole page that we never exceeded our revenue; we did not exceed our revenue in the last six years. I think that's a telling story of the management of this money. In fact, in 2021 down here at the bottom you have it exactly that we underspent \$530,000.00. I just want to bring to the resident's attention that we were under budget. We've watched this budget very carefully and thoroughly. I think it shows in this document. Also, I think some of this document will be published on the web page, if not everything.

Mr. Drager stated in fact, when you include all funds, we were about \$1.3 million under. A little bit over half a million of that was the ARPA funds. But other than the ARPA, we were still over a million.

Mrs. Steffey stated thank you very much.

Mr. Montgomery stated Jon, just some historical perspective. In the early nineties we operated on tax and anticipation notes. So, we operated the Borough half a year on borrowed money. Once the tax revenue came in, we operate on tax revenue through January and then borrowed money to operate the rest. That practice has long gone away, and we are in a very fortunate position. We don't have to borrow any money to operate this Borough. I think that's something that people should understand. It's due diligence of financial management that has got us here. It's something we should all be proud of and pleased that that's the way it operates today.

Public Works Director

Mr. Montgomery asked, the bathrooms at Beedle, they're supposed to start the soccer season Monday are the bathroom is going to be open?

Mr. Volpe asked, this Monday are they going to be opened?

Mr. Montgomery stated when the season starts.

Mr. Volpe stated whenever I get notified of that we'll make sure they're open.

Mr. Montgomery stated I was contacted by a parent and said are you going to open them, and I said, I don't know, I'll find out.

Mrs. Steffey asked soccer starts this Monday?

Mr. Montgomery stated yes a week from today at Beedle.



Mr. Reynolds asked, Chief your guys take care of opening and closing them, right?

Mr. Volpe stated the Public Works opens on Monday to Friday and the police open them on the weekends and lock them at night. That's the schedule.

Mrs. Steffey asked Mike, so next Monday the bathrooms will be open then correct?

Mr. Volpe stated that's correct.

Chief Dziezgowski

I do have a couple of things I wanted to mention. Number one, we live in a very safe community and we're fortunate for that. But as your Police Chief, I want to remind everybody that we have to be vigilant and take precautions. What I mean by that is, on the rise, one of our main complaints right now that we take in is identity theft. If you are a victim of identity theft, vehicle break ins, or any type of crime, you need to report it to the police so we can document the incident. Also, we document what trends are going on in Jefferson Borough. If it's not reported, we don't know what happens. I get surprised when people come up here and say, hey I think somebody was under my car three weeks ago. If there are trends, video surveillance that we can find to locate who's doing it, that video might be lost in that amount of time. So, please be vigilant and take the precaution to report it to the police if you are a victim of a crime.

Secondly, with the Council taking action tonight and approving item number 19, I just wanted to let the public know of some dates for any applicants for police candidates. We will be accepting applications starting tomorrow, up until April 15th for police candidates, there will be a physical agility test on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The applicants that passed that will then take a written test following that. The score of the written test will be given to the Civil Service Commission for certification after the oral interview.

The advertisements will go in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Monster.com Hiring, our Facebook pages, and the Borough's Facebook pages. It will hit all the social media outlets. That's the Post-Gazette March 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 27th.

Lastly, I just want to address and to remind residents of the traffic restrictions on Gill Hall Road, which will be Pleasant Hills, started today. Single lane restrictions, that will go through this entire week, the 14th through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Beginning next week, the 21st through July of 2022, full closure of Gill Hall Road to Mowry Drive. I know some businesses on Gill Hall have already reached out to us to complain that their trucks may not make the route that the county has prescribed and that would be Old Clairton Road, Chamberlin Road to Gill Hall Road. We are still working with the county. The county has not come up with any solution. Anytime they have a road closure involving the county they like to have a detour on county roads. We are trying to come up with a solution for the bigger trucks, but we have not come up with a solution yet. Understand this is a county project, not a Borough project. They are the ones that are in control. The contractor, which is Michael Facchiano Contracting, they are only doing the work, they do not control the detours, they are told by the county where the detours are. So again, we are making every effort to make the route feasible for all traffic.

Mrs. Steffey stated I have a question if you don't mind. In your professional opinion, why is there not a school zone flashing light near the new high school on Old Clairton Road?

Chief Dziezgowski stated there is, there was a time change today, if you rode past it today. You're talking about the new high school? Yes there is, well it's for Jefferson Elementary. I don't have that answer.

Mr. Montgomery stated when they build the new high school, the plan was to make a school zone from the top of Old Clairton Road to Kathleen Road to extend it. Then, they decided in the middle of the Planning Commission meeting that nobody was going to walk to the high school, so, they decided to just keep it the way it was.

Mrs. Steffey stated it is very dangerous with cars dropping kids off and pulling out and making a left-hand turn onto Old Clairton Road.

Mr. Montgomery stated the speed is a problem up there and today it was really bad. I have people who drive by me looking at their phones. I yell at them, sometimes they pay attention, most of times they don't. When it's getting close to the afternoon cross and they're on the phone and driving 40 miles an hour it presents a dangerous situation.

Mrs. Steffey stated in general Old Clairton Road is very bad. I stand out there with my kids. Lieutenant King passed me when the bus stopped today. He understands too. I'm talking specifically about the new high school and pulling out of the new high school because it is somewhat close to a blind bend. There were accidents already there at the beginning of school.

Chief Dziezgowski stated we will bring it up in conversation and try to see what alternatives there are to get some signage up there.

Mrs. Steffey stated I understand nobody is walking to the new school at all. They've deemed that, but I don't understand why that school zone can't be extended.

Chief Dziezgowski stated usually the school zone is for bus busses being dropped off and do the fact that they have such a long driveway. I could see why they opted not to do it to avoid the expense.

Mrs. Steffey stated I understand after school lets out they do have a resource officer directing traffic. I know that the school probably doesn't want to utilize that body when they're helping the kids get into school during the morning. It is basically for parents that are dropping their kids off, still trying to get out, it's very very dangerous.

Mr. Montgomery asked, do they back up at the high school onto Old Clairton? Jefferson Elementary, they don't, they have traffic blocked both ways.

Mrs. Steffey asked, do you mean when they're let out? The morning, I don't think is backed up.

Mr. Montgomery stated it actually stops traffic.

Chief Dziezgowski stated its periodically like a couple of days ago in the morning, it was backed up where it was backed up probably 10 cars. I don't know what if everybody drove that day, but it was backed up.

Mr. Reynolds stated if it's that scary, I can't even imagine what it would be like if all the hospital traffic was on Old Clairton Road in the future.

Mr. Reynolds stated it's bad up there.

Mr. Reynolds stated the residents have been voicing that for a long time in, in regard to that hospital and while it's up here, I think it needs to be made fresh for everybody to keep that in mind.

Mrs. Steffey stated it's dangerous everywhere because people don't pay attention and speed where they shouldn't be.

Mayor McCaffrey

I would like to congratulate Brian Finnerty on winning TJ's first ever state wrestling championship. Also, congratulations to Maddox Shaw on finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I would also like to remind the community of our cleanup day that will be held on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:30 am at the borough building. All community organizations, groups and individuals are welcome to participate. Please contact John Stinner at [jstinner@jeffersonhills.net](mailto:jstinner@jeffersonhills.net) to sign up. Refreshments will be served for all volunteers before and after the cleanup.

Manager

Nothing further

Solicitor

I just like to state for the record, the mayor and Council did meet an executive session discuss personnel in a legal matter involving potential litigation.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

Mr. Reynolds stated:

Nothing further

Mr. Lynch stated:

This past weekend we got hit with some pretty decent amount of snow. I just want to give my shout out to the Public Works for being out there and keeping the streets safe and clean.

Willie Weeks, the new mechanic, Willie, you're going to be going to a pretty good group. Lots of toys to play with down there, so have at it sir.

I want to congratulate also Brian Finnerty and Maddox Shaw for their accomplishments for the State Wrestling Championship. Gentlemen, I hope I never end up on your bad side.

Last and certainly not the least, Miss Girman, what you did with the Geo Mac Veterans Foundation is something that really hits close to home to me being the fellow veteran and somebody who served in the Iraq War. What you've done here is very, very amazing stuff here. Please, if there's anything I can do for you, reach out to me, I'll be more than glad to help. I know plenty of people, especially with the nearby National Guard units that will as well. For all those veterans out there and speaking from my own personal experience, it's pretty tough when you're coming home from battle. It's never an easy thing. Believe me, it's been a rollercoaster for myself, but I just kept moving, kept going and that's the reason why I'm here. For every veteran out there, please reach out, reach out to me, reach out to anyone of us. Somebody, we won't leave you behind.

Mrs. Budd stated:

I just wanted to remind everyone that Jefferson Hills Fish Day will take place on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Peter's Creek Road near Waterman Road. A rod and bucket are all that you need to bring. Bait will be provided. There will also be food and prizes, including prizes for the top two largest catches of the day. Anyone over 16 who wishes to fish must have a PA fishing license with a trout stamp. Donations are being accepted for the gifts. If interested in donating, please contact the Borough offices by phone at 412-655-7735. You can also email the Borough Manager John Stinner at [jstinner@jeffersonhills.net](mailto:jstinner@jeffersonhills.net).

Further, the Fish and Game Commission will be hosting a mentored youth fish day on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Peters Creek. Junior licenses are required and can be obtained from any place that sells a license for free.

I would also like to thank Ms. Girman for her efforts and making the borough proud of everything that you have done in the face of a tragedy and turned it into something special.

Mr. Montgomery stated:

I'm just want to welcome Billy Weeks to the Public Works Department. I think last mechanic we hired didn't work out because he said it would be too far to travel. Billy lives in the Borough, so he has a connection here. I think we got the good hire here. I'm looking forward to that all pulling together. So again, I welcome him.

Mrs. Bucy stated:

I'd just like to thank the police department, the fire department and the ambulance who responded at the Valley Hotel fire. Again, that was a coordinated effort among all three of our public safety services, and I am very impressed with how well they coordinate their services together and how they work together. So, I want to thank you very much for that.

The second thing is I'm right in agreement with the mayor's litter campaign on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Please slow down when you see people out there picking up litter. I know that we have a lot of bends and hills in this Borough, and we have a tremendous amount of litter that needs to be picked up so anybody that can come and donate their time and energy towards this cause it's certainly worthwhile. I will be out there myself.

Once again I'd like to thank Jacklyn Girman. I remember when I was speaking at the Memorial Day presentation last year, I had one of the veterans come up to me and say thank you so much for acknowledging the post-traumatic stress syndrome. We talked about this extensively because a lot of people don't realize, but in the Civil war, post-traumatic stress syndrome was called Soldier's Heart, in World War I, it was called Battle Fatigue, in World War II, it was called Shell Shock. We've had this syndrome going on for so many years. Now, we finally acknowledge the mental stress war. Anything that you can do to add in promoting veteran's safety to that is a great honor for the rest of the people that are still serving. So, I want to thank you for that too.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I would also like to commend and extend my gratitude to Jacklyn Girman and her efforts towards Geo Mac Foundation. It's admired and appreciated. It's definitely a necessary cause. So, I thank you

Mrs. Steffey stated:

I would like to extend congratulations also to Brian Finnerty, TJ's first state wrestling champion and Maddox Shaw in third place, tremendous outcome at the state championships the other night.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Max Stanton who just recently he has acquired 60 years of service with Floreffe Fire Hall, which is now JHFR. Thank you Mr. Stanton for your service as well.

Jacklyn, thank you so much for everything. I know that this has blossomed out of a tragedy, and you kept it going and it's grown so much over the years, and you've gotten the young ones involved too. That's what they need to see. That's exactly why I started Jake's lemonade stand so that he can help the veterans as well. Helping veterans is very close to our heart and our family. We look forward to helping you in the future.

Speaking of the lemonade stand, Community Day is coming up on Saturday, June 11th. We'd love to have you there; you can help out in making some lemonade. If you would like to be a vendor, applications will be posted on our website. It usually from 12 o'clock until the fireworks at night. So, June 11th, save that date.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

President Bucy adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager