

Borough of Jefferson Hills  
Agenda Meeting of Council  
March 9, 2022

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, Chief Dziezgowski, Borough Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also Present.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

Rhiannon Miller, Jefferson Hills Borough Recreation Board member updated Council of the events they are planning this year. Just want to give a couple updates on the events that we're working on that are coming up soon. The first one I'm working on is trying to have a community 5K, to be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We're in the process of getting the Certificate of Insurance, as soon as we get that we should be able to hopefully start promoting it the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday; it would be located at the Thomas Jefferson High School Campus. It's also a 5K community run, but also a child or student I should say one mile. I thought of this because my children, when they were younger, ran the one mile through the Pittsburgh Marathon. It was kind of an ordeal to get them downtown, but a lot of kids really enjoyed doing that. I was trying to bring it closer to the community.

The next thing is the scholarship that the Jefferson Recreation Initiative is having every year. It's \$1,000.00 for two students at the high school. The Senior Award Night is May 25<sup>th</sup>, so the deadline for that is April 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be presenting that on the 25<sup>th</sup> at the high school. It is just for any local Jefferson Hills resident that has given back to the community in any way, and has a 3.0 GPA or higher, let us know.

We're working on Community Day. It will be Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. All the moving parts are starting to be worked on currently.

We are changing the market nights. It was a lot of work last year. Ashley Delgado, who headed that and who did all of that work last year has resigned. No one was able to really commit to doing that one day a week. So, we have decided to change it to three events. The market nights will be held in conjunction with the concert nights, including the vendors and food trucks. The dates we have for that are June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Another big change that is pretty much set is the children's camp. I have always been interested in that camp. My children all went through it every year. I loved it, and we have now doubled the time. It used to only be the month of July; we have increased it to two weeks before that. We'll start June 20<sup>th</sup>, and it will run two weeks later and end on August 12<sup>th</sup>. This is eight weeks total. We also are doubling the number of children because it would sell out in the first day. We have doubled the amount of children from 105 children to 210 children. We will also double the camp counselors we need. We spoke to Bob Marlow, Director, and he was on board as well. We are working on recruiting for camp directors and employees to run that camp. If you know anyone, it pays \$12.00 an hour. It is going to increase to \$100.00 per child; it was \$40.00 before.

We have increased it to \$100.00 because it's going to be a lot more crafts and activities. We're going to have to do to support the price increase and everything else that's what we've decided on.

I just wanted to give you an update on what we're working towards for these next three months to get us into summer.

Mrs. Steffey asked Ms. Miller, can you go over some of the stipulations that are required for counselors for the camp in case people do want to apply?

Ms. Miller stated they have to be 18 years old. A lot of times they are college grads, but they do not have to be, it could be a senior that just graduated high school. Obviously, they have to go through all the background checks. Mr. Marlow heads that up, he's pretty good at recruiting and pretty good at knowing who would work well with kids. He is going to contact all the ones he had last year that he knows wants to come back. There's a couple that he doesn't think will come back, but the basic requirements are 18 years old and pass all the background checks. It would be ideal if they were college grads that are going in education. We're really looking for kids that want to work with children.

Mrs. McCaffrey asked what are the hours of the camp?

Ms. Miller stated it's 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It's not a full day camp.

#### 5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road, as we all know over the last three years, the fire department merger has been a rather heated topic. Many of us believe that Gill Hall was shut down, not because they were unable to service the Borough, but because they did not want to merge. Voting last year did show that other than Ms. Ruscitto and Mr. Reynolds remaining Council members would only open Gill Hall if they merged. In the last couple of years, Gill Hall has stated they are open to an operational merger was even part of the reopening plan. Unfortunately, the lawsuit by JHFR and JFR and EMS over a truck, the Borough could use kept Gill Hall and the JHFR from working on an operational merger. In my opinion, it would seem Council made it clear Gill Hall has to merge and hand over all assets to JHFR or remain closed. I'd like to read a quote by Brian Chalfant from last month by Melissa, "We're functioning as an operational merger right now. There's no actual merger as of right now. It's been the same thing for the last two and a half years. So no, we are not completely merged yet. We are waiting until this whole Gill Hall mess is done and whatever decision is made, then we will go ahead and merge or not merge." So why has Gill Hall been forced closed until they agree to merge but 885 and Floeffe has been allowed to remain independent? They've been telling us for three years that a merger will greatly benefit the Borough, so why haven't they done it? And from what Chief Chalfant said at the last meeting, they may not.

I'm sure the answer will be that Gill Hall wasn't able to service the residents. However, despite being asked multiple times over the last year or two for the research to be done to determine if that's true Council has been unwilling to do so. I've decided I'm going to go ahead and do this research myself. Thanks to a Right-to-Know, I finally received the response times for all departments that have responded to emergencies within the Borough for the last eight years. Last

year, President Steffey, you mentioned you had done a Right-to-Know and mentioned two examples where Gill Hall took eight and twelve minutes to respond to emergencies in their servicing area. I have an example I'd like to share. This was from the fire last year on Greene Drive on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Response times are as follows: Pleasant Hills arrived in 14 minutes, 180 engine two arrived in 19 minutes, 180 engine one arrived in 24 minutes, South Baldwin arrived in 25 minutes and 180 engine four arrived in 28 minutes. I'm not bringing this up to disparage 885 or Floreffe, this is simply logistics. A truck from 885 or Floreffe simply cannot reach the Gill Hall area in an adequate amount of time.

I'm hoping tonight Council could clear up some information on this new station. Is it true the lot that is currently being considered are the two sitting between Waterman Road and Gill Hall Elementary? Those lots are currently zoned as residential. We've seen the fight in the lawsuits over the last couple of years over UPMC trying to build a hospital here and getting lots rezoned. Something tells me we could have another fight on our hands if the Borough tries to rezone residential lots next to an elementary school and residential homes in order to build a fire department substation.

I'd also like to know who will actually own this substation, will it be JHFR or the Borough of Jefferson Hills? How much it will cost to acquire these lots? Word on the street is close to \$300,000.00. Adding \$250,000.00 for the building, utilities, trucks and gear, that's a rather large bill to ask the taxpayers of Pennsylvania to pick up, especially when our Council was unwilling to determine if our existing fire department was capable of doing the job instead.

Mr. Reynolds, I know it's been a while, but I'd like to see you make two motions tonight. One to reopen Gill Hall as an independent and one to reopen them as merged. I'd like the votes on record to see where each Council member sits on this decision so that it can also be provided to the PA taxpayer's along with the research I'm doing to show if Gill Hall should have ever been shut down or kept shut down.

Mr. Reynolds asked, you're asking me to open Gill Hall as merged?

Mr. Doel stated I just want them both, because like I said, it's my opinion that they're being forced to merge. So, I'd just like to see if people are going to vote no to open them as independent but would vote yes to open them as merged.

Mr. Reynolds stated if they merged?

Honestly, I think this is information that the taxpayers need to know. I honestly think that my research is going to show that they did an adequate job servicing the Borough and the response times have decreased since they were shut down. I'm just trying to build up some type of report to get to the taxpayers to show this.

Mr. Reynolds asked how will the merger would have to be defined? Is it going to be a full merge where they sign over your assets, close your charter and so forth, is that what you're asking for?

Mr. Doel stated then one to reopen them with them remaining independent, but with an operational merger like they said they would.

Mr. Reynolds asked is it independent with an operational merge? Operational merge is the term that's being used a lot. All it essentially means is mutual aid. Just they would work with Gill Hall, just the same as they work with Pleasant Hills, Clairton, and Elizabeth, any of the surrounding communities. Question about that report, where'd you get it?

Mr. Doel stated I filed a right to know went to the County. Basically, I asked for all response times for all fire departments, whether they're in the Borough or not. Fire emergencies within Jefferson Hills from 2014 to the present.

Mr. Reynolds asked, one more question who was the first engine to get there?

Mr. Doel asked for that specific one? Pleasant Hill.

Mr. Reynolds stated, and they were at 14 minutes.

Mr. Doel stated I will say again this is nothing against 885 or Floreffé, they dispatched the truck within a minute of getting the call, but it took 18 minutes for that truck to get there.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm not going anywhere with that. I'm just going with the fact that we have a sign down there now that says that the road is going to be closed here and that's the artery that Pleasant Hills would have used to get there. So, if Pleasant Hills was first at 14 minutes, once they closed that road down, they're not going to be able to get there in 14 minutes. So, what was the next second one?

Mr. Doel stated engine 180-2 arrived in 18 minutes.

Mrs. Bucy stated I have a couple of statements but first I'm going to address the issue of the road. It was my understanding that Dutch Lane will be open all the way through Mowry Park. You could go on Dutch Lane and come down and exit off right above Mowry Park.

Mrs. Steffey asked Mr. Glister, is that the case?

Mr. Glister stated the official detour is taking traffic through Chamberlin Road off Old Clairton up to Gill Hall. That's the official detour from the County but I believe there's other roads that will remain open, but they're not listed as the official detour. Drivers will take the routes that they know but that would be available but for a certain traffic like trucks and things like that, they wouldn't be able to take that road due to weight limits.

Mrs. Steffey stated just to verify Gill Hall is only going to be closed from old Clairton to Mowry, correct?

Mr. Glister stated I think so.

Mrs. Bucy stated when we went through mediation, Floyd Weiss was the mediator, he was the Battalion Chief of Harrisburg City. He stated that there were three levels of merger, and the operational merger was the least restrictive. When the probation plan was put into place several years ago that operational merger was what we were striving for. Part of that was to have them work together, and it came up several times of the issue that they didn't want to be on the same 911 call. On this app that I have on my phone, it goes out all at the same time to all three of them. Now, the issue at that point was that they did not want to have themselves identified as 180-3,

which was only on that app. The app allows all three stations to be notified at the same time. Gill Hall VFD trucks would still have No. 179, their uniforms would have No. 179, their helmets would have No. 179. Only on the app, were classified as 180-3. It was told to me at a fire liaison meeting that they voted on this operational merger and the vote was 0-15, zero was yes, 15 was no. That was told to us by Chief Florioli and Chief Felix.

Mr. Doel stated it's my understanding that the run cards could have worked exactly the same whether they're 180-3 or 179.

Mrs. Bucy stated but they all don't go out at the same time. The whole point that Floyd Weiss made at these mediations was that in order to have an operational merger, all three of these companies had to be dispatched at the same time.

Mr. Doel stated just so you know that report that I have, shows when the dispatches go out. Pleasant Hills, 885, Floreffe, and Baldwin like I said, they all went out the exact same second. Baldwin isn't 180-4 or 180-5. We can nitpick over the 179 and the 180-3 but I think the end result is you can have the exact same time that it goes out no matter what they call it.

Mr. Reynolds stated you're correct.

Mr. Doel stated I have the report that shows exactly what time the 911 sends those out and it's consistent. Everybody gives a call at the exact same time.

Mrs. Bucy stated the point was they wanted all three, Mr. Weiss, who is a Battalion Chief, he wanted all three companies answering all the calls to have them working in an operational merger.

Mr. Doel stated, and they can do that still has 179.

Mrs. Steffey stated my concern Pete, and it always has been, is that answering the calls all at the same time, I have learned, and I understand a lot better how you need to have a smooth operating procedure in the entire umbrella with all of the departments under it. So, each department knows what's going to happen next. Having two companies, or I should say JHFR is one and Gill Hall that is not training with them or not being involved in an operational merger, that's very divided. To me that is also an accident waiting to happen, which I don't want to see. My thought has always been, yes, I would like to see an operational merger, I would like them to train together, I would like them to put their differences aside. I also feel there is something that they can't come to terms with as far as merging together all under the same umbrella as JHFR. I can possibly understand some of the reasons why. However, I feel that there should be things in writing to where both parties can reach a mutual agreement and serve this community. Until we see that come across from both aisles, and I don't want to speak for Chief Chalfant, but I believe in the past, he was open to an operational merger, correct? That's what I would like to see. Do I want to save taxpayer dollars and not have to go chasing after grant money for substations because we have a station there? Yes, but a lot still needs to be proven.

Mr. Doel stated, and I get your concerns. I one hundred percent get to those, but we see the division. We already have the division. I understand you're saying if they trained one way and they train another way we're going to have this division, we have the division now and the lawsuit

proves it. To me what we've been asking since that was filed is to have that dropped. They won't do it. The division could stop right there. It's costing us a lot of money; it's going to cost us a truck that we can't afford to replace. That would be step one. That would be a great sign of good faith. I understand what you're saying that different training styles or whatever, but as it is at that fire two different Boroughs showed up besides ours. They're not training the exact same way they're not training with JHFR or 885 so you have that already. So, you already have that situation and it's working. But I mean whenever you started the whole mediation process, and you have your fire liaisons, one of the requirements was that they had to train once a month with JHFR, and they were doing it until they were no longer invited. Those things can happen, I one hundred percent believe that if people start working together and if Council starts making an effort towards Gill Hall, we're going to see a lot of change. But continuing to keep them closed and all of the efforts that are going around in the Borough right now to put them under are not helping anybody and it's going to force the taxpayers of Pennsylvania to fork over a couple million dollars to buy us a fire department that we don't need.

Mr. Reynolds asked how many different companies were down at the Valley Hotel?

Mrs. Steffey stated before we get into that, that's still under investigation and I know you just want to know from their standpoint. I understand that, but can we hold off on that until Chief reports, Fire reports?

Mr. Reynolds stated well, I mean, I was just as we're talking here, I just wanted to back up what Pete was saying, where Pete was saying that the operational merger, there you have a fire call where numerous communities came, and they worked together, and they did the best they could extinguish that fire and handle it. From everything that I heard it was handled pretty flawlessly and that's a bunch of different communities working together. I don't see any reason why that the two couldn't work together. Melissa, when me and you were talking today, the one thing that makes me scratch my head the most about this, Pete, is the very people that both of these organizations have sworn to protect, this divide has gotten so far in between that those very people that they have sworn to protect are the ones that are being put in harm's way. Because this divide nothing has been done. No progress has been made in all this time. That's the thing that makes me scratch my head the most.

Mr. Doel stated for the last couple of years the way Gill Hall has been treated is abominable. What I understand over the years that the fire departments have been, one's up, one's down. One day, they don't like 885, one day they don't like Gill Hall. What I think everybody should understand is that right now 885 and Floreffe are on top, that could change two years from now.

Mr. Reynolds stated every organization goes up and down Pete.

Mr. Doel stated I think we should be fighting for all of them, it's a bad sign to volunteers. If I was a kid growing up in this town and I was thinking about volunteering, I wouldn't want to do it after seeing all of this. It's a shame what we're doing and the message that we're sending to people who are risking their lives and not getting anything out of it just because they care.

Mayor McCaffrey stated as far as the Valley Hotel, one of the things that I think why it did run so well is because they were under the direction of one incident commander who controlled that whole scene. If we have different Chiefs coming into the Borough getting at the scene at the same time, how are you deciding who's in charge? We don't want to get to a fire and now be nitpicking at who's the commander of that scene.

Mr. Doel stated I think you can establish that. From what I understand, they've always had rules for that. Whoever gets there first, they'd be able to answer this better than I could, but they've had rules for that for decades. Something like that could be worked out. I'd hate to see Gill Hall be kept close because we're worried about who's going to be in charge when everybody gets there at the same time. Those are things that you can work out and have agreements on and not risk people's lives.

Mayor McCaffrey stated, and I think so, I just want to make sure that people realize that it did run so well because it was under the blanket of one incident commander, not five and everyone worked together under one.

Mr. Reynolds stated every call is that way. No matter where they're at there's only one person that's in charge of that fire or that incident. Like when they go over to Elizabeth, their chief or highest-ranking official there would be the one that's in charge of that incident there.

Mayor McCaffrey stated exactly, but how do you differentiate who's in charge when you have something like this that's running to an operational merger?

Mr. Reynolds stated it would be really easy. Whoever the highest-ranking official that got there first, that had an opportunity to take a look at the situation. You're not going to defer to somebody that came 20 minutes later.

Mrs. Steffey stated but then you get into the issue of who gets there first and then who calls who off from not coming to the scene and vice versa, it's all those tweaks, that I mean.

Mr. Doel stated okay, so just to clarify, how is it working now then? Because we're seeing that right now, we're seeing multiple Boroughs. So, adding more fire departments into the mix. I don't see how that's different than what we have today.

Mrs. Budd stated I think if you have something going on in Jefferson and the other communities are coming into Jefferson, they're going to fall under Jefferson's command. I think what the mayor might be trying to say and correct me if I'm wrong, is if we have 180 Floreffe and 885 and then we have Gill Hall 179. Is that what you're asking, mayor? Who is it going to be depended on, the districts or exactly where command would be? Because like you said, there's a lot of divides right now and you don't want that on a fire scene.

Mr. Reynolds stated they all had their individual districts before. They're still on paper, they're just inactivated at the Allegheny County.

Mr. Doel stated I like to think that the highest-ranking person would fall under the jurisdiction of our Borough. I don't know if that's true, it may very well be, but if Pleasant Hills came in here and they've been fighting that fire for ten minutes and then 885 shows up, I don't

know who would be in charge at that point. Would somebody who just got on scene take over from somebody who's been fighting it?

Mrs. Budd stated typically, in my experience, that would be what would happen.

Mrs. Steffey asked Chief Allen, can you answer that? Just one simple question and answer that's it and then we're going to move on.

Chief Allen stated if somebody came into our town and they were there first, they would establish command of that incident. Once one of our higher-ranking officers arrived, if it's a smaller incident, we can say, okay, you got it, we're not going to transfer command. You don't want to transfer command if you don't have to. It's the last thing you want to do because it can confuse the scene. If there is a command transfer, we're going to have a face-to-face meeting with each other, we're going to talk about the incident and then we'll let county know we're transferring that command. But like I said, it's not something that you really want to do.

Mrs. Steffey stated thank you. Something new that I wanted to touch upon, Mr. Doel, last time you were here, you wanted to know who was going to do the research and get all of these facts and financials and everything straightened out. We have, I'm sure you can understand over the past couple of weeks, I've been in multiple meetings with many different committees and boards. We have established the new Jefferson Hills Public Safety Committee and it does consist of, Borough Manager John Stinner, the fire liaisons, Karen Bucy, Hilary Budd, me, Engineer, Mike Glistler, Public Works Director, Mike Volpe, Solicitor Deron Gabriel, Finance Officer Jon Drager, Chief Brian Chalfant, Chief Doug Pascoe, and Chief Dziezgowski. Then we also have the mayor. We have some backups as well if Chief Dziezgowski and Chief Chalfant can't make it to these meetings. The reason for this Public Safety Committee being established is it's going to have numerous functions and it's going to have numerous projects. These people were all asked to sit on this committee by myself. The reason that that was formed is so that we can have the professional input and valuable advice from these people that sit in the public safety seat pretty much every day.

On top of that, we will have our Finance Director, Public Works Director, our Engineer and our solicitor as well to start answering the difficult questions. For Mr. Drager, it's going to be finances. For Public Works, when projects begin, it's obviously going to be what they do on a daily basis and the same goes for the engineer. We're going to meet monthly. It's going to be a public meeting and it will follow the same format as other committees. It's going to be at 2:00 p. m. in the afternoon. Our first meeting is March 28th and then it's going to be the last Monday of every month and held here in the Borough building. We don't really have an agenda for our first meeting yet. It hasn't been established. But as we roll out the new committee, we're going to begin concentrating on emergency action plan for the community. This is our focus and that's why I wanted to have this committee established.

I don't want to have another committee just to have another committee. I've explained to everybody, that I'm not the type of person to put a band aid on things, I want solutions and that's what we're going to get done. Establishing this committee, the first thing on the agenda is going to be, how do we come about the Gill Hall substation. We're going to look at the property, we're



going to have discussions, we're going to get all of the input and it's not going to happen at that first meeting. Also, in that meeting we were also going to have the discussion of operational mergers, it's going to be across the board. This committee was established in order to help steer public safety in a one course direction, to offer service to our residents and to make sure that we're on the right track here. Because with the growth of this community, I do solely believe that this committee should have been established a long time ago.

Mr. Reynolds stated in terms of that committee, I think it would be a value to that committee if you are going to discuss operational mergers, I really believe that somebody from Gill Hall should be invited there so that it doesn't get established as what an operational merger is then presented to Gill Hall to take it or leave it. I would like to see Gill Hall have a little bit of input and also to sit there and say, we would be in favor of this, would not be and so forth. I think it would be beneficial. And then the other thing that I would think would be helpful would be if you go back to the previous Council when they had the merger task force, they had two individuals that were appointed on there that were from the general public. At the end of the day that emergency management is there to protect our residents. I think it would be beneficial to maybe have two individuals representing the public. Mr. Doel, you always come up here and you are always very intelligent, very well researched. I think we should consider putting a couple residents on there too.

Mrs. Steffey stated well that's why I wanted to establish tonight whether or not it was open to the public or not. With it being open to the public I would like to see a representative from Gill Hall be there. It's going to be run the same way that these Council meetings are run and it's not going to be a circus. So, have that in mind for anybody that attends.

Bob Gulla, 1301 Collins Avenue, it's a new year here, got new members on the Council, congratulations. Mrs. Bucy, what you were saying about when the pages and the tones go off and everything will go off at the same time, when I was a member of Floreffe and then partially with 885 until age and some health issues caught up and then that's when I retired, but when my pager would go off it went 179, 178, 180. All three went off at one time when we got called out to a call. After Gill Hall stopped being paged out, it went 178 and 180. I understand things have changed since they've been the operational merger, so I don't know how those tones are going out now. When we would be called out to a call, say we would be on our way to a call, if one of the other companies was there ahead of time and had things under control, sometimes we would be called off. That's just the way things ran then. Like I said, now, I'm not sure how they're doing it. I'm sure they have a handle on it. These guys here know what they're doing. I commend them for their abilities of what they do on a volunteer basis. It's not an easy job. It's not easy to be out there in the middle of the night. Getting woken up out of a deep sleep, going to the station, putting your gear on and getting on that truck to answer a call. All being a volunteer. My hats go off to them. I did it for a while. It's not easy.

The other thing is I just can't understand why you would even want to consider looking for property and building another building when you have the fire hall, there in Gill Hall. You have to find some kind of way to get them back on the run cards. The sticking point I think is that you kept saying they could go on it. They could go on but have to come on it as 180-3.

Mrs. Bucy stated Mr. Floyd Weiss also had a probation plan. He wanted to see due to the decrease in enrollment at the time when it was started, that they were capable of answering the calls. Gill Hall VFC agreed to that mediator. I had no business in picking that man. They chose this person.

Mr. Gulla stated I'm just saying since it seems to me right now that, the sticking point is they can't be answering a call unless there 180-3.

Mrs. Bucy stated actually, there was a probationary plan involved in that and I don't think they really were in favor of that either.

Mr. Gulla stated there again, and I've said it before, probation, they didn't do anything criminal. They just didn't want to do a full merge where they had to give up their charter, their money, their equipment and everything else. That was their right. It was Council that took everything away from them, not them. Council did.

Mrs. Bucy stated we agreed that they could keep all their stuff.

Mr. Gulla stated as long as they merged or as long as they want as 180-3. What was the difference if the tones would go off as 179, 178, and 180? Same thing. Companies were answering the calls. To put taxpayers' money to build a new building, buy property, everything else, that is just ludicrous to be honest. I'm not trying to take anything away from these guys right here. These guys right here are probably the best in the Borough or in the organization all around our Borough. Compared the other Boroughs for what they do. I'm just saying 179 Gill Hall should be able to get put back on their run cards. Buying property and putting up the building for another when you have one already there, I just don't know?

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of special meeting February 2, 2022
9. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting February 9, 2022
10. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting February 14, 2022
11. Discussion to present proclamation to Jacklyn Girman, the Geo Mack Veterans Foundation

Mayor McCaffrey stated Ms. Girman started a foundation for her cousin Geo that had committed suicide after being in the service. She collected donations of \$5.00 to fill care packages. Once all of her donations were collected, we all met at Floreffé Fire Hall and all of those care packages were filled to be sent to the VA Hospital. She's done this for a few years, and we feel that she should be recognized for her outstanding service and what she's done for him.

12. Discussion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to the position on the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Commission to complete the term for Keith Polick – Term Ending 12/31/2022

Mrs. Ruscitto asked do we have all the applicants, have we advertised appropriately? Do we know who these applicants are?

Mrs. Steffey asked Mr. Stinner the applicants for the Planning Commission, when does the advertisement stop?

Mr. Stinner replied, it stopped last Friday.

Mrs. Steffey asked how many applicants did we get?

Mr. Stinner stated just the two that are in your packets. We are approaching this in a different fashion from a stand-alone account.

13. Discussion to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Vacancy Board (term ending 12/31/24)
14. Discussion to advertise position for Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board (finishing the term of Ashley Delgado term ending 12/31/22)
15. Discussion to advertise positions for Borough of Jefferson Hills Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
16. Discussion to decide to purchase a new plotter scanner for the Planning Department at the purchase price of \$8,995.00

Mrs. Budd asked the one we have now, how long have we had the current machine? Does anybody know that?

Mr. Drager stated I believe it's about 12 or 13 years old.

Mrs. Budd asked at any point has it outlived its usefulness during that period of time or is it just pretty much up and died?

Mr. Glistler stated it's still performed the function we needed it to perform which is primarily scanning larger plans. We also do a fair amount of plotting depending on Right-to-Know request and things of that nature. But the issue from what I understand is that due to his age, they didn't sale the necessary replacement parts for it anymore.

17. Discussion to decide to lease a new plotter scanner for the Planning Department at the price of \$324.00 per month

Mr. Drager stated it just recently broke, and it is something that will need replaced within the next month or so. It's not super urgent but it will be needed. The reason why it's on two agenda points is it is a large amount of money, almost \$9,000.00. With our current printer, scanner, copy contract with Ford, we do have the option to lease it through them. But it probably would be a better option to purchase in the long run, that's why that's it's on two different items. I sent it out to a couple different places, we still haven't got the additional quotes, but we did get two in so far.

Mrs. Steffey asked if we chose to lease, do we have to contract for a year or three years?

Mr. Drager stated it's a 36-month contract and then at the end of the contract we will be able to purchase it for I believe it's 20% of the value. We would have the option to purchase it at the end. That payment of \$324 a month would also include all of the service and maintenance for that period. There would be no additional cost above that.

Mrs. Budd asked that's through Ford? Mr. Drager stated yes.

Mayor McCaffrey asked so once you're done with your lease then you have to start paying that \$30 a month because I was looking at it, and it says if you buy you don't have to pay the \$30.00 a month. But if you're leased you do.

Mr. Drager stated if you wanted to continue a maintenance contract you would have to pay the \$30.00 a month.

18. Discussion to hire \_\_\_\_\_ as a mechanic in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department to begin work \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr. Montgomery stated the personnel committee interviewed three applicants and we'll bring them forward for everybody to interview Friday and then we'll make a decision so we can hire them on Monday.

19. Discussion to purchase a 60" EXMARK Zero Turn Mower from Jefferson Hills Lawn Equipment for \$9,099.00
20. Discussion 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
21. Discussion 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)
22. Discussion to approve street opening permit request by Pennsylvania American Water Company to repair line on Tangelo Drive, 2000' width by 2' length
23. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 11-2022 granting final approval to the subdivision known as S-2-2022, Millstone Village Phase I
24. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 12-2022 granting preliminary and final approval to a subdivision known as S-3-2022, Moses Subdivision No. 2
25. Discussion 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.

26. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 14-2022 authorizing participation in the 2023 Joint Bid for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services administered by SHACOG

Mrs. Ruscitto asked do we have to go with Waste Management? Are we going to vote on Monday to have them?

Mr. Montgomery stated this is just to authorize them to start preparing the specifications and do the bidding. The bidding won't be until next year. This just authorizes us to be part of the process.

Mrs. Steffey asked is that because our contract is still with Waste Management until next year?

Mr. Montgomery stated we're still in the SHACOG contract and everybody had a choice between Republic and Waste Management. All municipalities picked Waste Management.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated so we don't have to and there are other Waste Management facilities that may have a better rate I think it should be put out.

Mr. Montgomery stated that's what this is.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated by SHACOG though.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think because there's so many municipalities in SHACOG, they get the lowest bid.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I don't know about that.

Mrs. Bucy stated for their bid SHACOG because they have the greatest number of people.

Mr. Montgomery stated there are 21 communities in this.

Mrs. Steffey stated to my knowledge because we have this resolution on here, it has to be decided on this month in order for us to participate.

Mr. Montgomery stated if we don't, then we're out of the process.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated if we are part of the process, does that necessarily mean that we have to go with either or the company that SHACOG chooses?

Mr. Montgomery stated they usually have several companies. You don't have to pick Waste Management. You can pick Republic or whatever.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I was just thinking if we did put it out for bid, what if there was someone that could service the Borough at a lesser cost?

Mr. Montgomery stated Baldwin tried that, and it didn't work.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated well that was Baldwin and that was a while ago.

Mr. Montgomery stated that was the last time.

Mrs. Steffey stated if we vote on this on Monday can we do the joint bid. Are we going to have to keep moving forward under SHACOG I think is what Mrs. Ruscitto was asking?

Mr. Montgomery stated yes.

Mrs. Bucy stated it's my understanding they have they have different services. I'm sure they have Republic. They have other waste management groups. They get the lowest bid.

Mrs. Steffey stated I guess Councilwoman Ruscitto, what we would need to do is before the vote on Monday is to do our research and see how many other companies are not under SHACOG so that you have a better answer to your question.

Mr. Montgomery stated they put out a bid of RFP and whoever responds to it. They had several responses, they had like four or five. That won't be till next year?

Mrs. Steffey stated if we enter into this, we won't know who is going to be within that bid process until next year.

Mr. Montgomery stated right. It just takes a long time to do this process because he has increased the specifications and they are now 150 pages. Years ago, when we did it ourselves, we had a little thing, I used to read it. They cover everything. One thing they do want is input from all communities. They will add whatever we want for specifications. So that's part of the process. That's why they started early, they will interview the staff here and if you have any problems, let them know some of the problems you're having. They will be able to make it part of the part of the specification.

Mrs. Steffey stated I think perhaps also that would be helpful would be for us to know who has participated in the bid in the past here who has fallen under SHACOG, who they have been out to and who has sent in for the RFP, and you can get a better idea as to who SHACOG is dealing with as well.

27. Discussion 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.
28. Discussion 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.
29. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated February 26, 2021, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. for the 2021 MS4 Program in the amount not to exceed \$25,000.00

30. Discussion 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

Mr. Drager stated this is from the shift crew contributions and for any pay there's an additional employer responsible, social security and Medicare. The total is 7.65% plus whoever does the payroll services typically has expenses and in this case it's through Paychex. So that is where the additional cost comes in.

31. Reports

Fire Chief:

Fire Chief Justin Allen stated I just want to make a quick statement before I get started, it goes back to Mr. Doel's statement by the times for the Greene Drive call. I just so happened to be the incident commander for that incident. The times that you got from the County are correct what was stated on paper. However, the county was in storm mode that night, which means the times weren't being recorded. So, the times would have to come from the audio, not what they put into the computer because these dispatchers are working multiple incidents at a time and that wasn't a high priority. What I mean by that is they're not listening for units calling on scene. They don't care at that point. They were, listening for emergencies and dispatching emergencies. So, I just wanted to state that those times were actually incorrect, and the homeowner was here and pleased with our response. If you go back to the July and August Council meetings. The homeowner was here to debunk those myths. So, that is just a little bit of misinformation I wanted to clear up.

You should have our report in your packet for February. There was another busy month, 49 calls. We got back into our weekly trainings. In addition to those, we attended a walkthrough at Eastman Chemical plant. We also did a drill with Pleasant Hills, Pleasant Hills Police, Jefferson Police, Baldwin EMS, and Southeast Regional EMS at the elementary school and with the school district. We also did a training class just last week with Jefferson Police and Southeast Regional and our mutual aid companies where we went over the train incident that we had last year on Rt. 51. We practiced for a possible event happening again in the community.

Mrs. Steffey asked do you know about how many were in attendance to that when you discussed the train incident?

Chief Allen stated when you discuss the train incident trained between the mutual aid companies, Jefferson Police. EMS and all of us, I want to say we are close to 70 people there, it was a full hall.

EMS:

Not present

Engineer Glistler:

Nothing further

Consulting Engineer:

Nothing further

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Follow up from last month on some of the annual reporting. We did get our valuations in and OPEB reports completed with Mockenhaupt. They just came in last week. As well as the two Act 205 reports are complete. All of the municipal stats are complete to date. MS 965 with PENNDOT was completed as well, and we also passed our liquid fuels audit. We'll be receiving our 2022 allocation here on April 1st. The asset forfeiture was submitted in February, and the PSAB UC2 will be coming up next month. One other thing too, our draft 2020 financial audit just came out. Deron, myself and John Stinner need to review it, and then we're going to submit it for the final version. So that will be complete over the next few days.

Mrs. Steffey stated there's been some questions, and I even had this question before I had a little bit more knowledge about it, regarding our reserves fund. I believe that some people have the misconception that our reserves fund is basically our play money and savings account. But there's a very good reason as to why we build our reserves fund up and why we have, I believe, eight million, or close to it in the reserves. Can explain what the reserves is for and why we keep it with the amount. If anyone else has any questions after that that would be fine.

Mr. Drager stated the reserve fund is made up of multiple different funds. Just because that lump sum amount of money is there, certain funds can only be used for certain things. There are restricted funds and then there's unrestricted. Regardless, going through the process with the bond refinancing last year, our report from Moody's, stated we were upgraded to a double A2, this is our credit rating. In going through the process, we realized that when they do our credit rating, they look specifically for what you have in your reserve funds. Anyone who has 60% or more of their annual operating budget in the reserve fund is basically top tier. Even though we currently do not have a reserve fund policy, I've drafted one up. Specifically we need to keep that on hand not only to help us with future credit ratings when we need to take out debt, but also for if there's any unforeseen incidents that occur throughout the year.

Mr. Montgomery asked on the pension funds, what percent funding are they?

Mr. Drager stated the last report that we received for the police, just from the net asset report that we got from PSAB, where we were 98.5%.

Mr. Montgomery asked which one is the other one?

Mr. Drager replied, Public Works.

Mr. Drager asked how much was that was a percent funding?

Mr. Drager stated that one is fully funded. 100%.

Mr. Montgomery stated that's great news.



Public works

Nothing further

Chief Dziezgowski:

Nothing further

Mayor McCaffrey:

I would just like to announce that Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a Cleanup Day. This will fall in line with the Great American Cleanup, and we'll be cleaning up throughout the Borough. All individuals, groups and organizations are invited to participate. Volunteers will meet at the Municipal Center and then assigned to various areas throughout the Borough. We will provide gloves, trash bags and vests. We will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Borough building and will conclude at 11:30 a.m. If you need any more information, you can check us out on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or online at [www.jeffersonhillsboro.org](http://www.jeffersonhillsboro.org).

Borough Manager:

Nothing further

Solicitor:

I just like to note for the record Council did meet in executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters and Council will return to executive session following this. Obviously, we will not be returning to vote.

## 32. General Business

Mr. Montgomery stated:

SHACOG report:

The police chiefs met, and the Defensive Tactics Training concluded. 434 officers were trained from February 14<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Driver training will go from March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The CERT Team had one call out.

The Accident Reconstruction Team had one call out

The CERT Team is requesting for next year to have a \$2,500.00 contribution up from \$1,500.00 this year. I know it's a little early but it's nice to that they told us that they needed it.

The fire chiefs met. The Basic Firefighter Training began and there's going to be a Major Fire Training Event on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

The solid waste bid process is beginning. Municipalities need to adopt by March 22<sup>nd</sup> to opt into the solid waste contract negotiations.

Rock salt: The current price is \$79.77 a ton. New bids will be taken this year for the 2022/23 season.

Spring commodities opened on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Must commit to use products or services.

The administrative committee met. Act 152, two projects in the Borough are underway for demolition. The Allegheny County is doing the asbestos test and that's what's holding it up. There will be another opening for the program on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

CDBG 46: nine projects are complete. One is in progress.

CDBG 47: that's the current year four are under contract, three are pending, two of those are in the Borough.

CDBG 48: they'll make the funding decisions in late April.

Jennifer Slagel will make a presentation to the board about MS4 and where that's going in this regard to ask the municipalities to be responsible for acid mine drainage, see what DEP is going to do that or not. And we're going to certainly oppose that.

Karen Bucy stated:

I'd just like to second the mayor's effort to have a cleanup. This past weekend it was nice weather, and I did try to clean up most of Gill Hall Road. I would say that this community is in dire need of picking up the debris and garbage around here. Hopefully, everybody will be able to show up and participate in that event.

I'd like to thank the JHFR and all the other firemen that came to help in the Valley Hotel fire. I do know that you had 29 members who showed up at that fire, and it is greatly appreciated.

Last but not least, I'd also like to use this Connect Program that I'm involved in through the University of Pittsburgh. They have improved fire safety by merging all of the many municipalities in Allegheny County. It meets once a month. I sit on that committee through the University of Pittsburgh because it's such an important vehicle for merging fire companies throughout Allegheny County. For the Safety Committee, if you need information regarding that, we can always use that as a source because they have collection of all the data from Allegheny County too.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

I just want to thank Mike for looking into that PennDOT road that some of the residents were concerned about the weeds.

Mrs. Budd stated:

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 is 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.

Mr. Lynch stated:

I just also wanted to give a shout out to JHFR, especially for what they did with the Valley Hotel fire. Guys, excellent work as always, I mean nothing short but amazing. If you're familiar with the military term, Bravo Zulu and Charlie Mike.

Mr. Reynolds stated:

I think Mr. Doel did bring up a valid point. We do have a new Council, we have reorganized. I think it is time that we add the two items to the agenda for the meeting, I think it would be beneficial. It gives the opportunity for the new Council members to vote on it. To have an opportunity to voice their opinion.

Mrs. Steffey stated I believe that the Sunshine Act law has new stipulations, and Solicitor Gabriel is going to fill you in on adding motions or items to the agenda.

Solicitor Gabriel stated the Sunshine Act was recently updated and the general rule now is that municipalities must advertise and publish all their meeting agendas in advance and were limited to voting on the agenda items only.

There are some exceptions to that. If there's emergency business that needs to be conducted arising within 24 hours prior to the meeting and if business arises during the meeting, such as if a resident taxpayer brings a matter of business that's not listed, generally would be referred to the appropriate staff or committee to research it for inclusion on the agenda for a future meeting. Unless the matter is de minimus in nature and then it can be added to the agenda a little more readily.

However, that being said, an agency may feel one of these criteria apply and try to attempt to add the matter to the agenda. Obviously, tonight is not a voting meeting but to add to the agenda for next week's voting meeting, it would require a majority vote of Council to add this to next week's voting meeting agenda.

Mr. Reynolds stated Okay, that's fine. Mr. Doel are you fine with us committing to putting it on the agenda in April since it's too short of a request?

Mrs. Bucy stated maybe things have changed since then, but according to the hearing that was with Judge McVay, it was my understanding after speaking with the solicitor that Gill Hall was not interested in having an operational merger. The judge thought that they did not want to have a merger. If that's changed since that point in time when that judge met with them, then we should know.

Mr. Reynolds stated Karen, are you asking a non-Gill Hall member?

Mrs. Bucy stated he brought this up, so I'm assuming that you're in contact with them. We can't vote on something if we don't know if they're even interested in it.

Mrs. Steffey stated I'm hopeful that maybe someone will attend the safety committee meeting and then we might have a better understanding and since it's going to be wait to put it on the agenda for April then that will fall into a timeframe.

Mr. Doel stated he thinks someone from Gill Hall will be at the meeting on Monday and they could talk further about it.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

There were a few residents that had asked if we knew of anywhere to dispose of televisions and I just want to remind everybody that we did adopt the Home Collection Program for household generated special materials. You can get in touch with us, there were pamphlets downstairs at the front desk as well. I know that there were pamphlets that were mailed out to explain this service that we added through Waste Management. To give you the phone number, it's 1-800-449-7587. That's Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or you can email them [atyourdoor@wm.com](mailto:atyourdoor@wm.com) or go to their website at [www.wmatyourdoor.com](http://www.wmatyourdoor.com). That's for materials such as household cleaners, paint products, automotive products, flammable combustible materials, garden, garden chemicals, televisions, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, and vehicle batteries. There's an array of things, so take advantage of that. They do a general collection I think in one area. When they get one or a few calls together then they'll be out. They don't really have a designated pickup time, but they'll let you know when you call.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

*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, 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.*

John P. Stinner  
Secretary/Borough Manager