

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
April 6, 2022

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:03 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 Glistler, Consulting Engineer Minsterman and Public Works Director Volpe were also Present.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions
5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Bob Gulla, Collins Avenue, I saw on Facebook about something with fracking. Now, I didn't read the article, so I will admit to that. Are they allowing fracking in the Borough here? Are they going to be allowing these companies to do fracking in the Borough?

Mrs. Steffey asked which article are you referring to?

Mr. Gulla stated it was on Facebook.

Mr. Reynolds stated Bobby, I think what you're talking about is the pad that's going up and what is referred to as Pumpkin Center up in Union Township, correct?

Mr. Gulla stated that could be it.

Mr. Reynolds stated and that right there, it's obviously not in the Borough, but geographically, I mean, it is in our backyard. As a resident of Collins Avenue, as you know, there's only one hill that's in between your backyard and Pumpkin Center. That's probably where the concern for some of the residents. Now, myself, I haven't seen what you're talking about, either, but I would imagine that that's it, because I know that there's been a lot of talk and discussion. Some of our neighbors have called me directly to ask me questions and so forth. There's obviously a concern for it. I would imagine we're talking about same thing.

Mr. Gulla stated that more than likely is.

Brian Hutson, 420 Old Clairton Road, I'm up here regarding the Gill Hall Fire Department items 24 to 28. The thing with the Fire Company, I'm sure I probably won't find anybody to disagree with me when I say that this is really gotten out of hand. It should never have gotten this far, but it has. So, I guess now, we need to figure out what we can do to pull everything back in. I know the Borough is exploring options to build a new fire station along Gill Hall Road. If you are familiar, Peters Township just signed a contract to build a new fire station. That's going to cost them \$3.72 million. That's a lot of money. It's a lot of money. I mean, even if it's not quite that much, just say if it's even just \$2.7 million, that's still a lot of money to build a station, less than two minutes from one, it's there now.

As far as Gill Hall goes, we have done just about everything that has been put forth to us, and requested to us, whether it's paperwork, participating in drills, we did that until we were no longer invited. We did everything that was asked. Our members, even to keep up with schooling, went out and joined outside fire departments so they can continue to get their education and their schooling. Like I said, this is just a travesty. It should not have gone this far. I mean, we've said all along, we would be willing to sit down and talk to the Borough or whoever. When I mean talk, I mean, literally just talk. Everything that we've entered into now, it has been presented to us not as, this is what you are going to do. This is what you will have to do if you want to become reactivated. This is what you will need to do. Nobody's ever asked us. They've always told us.

Now, this Council is in a unique position. You guys have an opportunity to fix something that the previous two Councils couldn't. I understand with doing the exploratory committee with building the other fire hall. There's nothing wrong with that. But it won't cost you anything to give it one last shot and sit down with the people from Gill Hall to find out really if there is an issue with them, where it is, and sit down and just talk to them. I mean, just talk to them as people. Don't dictate stuff to them like, you will do this, you will do this, you will do this, you will give this up, you will do this. Nobody likes to be told what to do. Most people will do the stuff that is requested of them. It's always nice to be asked. And just like I said, just to see these discussion points on here again. Some of them, I'm happy with. A few of them, I'm really not. But again, decertifying us and shutting us down, which we already are, according to the Council. I mean, you can't kill something that's already dead, right? So, I mean, just by doing this again, you're not doing anything. The taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Reynolds stated I have a question for you. It's listed on here as a decertification. I know we've discussed this here till I've been blue in the face. Is there an actual certification that where Jefferson Hills Council can permanently decertify?

Mr. Hutson stated not that I know, no, the certification comes from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Reynolds stated we're talking about permanently decertifying and there is no certification that we are permanently removing?

Mr. Hutson stated the Borough has to provide some type of fire protection or suppression to the residents. They can do it through a contract or go to another community.

Mr. Reynolds asked Brian, I'm just asking the question, is there a certification for us too as listed here permanently? Is there a certification that we have power to take away?

Mr. Hutson stated none as far as I know.

Mr. Reynolds stated no, it's more of just us activating or reactivating.

Mr. Hutson stated if No. 28 would pass now, nothing would change, nothing has changed.

Mr. Reynolds stated well, from what I'm asking is there is no certification to actually pull from you? To take away from you.

Mr. Hutson stated yes. I mean, everything that the Borough could have taken away from us, they did. The Workman's Comp, so we can't drill now. The insurance on that truck, so we had to go out and buy our own trucks. And just one final thought on that. Just keep in mind that Gill Hall is still there, and we're there because of our own. So, you know, we're an entity that can manage our money. We've managed to stay afloat for over four years with absolutely no support. So, we know what we're doing financially. We do. We know what we're doing when it comes to the other side.

Mr. Reynolds asked can I ask him one more question before he does sit down? Brian, now, I know that we've notified the Attorney General, and the Attorney General was coming after you to try and remove your right to fundraise, correct?

Mr. Hutson replied, there is questions about that, yes.

Mr. Reynolds stated would this have a negative impact on them? Because right now, with you being able to fundraise, Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company has shown over the last couple of years, that you are willing to still continue this fight as long as you are able to fundraise to pay the lawyers to fend off. What do you pay in lawyer wise now? You're paying one to fight against the Attorney General and one to fight against the truck.

Mr. Hutson stated I believe it's the same firm.

Jonathan Kelly, 1375 Peterson Drive, I'm here for speaking of the Jefferson Hills yard waste request collection from beginning of March, April, depending on the weather, but it should end by December. So, yard waste includes grass, shrubs, trees, dirt, anything you name it, even clean up potting soil and all that. So, like I said, even in the fall, you can have hay stocks, corn, and anything that has to do with biodegradable. They have a special yard waste collection, because how I know is because if you go to like different communities and stuff, it makes it better. And around Christmas time, you got poinsettias, Christmas trees, anything you clean out, even wreaths. So, they could turn into good dirt. And also, my neighbors, because I do yard work for my neighbor and stuff, and I always like to help them especially where I live in Clairton, Jefferson Park. So it's like a 50/50. And also, what about like a glass dumpster and all that? Because I know Peters Township does good with that stuff too. And, you know, are curious neighbors are just like, you know, where am I going to get rid those bottles? And, you know, yeah.

Mrs. Steffey asked so, you're requesting maybe a dumpster for glass materials.

Mr. Kelly stated and curbside pickup for your debris. It starts like a nine month. Then there's special collections like January, maybe till February for like, you know, yard waste that like trees and stuff, poinsettias. You can also put fall clean outs, like dead plants and all that, as long as the bases are removed.

Mr. Reynolds stated just from our baseball team playing away games out of Moon Park, and Moon Park is a very nice, big park. What they have there, maybe I should be keeping this separate, but what they essentially have by their Public Works building is it's just three concrete walls. And what they do is they bring everything in from the residents. Like for example, if you would have trees, they bring it in. They point the chipper over there, they chip it up, it becomes mulch. They can either, A, use it to beautify, like your porch or, you know, as a resident if, if you

came up and wanted to beautify your house and you needed some mulch I would say that Moon does a great job with that. And it's there and, you know, because we have to go around the back part where they have a building. It would keep the stuff because, again, you know, like everybody knows and everybody jokes around that, you know, like I practically, you could send my mail over to a Beedle Park that I do. And we've called the police before, and they've worked. People will continue to come in there and you will see trees on they still think that they can go out to the back of Beedle Park and dump it. But if we actually had something to say, OK, drop it here, we'll grind it up, we'll create it into mulch.

Mr. Kelly stated like I said, we'll do curbside pickup instead of dropping it off, because there's other risk factors you got to watch.

Mr. Reynolds stated I just rather see us do something like that, because the first time that you don't, you could go up there and you could take some of your trash, like trees. And then, next time, if it's Bobby Gulla, and he might turn around and say, "Well, I'm going to throw that toilet in there," and that goes up there, too. And then all of a sudden, you got stuff that shouldn't be in there.

Mrs. Steffey stated that's a really great idea. I've never even dreamed to think of having some sort of program like that.

Mr. Kelly stated because you never know what people are going to put in that dumpster back there. It's nighttime, there's rat, I call them night rats.

Mrs. Steffey stated exactly.

Mr. Reynolds stated we could probably get an arial of Moon Park and if you see where their public works building is you will see it.

Mr. Kelly stated curbside is easier, so you don't have to haul. Or you could just have the Public Works to drive around, and they could probably get like a dump truck or two.

Mr. Reynolds stated we probably easiest if we just came over and cut the trees, right?

Mr. Kelly stated absolutely.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'm just having some fun with you now.

Mrs. Steffey stated thank you, Mr. Kelly. I really appreciate you coming in. Thank you for your idea. We will discuss it.

Mr. Kelly stated and also about like when they have the event for yard waste pickup because that's easier then all that.

Mrs. Steffey stated we will definitely discuss it as a Council and see if we can get that implemented and added to possibly like a waste management schedule.

Mr. Kelly stated because as I look at this calendar, it's like I can't find yard waste pick up like, you know, in the morning when they pick up yard debris and stuff. I only see two or one truck.

Mrs. Steffey stated I think, doesn't waste management only do those certain times of the year?

Mr. Kelly stated even though they do a certain time, they'll still have one truck.

Mr. Montgomery stated what we could do is when the specification for the new contract is up. We're starting to prepare it now for next year. So, we could add whatever we want to, we can make the suggestions and that can be added to the contract.

Mr. Kelly stated and I'm just going to say, where is John Stinner? He's the one I can talk to.

Mrs. Steffey stated he's actually listening. He heard everything that you said.

Mr. Kelly stated really? Wow, yes.

Mrs. Steffey stated Mr. Stinner, there was nothing emailed to you, correct, as far as resident comments go?

Mr. Stinner stated correct.

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

Mr. Montgomery stated there's one on page 16 for Gannett Fleming. I asked this question before, but I don't remember is this a recurring?

Mr. Drager stated yeah, that's the renewal, or that was the software upgrade for Geoplan.

Mr. Montgomery stated the other question I had was on Lone Pine on page 22. I thought we had paid that or is that just another payment on that?

Mrs. Budd stated that was approved last month.

Mr. Montgomery stated I thought it was all paid last month.

Mrs. Budd stated I think we voted to pay for it. I think there was a vote to pay for it. And now it's to pay.

Mr. Glister stated The Lone Pine invoices was for the work we did at the Lick Run Pump station.

Mr. Montgomery asked is there any more to come?

Mr. Glister stated Everything is done. The work was completed in December of 2021. It just took a little time to get the invoices from the contractor Lone Pine, and to get them approved. We passed two motions at the March meeting last month recommending payment.

Mr. Montgomery asked was any paid last month or is this it?

Mr. Drager stated this is the first one.

7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
8. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting March 9, 2022
9. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting March 14, 2022
10. Discussion to approve minutes of special meeting March 28, 2022
11. Discussion to present proclamation to Carrie Fascetti and Girl Scout Troop 16091 for their efforts to improve energy efficiency at the GBU
12. Discussion to appoint Tom Dugan to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Mrs. Steffey stated speaking of the Steering Committee, we've had a number of applicants over the weekend as well, which is good, because we wanted to raise the number. Can we add them all to Monday's agenda?

Solicitor Gabriel stated yes, we have the information, we can.

13. Discussion to appoint Blane Allen to the Borough of Jefferson Hills Recreation Board (finishing the term of Ashley Delgado term ending 12/31/22)
14. Discussion to lease copier for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Planning Department from Ford Business Solutions for the lease price of \$154.00 a month for 36-months, or \$5,544.00 for the life of the lease
15. Discussion to approve repair work on power phase monitor AHU4, Boiler Room unit heater blower, bearing replacement on AHU6, and blower motor replacement on Unit No. 2 through ABM Building Solutions, LLC, for \$10,615.00

Mr. Drager stated so last, I believe it was Tuesday and Wednesday, ABM came out to do our typical quarterly maintenance and change filters and clean the equipment, and there was there was a few small repairs. The large one on AHU Unit 2 needs a motor replacement. So that's the bulk of the \$10,000.00. I've received two quotes, one from Siemens, and one from ABM. But that's what it's for. It's a large police unit.

Mr. Montgomery asked so, ABM was the cheapest?

Mr. Drager stated ABM is the cheapest right now. Another person was trying to come out. I sent him pictures. I haven't got a third quote yet. The other person wanted paid, and I told him I was going to pay him just to come out for a couple hours. But, I sent out the pictures, I'm waiting to see if any more quotes come in. But as of right now, Siemens has a quote in and ABM.

Mr. Montgomery asked so we want to wait for that other company or just go ahead with this, ABM?

Mr. Drager stated the problem is it's going to be getting hot out. So, this item does need fixed. I have a feeling that considering it's a full replacement, they're probably going to be in the same ballpark. Like I said, I can wait and try to get more quotes if you want.

Mr. Montgomery stated I just asked. I see the urgency. We have more than one quote, so that would be, from my perspective, be adequate based on the time of year.

16. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 15-2022 amending the salaries, compensation, and wages for Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works employees as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Laborers' #1058 for the years 2022 – 2026

Mr. Reynolds stated is this what's holding up them getting a signed contract?

Mrs. Steffey asked the Public Works?

Mr. Reynolds stated I don't believe that they have a signed contract yet.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think it that the labor attorney went through with Jason Nee, and they have a couple of adjustments.

Mrs. Steffey stated there were a couple of last-minute adjustments that they needed to make.

17. Discussion to adopt Resolution 16-2022 amending Resolution 28-2021 to state “the Borough desires to continue to provide adequate fire protection for its residents and shall issue Shift Crew reimbursements on a monthly basis”

Mrs. Steffey stated this was just changing, instead of reimbursing on a quarterly basis, which is what we were doing before the Shift Crews accountants.

Mr. Reynolds stated do we want to work that into here to say, they have to pay the stuff that we picked up the last time.

Mrs. Steffey stated that is still being discussed and researched actually to make sure that there was no language previously when the Shift Crew payments began. It was strictly going to be earned wages, or was it strictly going to be earned wages plus Medicare, Social Security, everything on top of it. But when that is finalized, we certainly will make that clear so the Council can vote on it.

Mr. Reynolds stated Ok. I would think that it'd be really easy to figure out how much did we pay, and did they pay?

Mrs. Steffey stated well, the amounts that's not an issue. That is an issue is that I don't want to overstep anything that could have been in the records previously.

Mr. Reynolds stated well, I'm just saying if this thing went on for a decade, we gave them X amount of funds to pay for X amount of hours. It should be really easy to back into those numbers and find out did that money get used just for the wages? Were they making this accounting error the whole time? Was it just this time here?

Mrs. Steffey stated I think that the way Mr. Drager explained it is that it was an oversight since the Shift Crew payments started. Correct, Jon?

Mr. Drager stated in the previous years, there's always been an overlap due to, we just don't get the payroll distribution timely. Usually, it's one, two months behind. There was overlap in years. So that's why, for this past year, we paid out the remaining balance that was budgeted for. I believe it was December 30th. Then going forward, we're going with the pay schedule. So, I'm also keeping track of all of the wages earned, and what we're dispersing out per the budgeted amount. This is just making it so it's timelier, so that Eric Rossi, the CPA, he has time to do those, and then I just verify the hours. I just keep track of them as of right now.

Mr. Reynolds stated most of my concern of this is, like this time here, one of them was say, for example, Social Security, correct? Were we not paying the Social Security for 10 years? Do we owe 10 years of Social Security? I mean, if they didn't pay it, and we didn't pay it, somebody owes for it. I hate to say, and I'm not looking for us to break out a checkbook and start writing our checks and so forth. I'm just saying, the harsh reality of it is if we had this program for 10 plus years, and we never paid that expense, and if they never paid that expense, then something's wrong, and somebody better pay it and own up to it.

Mrs. Steffey asked when was the Shift Crew implemented?

Mr. Reynolds stated at least a decade. If this is the very first time, we can't sit here and go back and say, "Well, that's what Charlie Bennett used to do," and so forth like that. All I'm saying is, the harsh reality of it is, if some of that stuff wasn't paid, we either owe it or if we're responsible for it, then we owe it the whole time. Because if somebody was working over there, then they should have had that added to their Social Security the whole time. Whether it came from JHFR we have to answer that question. I don't think avoiding, maybe look into it a little bit more.

Mrs. Steffey stated we intend to, once we find the language for when the Shift Crew was implemented to make sure that we are in the clear, and that nobody is being short at anything. Then, we are going to have a meeting Jon Drager, John Stinner, and Eric Rossi, myself, and the board members of JHFR to make sure that everything is cleared up, and that they know which direction Council is going to choose to go in the future.

Mr. Reynolds stated the money that we pay to subsidize that and to pay for that crew, they either need to start taking them out on their end, but it needs to be taken out, you know? Because they're not 1099 or anything along that line.

Mrs. Steffey stated it will be clarified.

Mr. Reynolds stated all right, thank you.

18. Discussion to approve Ordinance 887 that is updating Chapter 5, Section 514.4 of the Property Maintenance Code to include the following language “Shrubs should be maintained and pruned to a reasonable height and not be allowed to restrict access to a structure” and “Trees, shrubs, or other vegetation whose limbs or parts thereof project into a public right-of-way, thereby interfering with the normal use of said right-of-way”
19. Discussion to authorize the installation of a Calcium Nitrate chemical drip system in the 837 pump station from Univar Solutions at an estimated cost of approximately \$1,000 for installation and \$16,000 per year for the Calcium Nitrate additive subject to Gateway Engineers verifying that the floors in the pump station can carry the dead load of the 3,500 pound Calcium Nitrate tote and not until Univar Solutions tests the incoming influent’s hydrogen sulfide levels to determine the appropriate Calcium Nitrate drip rate
20. Discussion to approve Work Authorization dated April 1, 2022, from Gateway Engineers, Inc. to prepare and submit three General Permits applications for necessary in stream work to protect Borough roadways at three separate locations in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00
21. Discussion to purchase Contract Documents and Specifications from the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00

Mrs. Steffey stated there was nothing in your packets about this. This is something that I had discussed with Mike Glister.

Mr. Glister stated when we bid out the project, it requires that we bid out when it's over the threshold around \$2,100.00 - \$2,200.00. If you need to prepare or have formal documentation, and there's contract documents, they're free now. When we utilize Gateway, which is how we do it currently, they're about 250 to 300 pages. There's a cost every time we ask them to prepare those. This is something I've been wanting to do for a while to implement. It's something we would probably only utilize three or four times a year. But even if we use them two or three times, they should more than pay for themselves. There wasn't anything in the packet, because I haven't been able to get anything officially back from EJ CDC. I tried again beginning of this week to try and get something for the meeting. The \$3,000.00 limit is based on what I spoke to them on previously, and that was probably around \$2,200.00 - \$2,300.00. So, \$3,000.00 would cover it. But the idea would be when you get these documents, they're not ready for use. It's going to take a lot of work to get them finalized and ready. So, we need to get them purchased now and throughout the rest of 2022, I would work towards getting them ready so we can start using them in 2023.

22. Discussion to recommend to SHACOG the award of a bid to State Pipe Services, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, for the Joint Municipal SHACOG O&M CCTV Year 12 Project in the amount of \$294,300.00 with the Borough’s share of \$125,100.00

23. Discussion on 2022 Paving Program Bids (Bid opening 10:00 a.m. on 4/4/2022, recommendation to be provided on 4/6/2022)

Mr. Glister stated we have the bid opening for the 2022 Paving Program on Monday. We received a total of six bids, which is about what we normally receive. The lowest bidder is A. Liberoni Inc. Liberoni had our Paving Program in 2020, and they did a pretty good job. We didn't really have any issues with the work they did. The breakdown of the bid result, I think everybody should have a copy in front of them with the base page, which is Woodwind Drive, Harlin Drive, Chapelridge Drive, and St. James Court came in around \$410,000.00. The first alternate was with Thomas Jefferson Drive, which is the back half of it was about \$60,000.00. The second alternate for the bottom portion of Stilley Road was about \$54,000.00. The third alternate for Rustic Woods Drive was about \$170,000.00. The fourth alternative of the report was about \$49,000.00. The fifth one, miscellaneous billing came in just under \$18,000.00, for total bid \$697,000.00. Our budget amount for paving this year is \$575,000.00. The reason we have that alternate is so that we can make sure we award as close to our budgeted amount as possible. We did take a look at these. The recommended motion would be to award the base bid add alternate 1, add alternate 2, and add alternate 5 for a total of \$542,000.00 essentially. Once we get into the actual paving program, there's some base repairs, minor costs in there that may not be realized. It may free up some money. We may be able to afford that as well. With this amount, we're just looking to award the base bid and add alternate 1, add alternate 2, and add alternate 5. So, unless there's any questions or concerns, then we would probably recommend we add to the agenda for Monday language for the award to award the 2022 Paving Program to A. Liberoni.

Mr. Montgomery asked with the options?

Mr. Glister replied correct with those options.

24. Discussion to reactivate Gill Hall VFC as an active independent fire company

Mr. Reynolds stated can I just bring a couple things up here? First thing I want to talk about is the fire down at the Elrama Tavern. My heart goes out to Susie and her staff. Obviously living on Collins Avenue, so close to it, I developed such a good friendship with them. What I want to bring up about that is watching that, and that was one of the fastest burning structures that I've ever seen. That ended up reaching the third alarm. So, there were firemen there from Munhall had a truck there, Bethel Park, you know, even if you watch on the news, you could see Bethel Park was there, and so forth. People came from up the river. They came from all over to try and assist with that. And I sit there, and as I was watching where the power lines are with some of my neighbors and a question just kept coming up repeatedly. How can they work together with all of these other departments, all these departments in a situation like that can come, and they needed any help and assistance that they possibly could have got? And the question that the residents and my neighbors kept putting it back to me was, how come Gill Hall was not allowed to come and lend a hand? And it's truly because we've made that decision to deactivate them. I sit there and you watch a JHFR fireman working with a Bethel Park fireman, I don't understand how they can't ever get past this. And that has always been the biggest stumbling block. Does the JHFR train with Bethel Park? No. No, they don't. But their mutual aid. I sat there, and when we were watching, the last JHFR firemen that I'd seen showed up at 1:04 apple time. I looked down and he walked up after where the police had it blocked off and so forth. At 1:04, that call went in at 11:20. At 1:04, that individual's help was welcomed. Hey, come, thank you. He was an hour and a half late, but hey, thank you. Whether

it's help rolling up a hose or doing something all the other firemen, they opened their arms to them, and accepted any bit of help that they had, that somebody could offer. And again, the only people that aren't allowed to come and assist, and even roll up a hose are the volunteers from Gill Hall. And that's a shame. And I hope that that actually starts to sink in. And whenever you see them function together, I mean, we sat here, and we talked about how great of a job JHFR did down at the Valley Hotel.

Joe, didn't you say like, "Man, they've worked together. It was fantastic. It was great." They worked together with all those different departments. But yet, the only one that they will refuse to work with, and we can't make it happen, is Gill Hall. And I think that's a crying shame, because in that case there, what if, there were five workers for Elrama Tavern there. What if somebody needed some assistance? And we're keeping that from happening. If JHFR doesn't want them here, I would think that we should at least activate them. You know, it's no cost to put them on to the insurance, the SWIF, and so forth like that. Those are blanket policies. Put them on there. If they want to go and help Elrama, let them go and help Elrama. We asked for Pleasant Hills to come, and cover us, and protect our residents. And then sometimes, along the Gill Hall corridor be the first responder there.

Why can't Gill Hall, why can't we put them back on here? And if we don't want them in our Borough, at least allow those individuals to go support the Broughton's that come and support our community, that go and support the Pleasant Hills that comes and supports our community? Clairton's truck was right there dumping water on that Elrama Tavern. Why can't they go down there and help them? This was a third alarm situation. Gill Hall should be able to be on there, that if somebody's sitting there, there's equipment, there's manpower. Let them go out and help somebody. If we don't want it here, Ok. Maybe that is the actual probation period. Hey, go out and help some other people. Let's make sure that you're doing good before we accept you here. Maybe that's a solution that we never discussed here. I think we should discuss certain things like that.

This has plagued us for a couple years. And the one part that always just would start the arguments is you got to ask your question, what is it in somebody that they would root for an organization to fail? What is it where when you watch this, if you've watched it for three years, there's been times where it was applauded of Gill Hall's misfortune? Gill Hall spent 70 years taking care of our residents in our community. They never once should have been looked at where people were rooting for them the fail. People were applauding their misfortune. Whether it's turning them into the Attorney General so that they can even self-suit to try and keep their place running.

There's many of many of areas along the line that I just think the individuals just deserve better. I urge the residents to watch when these votes come in for 24 through 28, when we vote on it on Monday. I think this is just as much about the character, and the true makeup of the individuals here than the actual fire department to me. Because again, going back to what is it in a person that would root for somebody to fail? That's just mine. I'm sorry, if I went on too long. Brian, you know that I will support Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company up until the very last day that I'm here. I believe the residents should have it. So, we all know how Keith Reynolds is voting. It's just up to the remaining members. I wish you guys the best. If anybody else wants to put something else into it, go ahead. Thank you.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would have to say that in my mind, looking at the unfortunate fire at the Tavern and all of the mutual aid companies coming to assist, they're coming under the assumption that command has already been established, probably more than likely by one of our JHFR Chiefs.

Mr. Reynolds asked in Elrama?

Mrs. Steffey stated I mean, whoever got there first. We were there first. JHFR was their first.

Mr. Reynolds stated the employee from Elrama that works at the Elrama Tavern went over and got the truck from Elrama and was there first. I'm sorry, Melissa, I apologize, I know we're trying to get along better and everything.

Mrs. Steffey stated the mutual aid comes to the scene under the assumption that command has already been established. I think when you are in our Borough, and you have two companies that are already working well, operationally merged, and one company that is not, they all have a past. I've said it before. But there's another chief involved. I'm still not convinced, and I know that others are not convinced, that they are going to understand that there is someone else taking command. That is cause for concern for me because that is when accidents can happen, confusion can happen. I'm still set on having one umbrella of standard operating procedures. Over the past years, and I can say just recently, just in our neighboring community of Elizabeth Township and Elizabeth Borough, and Green Oak, and Industry, they had five mergers of companies between the years of 2001 to 2021, five mergers. This is a way of the future. It's the way of the future. I have a million articles here just that I've gone over. 2007, Mars VFD and Valencia VFD merge, Braddock and Rankin merged to create Rivers Edge in 2019. Sharpsburg and Aspinwall merging to form Southern Allegheny Valley Emergency Services March 30, 2022. That was honestly a couple of days ago. Munhall Fire Department number 1 and Franklin VFD Number 3 merged to form Munhall Central in 2013. East McKeesport and Wall VFD merged in 2000. Soon, Elizabeth Borough and West Elizabeth are finalized and should be taking effect soon. It is the way of the future. I also feel that we still have those standard operating procedures that can get a little hairy when there are companies attending a call that are not used to working together. That's my concern.

Mrs. Budd stated I also have concerns to this point as Melissa said, if you go back into 2004, 2005, roughly around then, there was Senate Resolution 60 of too many fire companies and a looming public safety crisis. They recommended merging. If you go into Senate Resolution number 6 in 2018, Fire and EMS are in a crisis right now. It speaks of merging. Volunteerism is down, the fire service is in crisis. I agree with Melissa wholeheartedly on standardization of equipment, resources, training equals efficiency to me, and we can't, with everything that we have in Jefferson Hills, industrial highways, waterways, hospitals, railroad schools, everything, old construction, new construction, there's no time to waste when you're getting to these types of events. The standardization efficiency is the way of how public safety has to be. All this going on for years and years and years, putting the emotions out of it, putting aside a 70 plus year history, putting aside station numbers, in light of overwhelming evidence that volunteerism is on the decline and in crisis, what is the benefit regarding public safety of having two different fire stations in our Borough?

Mrs. Steffey stated I've heard before what the benefit is for Gill Hall to be independent. But what is the benefit for our residents for them to be independent? That's what I want to know.

Mr. Reynolds stated more help, more hands-on deck, faster response time, geography. I think the list that you read, and it is lengthy, but I don't think it's as lengthy as it sounds like when you take into consideration the broad scope of the area that you name some of the departments from, how many fire departments are actually in that area? Was it 20 out of 200, or was it 20 out of 40, that merged? I think what needs to be stated for the residents is the fact that, again, those are all voluntary mergers. Nobody has ever taken the stance that Jefferson Hills has and said, "You are going to do it this way, or you're done." That stance has never been taken. Like when you look at the harsh reality. When you look at West Elizabeth merging over with Elizabeth there was really no option for that. There was nobody there. That's not the case in this case. When you look at the Elizabeth area, Blaine Hill is not merged. Elizabeth is separate. You got Forward, Central, you got a number of fire departments. Just West Elizabeth merging over to them and any other part with a merger, I hate to say it, I'm trying not to, for us to act the way we said, the merger in fact has not happened. Brian Chalfant has sat here and said, he will not merge and complete that merge until something is resolved with Gill Hall.

Mrs. Steffey stated on paper, but they are operational.

Mr. Reynolds stated hang on one second, please. But that's the actual merge. So, when people are saying that this merge has to be completed, it's gone on for over three years that they've so called said an operational merger, but that this merger has not taken place. If it was that valuable to our residents, then we should also be sitting here and saying, why hasn't this merger taken place yet? If it's simply operational, operational merger is just a fancy word to confuse the residents out there to say mutual aid. Everything is always operated under mutual aid. When you come there, you work with the neighboring companies that are there to support your community. That's what an operational merger is. They're working together. These fire departments, once upon a time when it was four, worked well together as four departments, whenever Large was still here. We're forcing in my view, we've tried to put a square peg into a round hole and force it, force it, force it, and it's not happening.

One other thing I want to say to the residents, when we talk about training up here, this training, it's formalized. It's not training that they per se do. They have to go to Allegheny County. They go through formalized training to sit there, and they get their essentials. Then they go through their Mod 1. Tara, if you wanted to sit up here and explain to the residents because I know your son is working extremely hard to become a fireman as soon as he turns 18, that kid is going to be squirting water and putting stuff out very no doubt. But it's not that the JHFR people are the only ones that know how to put a fire out. These other individuals, Brian, I know you didn't finish your Firefighter I, but you went through your essentials. Brian had formal training and learning how to put out a fire. For us to sit here and mislead, it's misleading to the residents that may be watching that says, "Holy cow, they don't have the training." Well, each and every one of them, to be allowed by the State of Pennsylvania to go into an interior fire, you have to have your essentials. And to have that, that is the state or the county that's saying, "You pass that training." And they have there. Some of them, again, had to leave Gill Hall because we're not paying their insurance, and they want to Blaine Hill to continue their training. When you have essentials, they've all passed the same essentials class.

Mrs. Steffey stated can I put that in perspective for one minute? Karen and I passed our essentials as well, and there's no way I would be running into an interior fire. No way. Just because I have that certificate and just because I went through nine, 10 months of school, grueling school, I wouldn't know the first thing to do.

Mr. Reynolds stated that's up to you two. But that's the harsh reality.

Mrs. Steffey stated but I think that that should be a Chief's decision as well.

Mr. Reynolds stated we could sit here, and we could say, to be an interior firefighter, our standards are Firefighter I. But we should still allow the Gill Hall residents. Once upon a time when I joined, when all this fiasco started, and I joined Floreffe, Jay Girman was the one that told me, Keith, you'll be coming down here and you become a fire. And I said, "You know what, I don't know that my job would allow me the hours to go and take this extensive amount of training." Also, with a mother that I am a caregiver for and so forth. Jay Girman at that point and told me and said, "You know, every single fire, there's always a need for somebody to hold up a flag, to stop people, direct people with an accident down on Rt. 51. There are always people that are needed to roll up the hose. Bobby, you did it forever. You didn't have any formalized training, but you were helpful. Every organization, and even there's, the value that can be created in other assets, not everybody in a fire hall has to be a Firefighter I. They can help the community in other fashions. Floreffe is trying to do something down there to help the employees of the Elrama Tavern. Not every one of them are going to have to be a Firefighter I to operate the fish fry that day. Let Gill Hall be a part, still keep having an impact in our community. Seventy plus years, my heart goes out to them, because if somebody ever tried to take my baseball team away from me, I would be heated. And they fought. And I give them credit for everything that they've done. I don't think anybody would have thought that we would have still been sitting here a couple years later, and those crazy people were still kicking and screaming and fighting to save their organization. I think a lot of people would have thought you would have given up by now, Brian. I applaud you. I'll give you a golf clap. You guys have done an amazing, amazing battle.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would have to say that I do disagree with what Mr. Hutson said at the beginning. And you'd mentioned it too, Keith, that things were being forced down their throat. It certainly wasn't from Council, because we gave them multiple options to either adhere to, choose, not choose. And it was their way or no way. It was. And I have letters that I'm going to read coming up here in a minute. I'll keep that for when the letters, but, Karen, go ahead. You have something.

Mrs. Bucy stated I just would like to say I don't feel that mutual aid and an operational merger are synonymous with one another. Mutual aid, you come to aid another fire department. But an operational merger, and I think that was proven when Floreffe decided to merge operationally with JHFR. They progressed. They trained together and they worked together. They felt that it was beneficial for them. You're not daily working with somebody on a mutual aid. You show up to assist. That's a very good thing. But, they are not synonymous terms, operational merger and mutual aid. That was also clearly defined in mediation that was requested, actually, by this Council and the previous Council. We did go to mediation. The term operational merger was clearly defined.

Mrs. Budd stated I agree with you on that. Mutual aid is usually outside companies coming in. What they have accomplished, Jefferson Hill Fire Rescue, is standardization. Everybody has access to everybody else's station. You can go to whatever station you want to go to respond to a call. I know that's part of it. I believe there was, if it's not done already, the Relief Association was merged. I could be wrong about that, I'm not sure. But back to Floreffe they were in a very similar situation. They put aside identity, history, all that, to do, in my opinion, was best for the community and their own survival. That seems to be working well from what I can tell. I think they're doing a great job, that organization JHFR.

Mr. Reynolds stated just to address a couple of things that were just brought up there. Floreffe was not in the same situation as, this is my belief again, Floreffe was not in the same situation that Gill Hall was. Floreffe was in more of a situation that West Elizabeth was in. Floreffe only has one Firefighter I on their roster and that's Tara's husband, Eric Welsh. Eric Welsh hasn't responded to a fire since this happened like two years ago. So, they don't have the staff to sit there and for us to say they operationally merged.

Mrs. Budd stated but JHFR does.

Mr. Reynolds stated JHFR is in fact, let's be honest about it, the JHFR that's responding to those calls down there are the ones that we are paying to sit there. They're not the Floreffe volunteers. The only Floreffe volunteer that routinely goes is Donnie. I don't know who's the chief down there, if he's still the Chief or not, but Donnie doesn't have any formalized training. Donnie does not have his Firefighter I or so forth. To me, it's not truly apples to apples because Floreffe had a fraction, and I used to go to the meetings. When Eric was the chief, I've told him many of times, he was like the Chief Indian on a reservation with no Indians. And that's what exactly Floreffe was. It's more of a comparison to, in terms of Floreffe participating in an operational merger, they're not really bringing the volunteers anyways there because there was none. There still are none. The apples-to-apples comparison would be Floreffe and West Elizabeth than actually Gill Hall.

The other thing, in terms of the impression of this being forced on people, if you truly go back and you look at the timeline when you go back to the previous Council when Tracey Khalil was a Councilman up here. And that was one of Tracey's things, Tracy led that merger and that discussion. There were arguments going back and forth all the time with it on that timeline. Thatcher was put in to lead a merger task force, if it should be, but to the task force was to take a look and see how to merge. Now, since that, no independent company was going to be allowed there. Thatcher has also become the president; Khalil is now an officer in there too. There's too much influence that merger was happening in the beginning, because they're the ones that actually shut the fire department down. The only one that's still up here from the initial was Dave that voted to shut Gill Hall down the first time around. Outside of a brief, we put them back, we were going to put them back on a running list, they've never come back from when Dave Montgomery was sitting up here and voted to close you down. I'm 100% correct on that timeline. There are individuals that have played roles in this that, now, if you're sitting there looking at Gill Hall saying, oh, really? Like the guy that was in charge of the task force is now the president of this merged group. The guy that was sitting on Council that pushed this is now sitting as an officer with them. That's how it doesn't pass the smell test to a lot of people.

Karen, you are no longer the President and instead of the way they used to run the meetings where we used to argue and fight, Melissa is doing a good job keeping this calm, and keeping us discussing this now so that we don't get in a fight on Monday about some of this stuff.

Mrs. Steffey stated let's get through because we still have discussion on the other agenda items, which we can continue.

25. Discussion to restore Gill Hall VFC run cards to reflect the status prior to January 13, 2019

Mr. Reynolds stated maybe we could consider doing something like they could be reactivated, maybe not in Jefferson Hills at this point, but like with those individuals that are going over and helping Blaine Hill out, if they want to grab one of them trucks and head over there, we should allow them to be placed back on active duty. Let's be a good neighbor for a change and say, "Hey, we don't want to use Gill Hall right now, but if Blaine Hill wants to and some of our stuff can help you, and your people can be safe, just return the favor?"

Mrs. Steffey stated how are they going to do that if their equipment and their apparatus, I have letters here stating that they need apparatus, and everything updated. That would take money.

Mr. Reynolds stated the insurance doesn't really cost us anything, let's be real about it. It's putting them back on insurance. At that point in time, if they're allowed to go on Blaine Hill's run card, then we could say, "Hey, Gill Hall, you've been fighting like crazy. That's your equipment, and they always said it was their equipment, if they want to hold a spaghetti dinner to get some vehicles to pass inspection, then let them do it. I'm not saying at this point in time, maybe we should look at that as a second option. I don't know if you'd be into it, but maybe it's something we could discuss. Just say, "Hey, we're not financially supporting you, but we're not recognizing you here yet. But we're not going to stand in the way of you helping out our neighbors in the surrounding communities, because again, JHFR was not the only fire company down at the Valley Hotel. Our neighbors support us. Maybe we allow them to support. And I think if we gave them that stamp and said, "Here go ahead." I mean, what would be the reason Broughton would say, "No, don't bring your truck over here. We don't want you to help us." I think we should just give them the opportunity. And then, of course, sitting here six months later and say, "Holy cow, they actually went out there and they made some of these calls with zero assistance." And then, maybe you sit there and then maybe we could really start to scratch our heads and say, "You know what, I want to jump on that train and let them come in and help us."

26. Discussion to restore Gill Hall VFC members to the SWIF Workers Compensation Policy

27. Discussion to restore Gill Hall VFC vehicles to the Borough of Jefferson Hills insurance policy

28. Discussion to direct the solicitor to prepare an ordinance to permanently decertify Gill Hall VFC from the Borough of Jefferson Hills

Mr. Reynolds stated again, not to interrupt again, but we may want to look at the terminology, because there is no certification.

Mrs. Steffey stated well, I have discussed this with the Solicitor and also with the Borough Manager. Our previous resolution or ordinance stated, they were temporarily decertified. Everyone has brought the word temporarily up numerous times during Council meetings, saying, well, that's not permanent, and that's not final. So, this is written to give the Council the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want to finalize and put that word in there to supersede the previous ordinance. Also, the word decertify does give the higher ups the green light to start taking action on a state level. So, that is why it's on the agenda, along with the opportunity for us Council to vote on reactivating them as well.

Mr. Reynolds stated so we're truly going to vote on that with the intent to allow Harrisburg to give them the ammunition they need. Now, Brian, you can correct me if I'm wrong on this, they can take it regardless. It's just the fact that, when they're in discussions with the AG, it has nothing to do with the certification. It's just that you are not on anyone's run cards as of right now. The term certification has been wrong since day one.

Mrs. Steffey stated well, I'm going off of temporary or permanent, because if that should happen in the future, then I don't want anything coming back on the Borough saying, "Well, you never permanently took them off the run cards or decertify them." They are off the run cards. This is just a follow suit.

Mr. Reynolds stated one thing that I would like to say before because this is the discussion now the phrase is you never say never. Everybody's heard that a million times. I don't know why the seven of us would want to sit here and say, "Gill Hall, you will never be put back into operation," and do something where the state would take their certification away from them, when we could sit here, and maybe it is in two years, maybe it is in four years, if there is a need for them, the seven of us are making a decision for everybody to say, if something happens to JHFR. You see it happens all the time. Like, there's been legal troubles where people stole money, so forth. If something like that would come up, and if we bury Gill Hall, we would never ever be able to call on them as a resource. Brian, if you want to say something. Can Brian please say something on this?

Mrs. Steffey stated not right now.

Mr. Reynolds stated OK, but, when we're talking about, you never say never. And we are trying to say never to bury them for good. I don't understand, if somebody up here would sit here and if you guys want me I can bring my whiteboard back and we could do the pros and cons again. But, on a more serious side, there is really no pro to burying them and throwing that last shovel of dirt on them, instead of sitting here saying, if we in fact need them in the future, we can, as shown before, we can make a phone call to Allegheny County and say, "Hey, get these guys back up and running." Or I'm sorry, men and women up and running, and they could be assisting ours. I don't understand that. There's no advantage to sitting there saying, and you know what, one of our ex-policeman said it a long time ago, Bill Potts, and he was spot on, right on, and he would always say, when people would ask him whenever we were running for office, and Bill would say, "You can't tell me that burying them and having them not being able to help, where they can have zero contribution to our community is better than having them as a volunteer organization, and taking whatever they can get." Zero is, in fact, the lowest number, and we're burying them into that. We

should be sitting here saying, "Thank you for your volunteer efforts. Thank you for doing everything that you do for the community, so forth." They've had blood drives, so forth, the whole lot.

Mrs. Steffey stated Mr. Reynolds I'd like to get to these letters, because I do believe, and this was one of our big words that we use as we came together as a newly formed Council is communication. I believe, and I've stated this numerous times before, even since I was appointed to Council, just as a Council member, that there is a huge lack of communication on Chief Felix's part, almost to the point where the latest communication we've gotten was basically to snub all of the Council members, other than you and Councilwoman Ruscitto. I have a huge issue with that. I've said that before. I know you've actually said to me, you've maybe not agreed, but you've said, well, there may be issues that you have with him, and I have to understand why he feels this way. But as a leader, I feel that there are certain things that you need to suppress. You do have to answer the Council.

Mr. Reynolds asked are you going to tell that to Chalfant?

Mrs. Steffey stated I tell him that on a daily basis.

Mr. Reynolds stated Chalfant sat over there whenever me, Karen, and Vicki, were fire hall liaisons and told us that if we don't go his route, he will take his paid crew, go, and he will put a padlock on that over there. So, there's a communication. And everybody has seen the way. You look at the way like Justin Allen sat there, and he wanted to, essentially called me out for being a liar, Pete out for being a liar. All that information that Pete had from Allegheny County 911. And you can ask our Police Chief right here. That information and data that they put out there, that is all spot on, because that is admissible in a court of law as evidence. So, for Justin Allen to sit up there and say that they were feeling out some kind of baloney was absolutely, I'm surprised 911 and Allegheny County didn't come here and sit here and say, wait a minute, you're, what is he the Assistant Chief there? Your Assistant Chief is calling out Allegheny County 911 and the data that they have and the operation that they run.

Mrs. Budd stated that's more uncommon in storm mode though.

Mr. Reynolds stated Chief, is the data that they have, is it admissible as evidence in a court of law?

Chief Dziezgowski stated yes it is.

Mr. Reynolds stated so they're not going to give you anything. They could sit there, and they can tell you about storm modes. And again, you get into all of this narrative that gets placed in here. They would not be putting on information if it wasn't true and spot on.

Chief Dziezgowski stated well, if I can just add. They will have, like Councilwoman Budd is saying, they will have certain storm modes where they have other data, because of the immersion calls, the number of calls that they're receiving. So, they have information that is provided along with those data sheets to explain certain differences in times that I can't answer for that unless -- And again, Chief Allen, when he was here, he might have had that information. I can't speak for him, or what information, you know, they have from Gill Hall. The only people that can explain

that are the data centers Chiefs, when they come here and explain what data they have, just to be clear on that subject.

Mrs. Steffey stated OK. Tonight, is about what is on the agenda, which is Gill Hall. So, we're going to focus on Gill Hall, not JHFR. The lack of communication just recently, I'm going to read the letters just so everybody knows, where Gill Hall stance, their final stance was. I gave them another opportunity for them to decide what they wanted to do and how they wanted to proceed. I instructed our solicitor to send a certified letter to Chief Felix. This is what it read. Dear Chief Calvin Felix, can you kindly review the attached submission by Brian Hutson, which was, I'll get to that, but that was the correspondence from Mr. Hutson and where they stood. I believe that was April, I'm getting that wrong. But where they stood, that was their final correspondence, which came from Mr. Hutson. On behalf of Gill Hall VFC and advise if this represents the official position of the Gill Hall VFC at the present time. Your earliest attention is respectfully requested. Please respond by no later than April 5th at noon. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. Sincerely, Deron Gabriel. So, the response, as you know, came to just you and Councilwoman Ruscitto.

Mr. Reynolds stated, and Deron was addressed on there.

Mrs. Steffey stated and Deron. I'm sorry.

Mr. Reynolds stated Calvin called me up and said, "Could you please forward that?" Because the address that he had for Deron, he kept getting an undeliverable, and it came back to him. So, he in fact had the solicitor on there now. I mean, he obviously copied me because I've been I've been behind them since day one. I forwarded it right to you.

Mrs. Steffey stated right. You did. Everybody that's on here and Chief Felix has my email address. He has Councilwoman's Bucy's address. I'm sure he has Mr. Montgomery's. He may not have the new people. So, I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt there. So, this was the response. April 4, 2022, response to priority mail solicitor, Borough of Jefferson hills, Deron Gabriel. In response to council's request for an option F, the members of Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company are offering the following solutions. We currently have the trained staff and fire equipment and apparatus to support the community that we have served for 74 plus years and are ready and willing to resume protecting the residence as soon as possible. We propose the following. Number 1, reactivate Gill Hall VFC as an active independent fire company. Number 2, restore Gill Hall VFC run cards to reflect the status prior to January 13, 2019. Number 3, restore Gill Hall VFC members to the SWIF Workers Compensation Policy. Number 4, restore Gill Hall VFC vehicles to the Borough insurance policy. All of those items were put on tonight's agenda to be fair. Number 5, recognize Gill Hall VFC as one of the two official fire companies for Jefferson Hills, JHFR Incorporated and Gill Hall VFC. The reason why this was not put on the agenda was because that that would have to have an addendum to the resolution that was already established, correct?

Solicitor Gabriel stated yes, we'd have to adopt the formal resolution.

Mrs. Steffey stated Number 6, any fire tax money collected and distributed by Jefferson Hills for fire prevention and suppression will be distributed equally between the two official fire companies, JHFR and Gill Hall VFC. Same reason it was not put on the agenda, correct?

Number 7, recognize Gill Hall VFC Relief Association as an independent relief association in addition to JHFR Inc. relief Association, and the annual foreign fire allocation be distributed equally. Same reason, correct?

Number 8, restore Gill Hall VFC Fire District and allow GHVFC to door to door fundraise via mail solicitation in their fire district. As you can all see, all we want is to be treated equally and fairly and continue the long tradition of our organization serving and protecting the residents. We have always worked mutual aid within the Borough companies, as well as the surrounding departments, and will continue to do so when reactivated. By reactivating Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company, our community will not only be safer for the residents, but as a 100% volunteer organization, we will add no additional cost to the Borough of Jefferson Hills. And it's signed by Brian Hutson, Vice President, and Calvin Felix, President and Fire Chief. So that was their official final stance. That's why we have the items on the agenda this evening. Again, I take a serious issue with not having the communication with Chief Felix.

Mr. Reynolds stated well, he did communicate. I mean, he sent it back in the time that it was requested.

Mrs. Steffey asked with all Council? I mean, this is kind of a reflection of what we're going to have to deal with if reactivated, then I have a bad taste in my mouth.

Mr. Reynolds stated well when you send a certified letter out to that individual from the solicitor, he, in fact, was replying back in a formal manner in which we sent the letter out.

Mrs. Steffey stated but why choose to include you and Councilwoman Ruscitto on it?

Mr. Reynolds stated I have no idea why.

Mrs. Steffey stated So why choose not to include everybody on it, or at least the people that he has the email addresses to?

Mr. Reynolds stated because it's simple. He would have included me because I fought for them since day one. And that was one of the things that I stood for.

Mrs. Steffey stated understood, but you see where I'm standing. It's singling out.

Mr. Reynolds stated I think you're taking offense to something that you shouldn't take offense to. A formal letter was sent certified, and he responded back in a timely manner.

Mrs. Steffey stated the response should have been back to just Deron, in my opinion.

Mr. Reynolds stated is it the issue that he chose to include me?

Mrs. Steffey stated no, it's not an issue that he chose to include you and Nicole. It's an issue that he chose to exclude other people that have tried to work with him multiple times in the past, multiple times, attended their meetings multiple times, attending their trainings multiple times, where Karen and I have asked him, we're asking him questions on the field when we were spraying hoses.

Mr. Hutson stated I can address that.

Mrs. Steffey stated no, thank you. So, this has been a long-standing issue.

Mr. Reynolds stated the only thing if I was to make a comment on that letter were the issues that are 100% wrong is the fact that Calvin is asking that they become equal in their attempt to protect our residence, when actually we couldn't do that anyways, because there is no merger. We couldn't say, JHFR because JHFR, I don't know when we're going to get it through our thick heads, JHFR is not merged. So, it couldn't be two fire departments. It would have to be all those things that were stated on there, it would have to be three. Until they actually sign the paper and merge, put all their stuff in a pot, it is not JHFR. They cannot continue to operate as if, we should not allow it to operate as JHFR one day, and then Floreffe and 885 being separate another day. It's going to turn into an issue because you can't accept grant money and tax dollars from two separate organizations. And that's what they've done.

They carry our name. We're the ones that are given every person here, we're giving them their tax dollars, and we're not making sure that they are being financial responsible. We're not even saying the half a million bucks that Floreffe had in the bank, we had to bail them out of a \$30,000.00 error. This is a fire hall issue. This is something that we need to address once and for all, before we get us all in trouble.

Mrs. Steffey stated lastly for me, I had it in the academy. I had to take the Firefighters Oath along with Karen. Do you remember the oath, Karen?

Mrs. Bucy stated yes.

Mrs. Steffey stated Keith, do you know the oath? Do you know the oath by any chance?

Mr. Reynolds stated I just know the oath that we used to read on it at Floreffe.

Mrs. Steffey stated is it the same? It's real short and sweet.

Mr. Reynolds asked Does that have any relevance here?

Mrs. Steffey stated It does to me. When you take the Firefighters Oath, you're swearing to protect those in danger, to protect their property that's in danger, and lastly, to protect your fellow firefighters that could be in danger. I felt that we gave that opportunity to Gill Hall when we asked them to join as 180-3. It was turned down. If I was running with a company, and I was facing a shutdown down, and I took that oath extremely seriously, you could tell me to put on a clown suit and go fight a fire because I took that oath. Those three things were the most important to me. It wouldn't depend on the number. It wouldn't depend on who I was running with. I took that oath. Same as I take an oath as a realtor. I had to do that. Protect my license, I protect my clients. I don't care what else surrounds the circumstances. Those three items are the most important thing. And to me, when that was turned down, I felt that Gill Hall was letting those residents down.

Mrs. Budd stated I have some points.

Mr. Reynolds stated as we're sitting here talking, that same statement that you just made about that oath, can also if you're treating everybody fair and equal, can also be said for the Gill Hall folks when JHFR said, "No, we refuse to work with them." So, they are, in fact, violating that same oath that Gill Hall is now getting criticized for not living up to.

Mrs. Steffey stated they were given the opportunity to merge operation many times.

Mr. Reynolds stated but JHFR has been given many opportunities to stand up and say that they would work with Gill Hall, and Brian Chalfant has repeated numerous times, not at this time. Well, that is the same violation of the oath that you just repeated. So, if we're going to call a spade to a spade, if we're going to sit here and point a finger at Gill Hall for violating that oath, then we also need to sit and look at JHFR and say, "You violated that oath too."

Mrs. Steffey stated I respectfully disagree with that statement.

Mrs. Bucy stated the one thing that I would like to point out is I don't like to talk ill of people when they are not here. But one of the points that was very deciding for me at the last liaison meeting was that Gill Hall was asked if they would allow people to come into their building after the lawsuit was ended. President Felix and Assistant Chief Florioli were there. It was told to us that they would not allow certain individuals into their building after the lawsuit was done. These individuals live around the Gill Hall area. They stated, "We did not like that they left and went to JHFR." That to me is a big issue. If we're all Jefferson Hills residents, and we live close enough, everybody should be allowed to enter into everybody else's fire station. When you have competent firefighters that are a stone throw away from your building, and you're saying that you won't let them in, there's an issue with that. You were there, Mr. Reynolds, when this was said. They specifically named people that they would not allow into their building. I find that not operating under an oath either.

Mr. Reynolds stated in terms of the individuals, and I know it's been brought up a million times and we've discussed this, allowing some of the individuals from JHFR access to Gill Hall. There are a couple of the members that Calvin was discussing that have been banned, thrown out of their fire department for actions that belong in between Gill Hall and those individuals. They don't belong here in a Council meeting. If they are not part of that organization, then Gill Hall reserves the right. It's their building. Where this has been completely overblown was, if you remember in one meeting, I asked Brian, and there was approximately six people that are members of JHFR that live in the Gill Hall region that would have been theirs from, what, January 2019. Now, what Gill Hall has always said, is any member from JHFR can come up, enter that fire hall, and ride on that truck with them and respond, and go out together, give their partner a ride. I think that should be commended that they said that. What we don't recognize is that fire truck is not to leave there with only one firefighter on it. So, just having to say Justin Allen run over from his house, which is very close in proximity to Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company, he can't go over get that truck and take that truck and go flying down the road with it without somebody else on it. So, you're only pulling at that point in time, that force that may come there and gain access to it. You're only talking from six people. All that Gill Hall said was if Justin wants to come up there and jump on the truck with us, Justin is more than welcome. And they would supply them the opportunity to come up there and jump on a truck and respond with them. Why? Because it's safer for all of them to drive that truck down the road with more than one person on it.

Mrs. Bucy stated but that's now what the context of that conversation was.

Mr. Reynolds stated it absolutely was, Karen.

Mrs. Bucy stated I will respectfully disagree with you.

Mr. Reynolds stated you're interpreting it as if they drew a line in the sand and said, nobody's allowed in there. The thing that we have never discussed is, when they go there is its mutual aid? Are they going there as a member of Gill Hall at that point? Who's going to cover if a JHFR person goes and gets in a truck? One of the JHFR guys was in an accident before and there was a fatality. This is going way back in the day. Now, is Gill Hall correct for sitting there and saying, "I want to protect my organization. I don't want two people jumping in my truck and going flying down the road." And if something happens, yes, the insurance will cover. But once those pockets are dry, then they're still going to go after Gill Hall. I think Gill Hall is 100% smart in the manner that they are protecting themselves.

Mrs. Bucy stated President Steffey, I want to have it noted that I respectfully disagree with that interpretation because I was sitting there, and that was not the interpretation that I received.

Mr. Reynolds stated I would also like it noted that I would respectfully disagree with Karen's interpretation of what actually happened.

Mrs. Budd stated I have news articles from 1985, donations to save Gill Hall from the auction block. 1991, land lotteries offered to help out the fire company. 1998, lack of new volunteers was when all this JHFR started merging back in with Large and everybody. And news article from 2020, PA Fire Company reinstated on probationary basis. Chief Felix said, "We thought there would be some guidelines and stipulations. If that's what it takes for us to open up, we'll do what we've got to do." But then when we go into the probationary plan, Option A, B, C, D, E, F. F is back to Gill Hall and what they've always wanted to do. You know, Karen and Keith discussed and debated the mediation impasse on station access. Again, this goes back to efficiency, it goes back to looking at all the experts from the DCED, the NFPA, Chief Sohyda talking about volunteerism is down, there's a crisis, but yet they want to open up as a 100% volunteer independent station. To me, that doesn't make sense. There's been a lot of other points up here that I agree with Ms. Steffey was saying as well.

Mrs. Steffey stated I want to thank everyone for having a very calm, collected I know it was a long discussion, but it was it was definitely needed. And if there is one or two people that watch us live that don't have any recollection of what's going on, then I feel as Council, we've done our jobs to inform those people so that they could be caught up. We did it without fighting. So, thank you to Council, and thank you all for hanging in there with us as well.

29. Discussion to formally adopt 2022 bid limits, as contained in Act 92 of 2011 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mrs. Steffey stated this was just emailed to me the other day by the Solicitor. I know us as a Council, we've gone back and forth on different policies on what we want to adopt for when we put out or seek for bids. Our last policy was anything more than \$5,000.00 we adopted. This is coming straight from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I know we don't have to follow everything that the Commonwealth does. I do like the unison of it. This is to advertise and seek for formal bids, anything for \$21,900 and over. Some of us have agreed before, we don't want to micromanage and nickel and dime bid processes. I feel sometimes that gets a little lost in the

shuffle with our staff. Our staff is here for us to trust them. They are recommending bodies to us as well. But I also feel that we've built the relationships with our staff that we can trust in the fact that they can put some things out to bid, depending on the limits. That was why I wanted to add this to the agenda to see if you all agreed with that, so.

Mr. Reynolds stated and if I was to put any input on it, when we put it at \$5,000.00, that was to protect the residents, and to make sure that we're doing our job and making sure. The state puts a ceiling on it. There's nothing wrong with us saying we're going to watch over this a little bit more. Now, in our case here, Jon Drager has gone through and has showed us, and I'm sure he has a spreadsheet of when we put things through bid, how much money he actually saved the residents. Anybody could sit there and say, wow, they saved \$2,000.00 here. But that \$2,000.00, when you think about it, that could put something in our parks, a swing set or something. Every bit of money helps. Jon, if you want to on Monday, I'm sure you have examples of where you saved this Borough a ton of money. He has saved us a lot of money. And I don't think that raising it and taking that away is a move that we should go in. That's my opinion on it.

Mrs. Steffey stated Jon has a spreadsheet for all of his spreadsheets, I'm sure. I know, just recently on our last meeting, our agenda, he saved us over \$1,500.00 on the printer that we had voted on. Even after we voted it, he got it for less money. So that's what I'm saying. I trust our staff to understand and know that we obviously want the lowest bids. I just don't want things to be held to a halt because we have to constantly be putting out bids for anything over \$5,000.00. The majority of the things that we do function on as a Council.

Mr. Reynolds stated but isn't there a stipulation in there that, in case of emergency there are other options?

Mrs. Steffey stated on the one that we have adopted now.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I don't think that we ever had an issue with the bidding process. I think when we mentioned \$5,000.00, that was just notification to Council that something that was that expensive was purchased, not necessarily put out to bid.

Mrs. Steffey stated we just wanted to be notified.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I still think that that's unclear and important that we get that.

Mrs. Steffey stated notification and again, communication is very important. I just wanted to let you know that this is what the state put out. And we can decide on Monday.

30. Reports

Fire Chief:

Not present

EMS:

Not present

Engineer Glistler:

Nothing further

Consulting Engineer:

Nothing further

Finance Officer/Treasurer:

Nothing further

Public works

Mrs. Steffey asked Mike, I had a request, and it has to deal with the batting cage over at 885. I know that we were in the process of ordering, getting new ones, moving the new ones over to the other side of the field. I know that's kind of been at a halt due to increase in material prices. The current batting cage that there is there, I know that eventually we want to get rid of that. But since the season started, the artificial grass that's in there is in really bad shape. Is there any way that we can at least have that replaced so that's not a tripping hazard?

Mr. Volpe stated OK, we'll take care of it. With the inclement weather last couple of weeks, we tried to glue it down, but we'll replace it.

Mrs. Steffey stated I'd like to replace it as a whole, please.

Mr. Reynold stated that sounds like it's just as simple as saying, let's put some indoor or outdoor carpet down there. I think what we should discuss is, if we want our parks to be the best that our parks can, the majority of the kids that are going to use 885 park are, in fact, Little League. Their spikes aren't going to go down into the indoor/outdoor. But there are people that use that on off hours. I would suggest, it will cost us more money, I'm not going to say that it won't, but you can get the turf from companies like the company that the high school uses, Pioneer. They actually make a product, not just rolling out some indoor or outdoor, and we can put those, even if we just put it in where the batter stand, and where the pitcher stand, so that when they're there and they're using that, the difference is, it's safe. It's not necessarily that it protects, but it protects their knees also because the turf is, in fact, giving to those spikes as they use it. It's safer.

Mrs. Steffey stated I just didn't think we would want to go any further route other than just putting new in there because we are going to eventually tear it down.

Mr. Reynolds stated you pick that mat up and you take it wherever. I think we should discuss also, if we in fact do move that, because I've been hanging out over that baseball field for 50 years.

Mrs. Steffey stated we weren't moving that one. We were getting rid of that one I believe. We're ordering a whole new double one.

Mr. Reynolds stated I think what would be best is why take that down? That space there, you can't really do much with that space. Why take it down and take it away. They have one of the best Little League tournaments all around here. If they in fact, were doing it, a team could be over in batting cage A, batting cage B. You're not running electricity to it. You're not adding anything else to it. Once you put that structure up, if you put the cyclone fence around it and do it proper, you're not going to have to touch that for 20 plus years or so, if constructed correctly.

Mrs. Steffey stated we're going to can see what the condition is. I know that one of the main complaints was that the little ones don't look when they cross the street over there. That's was why we wanted to move that one initially to the other field. However, it was in such bad condition that we just figured we would order the new kind of flashy double one. But, that's been on hold. Since you and Joe are on Public Works Committee, you can look into it.

Mr. Reynolds stated I've already talked to Mike. If we truly wanted to, I don't know if you ever been up to DiVirgilio up in Belle Vernon. If there's a choice to say there's a cat's meow to it, they did it perfect with their cage.

Mrs. Steffey asked a batting cage?

Mr. Reynolds stated a batting cage up there. They built it as essentially its own structure. I hate to say it, but where we're considering putting the batting cage down at Beedle, that's not the best of areas, we're kind of handcuffed there where we were putting it. Because there, if you think about it, there could be, in different teams, like say, when TJ High School uses it or so forth, one of the reasons why Cherp doesn't like that is because there's no barrier behind to keep the parents from getting too involved and letting the coaches coach. They're all right there. And all we're doing is funneling into that area. Build a separate structure, and then let that thing lasts longer than what we do. You know what I mean? Do it the right way.

Mrs. Steffey stated well, these are all things that will be good for our Steering Committee and our new Comprehensive Plan and Rec Board, since you're on Rec Board too. I mean, these are all good ideas. They just have to be implemented. We can talk about them as much as we want in these meetings, but it does take follow up, and emails, and guidance to our staff as well. So, more interaction is always welcome.

Chief Dziezgowski:

I just want the remind residents that we are currently accepting applications for police candidates up until April 15th. Testing will be on the 30th of this month. So, please, if you know anyone that is interested in that position, have them submit their application, which can be found on the Borough website.

Mayor McCaffrey:

Nothing further

Borough Manager:

Nothing further

Solicitor:

I will just note the Council did meet an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

31. General Business

Mr. Reynolds stated:

I think listening to Mr. Gulla there asked question about the fracking and so forth, would we consider having a town hall format for the residents to explain to them? Some of the residents, A, they weren't informed that this was coming in. B, if you have a resident sitting out there, they just may think that they have no options out there to protect themselves. Maybe if we had a town hall type format, sit here and say, if you want to know, this is going to be in your background, where they're talking like, it is a stone's throw away from one of our parks, Beedle Park. I think a lot of people don't consider that. But it would be nice if we had that for these residents to sit there and say, hey, this is the information. I have my opinion that, whenever we were notified in two different letters, we weren't even notified from our own staff. The residents, in my eyes, should have been told then, I think at that point in time, we can open the discussion for them to realize that they may be able to get together and protect themselves, and their families. I mean, Bobby lives in a house that has been in his family forever. I'm sure he wants to make sure that his little family homestead is protected. I think that would be a good format.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the proposed well, it will affect Jefferson Hills' residents more so than actual residents of Elrama, because they're buffered a little bit.

Mr. Reynolds stated my concern is even if you look at like, say, the residents in Patriot Pointe, I lean on you for a lot of that information. When you talk within five miles, that even affects, it's just not the Floreffe, it affects out into Gill Hall, because as the crow flies, that will be close, that will be within that area to the residents in Patriot Pointe. And I'm sure a lot of people invested a lot of money into their houses.

Mrs. Steffey stated as far as the town hall meeting, I'm not a professional, none of us are professionals up here. So, I don't know who would we hold the meeting, and who would be speaking other than the residents? I can sit here and say, "OK, I hear you," but I'm not a professional on that.

Mr. Reynolds stated well, we do have resources inside our Borough. Whether it was Nicole, or whether it was Lori Bartrug that went out and defended and went out to the State of Pennsylvania, out in Harrisburg, and defended our soil that we're here. Maybe we talk to them and say, "Hey, would you like to have an open forum." And if they have any questions, allow them to ask, and then, the people that have been down this road before.

Mrs. Steffey stated I am a huge advocate and a big proponent on any kind of meeting, or informational meeting being even sided. I would have to say that we don't all, I'm not speaking for anybody up here, but I could assume that we don't all have the same visions on anything. We all can be different.

Mr. Reynolds stated the only thing I would like to say would be, either whether it's all of Council or yourself, maybe Nicole, I mean, I joke around with her all the time, the way she hugs trees and stuff. Maybe she chairs it so that it doesn't turn into an argument in between, this and this,? Like EQT, make it be about the residents, not them.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I will speak to that as the tree hugger, Jefferson Hills did collectively, as a Council, take this to the State Supreme Court. And that to me speaks volumes about what you want in your community and what you don't. So, like you said, you can't speak for everybody that's here now. But that was a huge statement by the former Council.

Mrs. Bucy stated we did receive an email that there was going to be a speaker at the Environmental Advisory meeting. That might be a first step for them to acquire information. So, could we would put that on the website and announce the date?

Mrs. Steffey stated April 27th at 6:00. I don't know if there's anything happening here in chambers. But I know that the EAC typically meets downstairs on the first level. If there's nothing else, corresponding with the schedule, we can definitely hold it up here. But EAC is an open public meeting as well. We do have a speaker coming. And like I said, I would like to definitely have somebody from both sides to answer questions.

Mr. Reynolds stated I'd like to say thank you to everybody up here. I know we spend a lot of time discussing some things that we've talked about time and time and time and time again. This was the first time I think the residents will sit here and say that we handled it in a respectable fashion. We may not agree at the end of the day. And I'm pretty stubborn. But I think this was the first time that we actually conducted ourselves in a way that we shouldn't be embarrassed. So, thank you all and I'm hoping that we evolve.

Mr. Lynch stated:

All I have is a kicked back a couple weeks ago, I just want to say congratulations to the TJ Hockey Team winning the Penguins Cup. I mean to a quote Al Michaels, "Do You Believe in Miracles", what a comeback. Fortunately, they did fall short in the state tournament, but, hey, what they did at the Penguins Cup, that's more than enough. So, go TJ.

Mrs. Budd stated:

It's my third of four announcements for Fish Day. Jefferson Hills Fish Day will take place on April 23rd from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. on Peters Creek Road, near Waterman Road. Rod and bucket are all 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, and also for food items, such as water, snacks. If interested in donating, please contact the bureau offices at 412-655-7735. You can also email the Borough Manager, John Stinner at jstinner@jeffersonhills.net.

I also just want to agree with Mr. Reynolds that that was a wonderfully respectful and nice conversation more than I've seen. And I think that's the way to get things done is to respect each other, and just listen and have a discussion like normal people.

Mr. Montgomery stated

SHACOG Report is as follows:

- A. The solid waste bids
 - 16 have committed.
 - Three are committing
 - Two are unknown as of last month.
 - The current solid waste contract has a stipulation for fuel charge increase, but there will be none for waste management because these trucks are all fueled by natural gas, and the price has not gone up. It stayed constant.
- B. The police chiefs met, and they're going to do firearms and alert training. It will start in the spring, depending as long as COVID stays suppressed.
- C. Defensive training will be three days a week on all SHACOG officers through April till they're all trained.
- D. The CIRT Team had two call outs in February.
- E. The Cooperative Investigation Team had no call outs.
- F. The Accident and Construction Team had no call outs.
- G. The fire chiefs met, will have a major training on April 9th and April 10th. Hose, ladders, and pump testing joint bids will take place.
- H. The salt prices increased by 99 cents a ton. The price of salt is now \$80.74 a ton based on fuel adjustment. This is the last year for this contract. The salt contract will be rebid this summer.
- I. Spring commodities were opened on March 10th and will be posted April 26th. Bids will have to be accepted by the municipality by a letter to lock in the prices.
- J. CCTV bids for year 12 to bid, and we are going to act on that tonight.
- K. The vac truck acquisition is on hold because we're waiting on more communities to respond. We don't use that, but I just wanted to pass it along.
- L. Senator Devlin Robinson is to address the road flooding on Route 51 corridor with PennDOT. All of the municipalities will be involved, and so will SHACOG to try to resolve these recurring problems.
- M. CDBG 46 has nine projects complete, one in progress.
- N. CDBG 47 has six projects underway, one project on hold.
- O. CDBG 48, applications are under review. That's the project's from July 1, 2022, to July 30, 2023. Decisions will be made in April likely.
- P. Act 152, we'll be back. County demolitions were back on the table. All the applications will be electronically received only. There'll be a five-week window. And so, we do have structures that we are going to try to get. Last time around, the Borough got two projects. We're the only ones in SHACOG to get anything. So that was a good job by Mike Glister to get.

- Q. The SHACOG banquet is October 20th at Nevillewood.
- R. West Mifflin has dealt with a company called BDO LLC. And they recommended if you have any problems with the COVID relief money and how to spend it. They said that they've had a lot of luck with that. So, I decided to bring that forward.
- S. The Finance Committee met with Randy Rhoades yesterday to begin the process of creating a Pension Board, which is advisory only. It'll be five to seven members, the Finance Committee, the Manager, the Finance Director, and two bargaining unit members. That will focus on the police pension fund initially. It's recommended to draft an ordinance to create the board. I don't know if we need to have add that to the agenda or authorize a solicitor to prepare that.

Mrs. Steffey stated I believe he was getting us the verbiage.

Mr. Montgomery stated but we need to authorize that to be prepared because the advertising is the end of this month. So, we can vote on it next month.

Personnel Committee is working on a new employee handbook, which we never have had. So that's in progress.

I just like to say Pete Taucher passed away, and he was a big presence here in the Borough, and he'll be deeply missed, so. His wife served on Council, also.

Mr. Reynolds stated I forgot to say that rest in peace, Pete. I mean, he was like the godfather of Gill Hall Area. If anybody knew him, he was an amazing guy.

Mrs. Bucy stated:

I just wanted to make an announcement; in case any resident of Jefferson Hills would benefit from this program. I'm involved with the Cloverleaf Ecumenical Food Bank that takes place at St. Elizabeth's Pius Hall Church. They operate this Tuesday and every other Tuesday. I know that Reverend Floyd Hughes from the Crossroads was collecting diapers, and I know ahead of time that diapers will be distributed. If you are in the need of those, all you need to do is bring a birth certificate, and they will process you. It's a very worthwhile program. It's very well run. It has fresh produce that comes from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. It has cheese, milk, vegetables, fruit, meat, pastries, bread, everything that you could possibly need. All you need to do is sign up. It's very easy to do. There are no questions asked. So, if you would mark that down this Tuesday, it's one of the distribution days.

I did try to clean up a little bit on Chamberlin Road the Friday before the big snow. I want to say, I just drove down there today, and that's less than probably five or six days ago, and there's already 21 pieces of garbage that got thrown out the windows. Once again, I'm pleading with the people of Jefferson Hills to please not throw their litter out their windows. I try to make a point of doing one road a week. It's always a big ordeal to get out there, especially with the detours now. So, if you could manage to throw your litter in a garbage can, it would greatly be appreciated. I just was turning up by the Ciccanti's the other day and going up that street. It's just deplorable too, along with Elliott Road.

Mr. Kelly stated I know that it makes me sick.

Mrs. Steffey stated we're trying our best, Mr. Kelly. Madam Mayor, actually, has the cleanup ever been rescheduled yet? Anything on that?

Mayor McCaffrey stated no, we have not.

Mrs. Bucy stated and lastly, I wanted to say that three of the residents of where I live have used the Waste Management Special Project where you call for your disposal. They've been very pleased. They told me that they send bags, that you tell them exactly what they're going to pick up. It has been successful for them. They were very appreciative of that program. Along with that, I have to give a shout out to Brandon who works for Waste Management. I think he's pretty well the garbage person for almost everybody in Jefferson Hills. He is, by far, one of the most pleasant and industrious young man I have ever met. I just think he's a great worker, and I'd love to give him a couple of compliments.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated:

First, thanks to Councilman Reynolds for his silky tones this evening on the microphone, instead of the hostility. You sound pretty good on the mic, I have to say.

Mr. Reynold stated I like it on record that I'm thanking Councilwoman Nicole Ruscitto for that comment.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated seriously though, I would like to convey my well wishes towards the owner and all the employees at Elrama Tavern. I know that I will be supporting your fundraising efforts. And I know that I'm not alone in that, I'm sure.

Lastly, I saw on Facebook that the library is looking for donations. We have a great library, and I'd like to see that library become even better. So, if you can, you know, do what you can for the library.

Mrs. Steffey stated:

I also would like to extend my appreciation for the employees and the owners of the Tavern, and the patrons. It was definitely one of my favorite places to go and enjoy time with my family and friends. Unfortunately, I'll be out of town during the time that they're having their fundraiser, but you can also donate just like I did monetarily. They're looking for businesses to donate, which is what we did. The information is on is on the Tavern website as well, as long as many other Facebook pages out there. So, please come out and support them, come out and enjoy their fish fry. It's benefits their employees, also, if you can donate anything, please do as well.

Again, thank you all, especially to our staff that has to sit here as we converse among multiple things. But we want to make sure that, we're doing the best that we can when we are making very difficult decisions on behalf of our residents, because that's what we were elected to do.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Budd, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto 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