

Borough of Jefferson Hills
Agenda Meeting of Council
October 4, 2023

The agenda meeting of Council was called to order by Vice President Budd at 7:03 p.m. in the Municipal Centers, 925 Old Clairton Road. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Councilwoman Bucy, Vice President Budd, Councilman Lynch, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Reynolds, Councilwoman Ruscitto, President Steffey (via Zoom), and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer and Acting Borough Manager Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Borough Manager Stinner was absent.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

None

5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

None

6. Discussion to approve the monthly bills

7. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll

8. Discussion to approve minutes of special meeting August 31, 2023

9. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting September 6, 2023

10. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting September 11, 2023

11. Discussion to hire _____ for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department

Mr. Montgomery stated Mrs. Bucy and I are going to interview seven people tomorrow. What would be the consensus going forward with that? Recommend one or bring two or three back to be interviewed before the voting meeting?

Mrs. Budd stated I have no problem with bringing two back.

Mr. Reynolds stated you should set it at the best candidates that set themselves apart. If you got three candidates there that are extremely close, do not feel that you have to chop one there. The Council at that point deserves the opportunity to interview them.

I do not know why we are trying to hurry up and have somebody come in for 15 minutes beforehand. Our parks are not going to shut down. Get the right person in here. There is nothing that says that we have to hire a park laborer this month.

Mrs. Budd stated I would like to see the person hired this month so they can get an appropriate amount of training before winter sets in.

Mr. Reynolds asked do we need a park laborer for winter?

Mrs. Budd asked Mr. Volpe are all members of public works involved in snow removal?

Mr. Volpe responded yes; they are. The only one that was not was the retiree who was deaf because he could not drive. But all employees are required to do snow removal.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I am on the personnel committee and, typically, I am able to be here for interviews. However, tomorrow, I am unable to attend. I do trust Mrs. Bucy and Mr. Montgomery to pick the best candidates for us to see before the meeting.

Mr. Reynolds stated I have a question about the training, Are they going to practice driving a snowplow?

Mr. Volpe responded from looking at the resume, there are several candidates who have experience driving snowplows. We have snow designated routes. We are down one person. One person is going to be going off on extended illness. There is a possibility of us losing one or two more employees to departments in surrounding communities. There could be a shortage of drivers in the winter.

Mrs. Bucy stated Mr. Volpe will be there. He interviews with us also.

Mr. Montgomery stated we will just have to see how they do. If there are some who are really good, we can bring three. Until I actually interview them, I cannot say how they will do.

Mrs. Budd stated we will wait to hear back from you.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we also have to consider that a lot of times people do not even show up for the interviews.

Mr. Reynolds stated that Mr. Volpe gave us a big tip that we might be losing a couple more people from public works. We have a chance to build up his staff, get them in the hall. Do not arbitrarily send somebody home because you might be calling the same people in two weeks or three weeks trying to hire them again.

12. Discussion to approve the permanent appointment of Officer Nicole Honick as full-time police officer for the Jefferson Hills Police Department after successful completion of a 12-month probationary period per the Borough of Jefferson Hills Civil Service Rules and Regulations, Section 3.20 "Probationary Period"

13. Discussion to extend a conditional offer of employment to _____ as _____ a Probationary Patrol Officer contingent upon passing a physical and psychological examination and obtaining certification in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) with a start date to be determined by the Chief of Police

Chief Dziezgowski stated there is only one eligible candidate. Do we add that name now or wait until the voting day?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded you could add it now or you could wait until Monday.

Chief Dziezgowski stated add the name Ronald Naylor III.

14. Discussion to authorize Brian Haberstock as signatory for the Borough of Jefferson Hills Police Pension Advisory Board

15. Discussion to renew two-year contract with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels for animal control services in the Borough of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$400.00 per month or \$4,200.00 per year

16. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 22-2023 directing distribution of the Borough's allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid for 2023 in the amount of \$349,673.29 as follows: Police Pension Fund \$531,063.00 and Administrative Pension Plan \$7,651.00 with the Borough's contribution being \$189,040.71

Mr. Montgomery asked what was our last year's contribution to the Pension Plan?

Mr. Haberstock responded I do not remember the exact number. The amount we received was more. I do not know about our contribution.

Mr. Montgomery stated I want to know what our contribution to the Pension Fund was if you could let us know by Monday.

17. Discussion to pay proceeds from the 2023 Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation to the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of Jefferson Hills in the amount of \$79,877.79 within 60 days of September 21, 2023

Mr. Reynolds asked are we sure that is worded correctly? Chief Chalfant said that they are not merged, and they were not going to merge until after all of the Gill Hall stuff was taken care of. If they are not merged, I do not understand why they would have a relief association as a merged company when they are not actually a merged fire hall.

Mrs. Budd responded that the relief association and the fire hall are different. The fire chief will actually be here Monday. If you want to ask him questions then.

Mr. Reynolds asked can you elaborate on that a little bit for me? This is a discussion meeting. I would like to get as much information as I can right now.

Mrs. Budd stated I am not the fire chief so I cannot answer that for you. I am not going to pretend to talk about something that I do not know about.

Mr. Reynolds stated you said that they are completely different. You really do not know if they are different or not.

Mrs. Budd stated they are different; I do know that.

Mr. Reynolds asked what separates them? What makes them different?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated she said that she knows that they are different, she would prefer that the fire chief explain the particular. That is probably the best way to proceed.

Mr. Reynolds stated I am just trying to get enough information as I possibly can to formulate my vote.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated the fire chief will be here on Monday and will be able to answer any questions?

Mrs. Bucy stated in the packet, there is a piece of paper from the PA Auditor. It says, "This email is being sent on behalf of the Honorable Timothy L. DeFoor, Pennsylvania Auditor General. It says volunteer fire relief association. It is in there so that you can refer to it.

It says as required by Act 205, proceeds from this allocation must be paid to the VFRA of the fire company or companies recognized by your municipality who provide fire service to your citizens within 60 days of the receipt date.

Mr. Reynolds stated to make sure that we are doing everything legal, again, Council stated that the only recognized fire hall was JHFR. That was two years ago. They have never been JHFR. They are still operating under Floreffe, and they are still operating under 885. Allegheny County 911, calls Jefferson Station 1 or Jefferson Station 2. We have to start to make sure that we are handling these funds correctly because there is no organization that actually is merged into JHFR right now. They are still, in fact, Floreffe and 885.

Mrs. Budd stated the fire companies, and the relief association are different organizations.

Mrs. Bucy stated there is a phone number on the bottom, too. For questions related to the disbursement of these funds to the VFRA or the 706B Form, please contact fire relief audits at fire@paauditor.com, and there is a phone number.

18. Discussion in regard to point-of-sale (POS) transaction fee

Mr. Haberstock stated I was asked to see about a point-of-sale device to use for rental of park facilities. A hand-held device would cost \$770.00, it is a five-year contract. The administrative person would put the amount out in it, slide it under the glass to the resident, they put their card in, and they get a receipt right out of the machine. We would print a second receipt for us. It would automatically go into whichever bank account we designate it to go to.

Mr. Montgomery stated this is for them to have that opportunity to use a credit card or a debit card when they pay for rentals. Who pays the fee?

Mr. Haberstock responded the 3% fee would go to Fiserv. Whatever amount we charge, that is what would go to our bank account, but the customer would automatically pay the additional 3%.

Mrs. Budd asked would we now put on the agenda to purchase this machine for Monday's voting meeting, if we're in agreement with this?

Mrs. Bucy stated I would like to see the price on there for verification.

Mr. Haberstock stated the system you have in place now is the CardPointe website service. I could just as easily get another log-in credential for another staff member, and they could do it at the window that way. There is no fee at all for them. It is \$10.00 a month but once you have enough transactions, there is no fee at all. It is free. That is what is in place right now as opposed to spending \$770.00 for a hand-held.

Mrs. Bucy stated it is \$770.00 versus \$10.00.

Mr. Haberstock stated it is \$10.00 a month for CardPointe. As you run business through it, it covers that cost. The cost of \$10.00 is waived. If you had a month of no activity, then you get charged \$10.00.

Mrs. Budd stated what you are saying is to continue with the program we have and potentially get an additional log in for a staff member who will be processing park rentals.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated just scratch this item then from the agenda.

19. Discussion to permit the JHPD to budget for and pay the annual software and cloud fees for four traffic radar signs that are being purchased by the West Jefferson Hills School District, in the amount of \$425.00 per sign, for a total of \$1,700.00 annually for years 2024, 2025, and 2026, as a traffic safety partnership with the school district, which will allow the JHPD access to programming, messaging, and analytics for those signs

Chief Dziezgowski stated I proposed to the school district the purchase of two signs in each location - the high school and Gill Hall to regulate traffic that would be permanently affixed. Dr. Sardon looked at her budget and decided she would purchase the four traffic radar signs. They would be permanently affixed at certain locations on Old Clairton and Gill Hall Road near the schools at a purchased price of approximately \$14,000.00. There is a cloud fee to access data analytics from those systems of \$425.00. The school district is incurring the cost of these signs. It would be great partnership if we would pay for the cloud service for each of those signs which would allow us analytics, messaging for the roadways, and access to them. She agrees with that. I need Council's approval because that partnership helps with the roadway safety in these locations.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked is it \$425.00 cloud fee for each individual sign or combined?

Chief Dziezgowski responded each individual sign, a total of \$1,700 annually.

Mr. Montgomery stated thank you for that, to her and to you. Speed control is a problem up there.

20. Discussion to dispose of a 2001 Traffic Speed Data Trailer, Model RU2 Fast 1000, Serial #2001-49, which has exceeded its service life

Chief Dziezgowski stated this is an old traffic speed data trailer that has been housed down at public works. They are clearing things out. We tested the device; the device has exceeded its service life.

Mr. Reynolds asked will it be scrapped or sold?

Chief Dziezgowski responded it will be scrapped. The company is no longer in service. The electronics are outdated. They cannot get any usage out of it, and the trailers completely rusted.

21. Discussion award quote from L & M Fencing in the amount of \$9,591.20 to replace the chainlink fence fabric and repair fence post at Tepe Field

Mr. Montgomery asked is that in the budget?

Mr. Volpe responded yes. We always budget fencing for parks in the park budget.

Mr. Reynolds stated we should discuss redoing the field. Tepe has always been a problem with the grade from the outfield to the infield. Every ounce of rain that hits from the residents' backyards to the fence all comes right down across the field. That is what washes away the field mix. We should consider leveling it correctly and doing it right the first time before we go ahead and put a fence up in the same bad area, in the same bad situation that we already have. So, come spring time, we can give a lot better field back to TJ Youth Baseball. If you talk to any of the coaches that have ran the programs up there, none of them were happy with the quality of field that we supply them there. Before we put the posts up, we should seriously consider taking the posts down, have it graded proper, put the fence posts back up, and do it correctly. You are not going to be adding much more to your budget.

Mrs. Bucy asked can we do it in-house?

Mr. Reynolds asked can engineering handle that in-house?

Mr. Glister responded we have to take a closer look at it. I think that could potentially be done in-house but some of the consequences of that given the time of year, you are going to lose the field for probably one season if not two to get the vegetation established. That would be my concern. There has to be an alternate home in that timeframe because the grass is going to take time to get established.

Mr. Reynolds stated it is something we should bring up with TJ Youth Baseball about how much grass needs to be established. Keep in mind, these are for the smallest of the small kids. It is coach pitch that is up there.

Mr. Glister stated what we are doing here was just the fabric, we are not resetting the fence posts. We can evaluate this further in the future. We could take the fabric off and reuse it in the future if we have to reset the fence posts. We are only looking at the major repairing of a fence post or two. For most part, it is just putting on new fabric. If we decide to do a project down there, the cost of this would not be totally lost.

Mr. Reynolds stated we just put how many thousands of dollars into the field mix two years ago. The \$12,000.00 infield mix is more than what we are spending on this fence. In Beedle Park all of the field mix that we pay to put on there to make it the best field possible. Behind home plate it has run straight off.

Mr. Glister stated with the Beedle Park field, the original funding we had to do that work was to actually improve the drainage in the outfield because that was a problem prior to it. We had to do the rehab work with Beedle which was the new fence around the entire field, the infield mix, the sidewalk work we did with the ADA access and so forth, that money was all originally to go towards improving the drainage

in the outfield. The Council at that time, this goes back to 2015 or '16, decided that rather than address the drainage issue, they wanted to take the money to do the work we did there. That is why that problem still exists there. At Tepe, it is a little different because it is coming from the outfield towards home plate. That is a major undertaking. Right now, this is a short-term patch with what we were proposing to do with the fence fabric. If this is something that the Council wants, Mr. Volpe and I will look into it. Like I said, there would be an impact to just make that decision like this. We would want to have some time to evaluate all of that would go into to doing that. There could be other options to maybe capture the storm water drainage before it gets in there. It is something that we could look into and then get back to Council later.

Mr. Reynolds stated what we offer in terms of athletic fields compared to surrounding neighborhoods and communities in my eyes is far inferior. For the community base that we have, we should be offering better. Beedle Park looks nice and looks pretty from the road. Aesthetically, it looks great. But if you take a walk through that outfield, I do not think there is a blade of grass out there. It is just weeds. In the summer when you hit an extended drought, the grass is dead, the weeds are there. It actually becomes a liability issue, with the condition of the field. It is a problem. Our residents deserve better. Same thing up at Tepe. Nothing has ever been done to it. We do not even have a sign up at Tepe. I think our residents deserve better.

22. Discussion to authorize sending 2013 Ford Explorer #258 (VIN# 1FM5K8AR5DGC35188) to the Perryopolis Auto Auction in October. Vehicle #258 was assigned to Code Enforcement and will be replaced by the CHIRP vehicle

23. Discussion to award Quote #20014634 from Pennsylvania Correctional Industries in the amount of \$4,619.68 for park signage at 885 Andrew E. Reilly Memorial Park, Tepe Park, Beedle Park, and Gill Hall Park

Mrs. Bucy stated I looked at this and I am in actual total agreement because Gill Hall Park sign has been falling apart for years. Throughout the Borough, whether we are coming up Large Hill or going up Coal Valley Road, in front of the borough building, in front of Lobb's Field, down at Beedle Field, Andrew Reilly, we have a wooden sign. We have very nice wooden signs, and I would like to see that same kind of sign at Gill Hall Park. I would like to see that same kind of sign at Tepe Park. But these signs are manufactured on white. We are a rather environmentally conscious community, and I think those wood signs are very attractive.

Mayor McCaffrey stated my question would be, how did they hold up? I do not think they hold up in weather. You put all this money into it and then they look bad in a year or two. When you get the manufactured, they stay nicer longer. I would rather get our money's worth out of it.

Mrs. Bucy asked are we taking down the wood signs? We just had an Eagle Scout make the Lobb's sign last year.

Mrs. Budd stated that is one of the reasons Lobb's isn't on here. The other one is because ownership is still in question. I would not want to see the Eagle Scout taken down from Lobb's. The appearance of the signs goes along with the branding of the Borough. It is a more updated look for some of our parks. It goes on with the branding with the Public Works Trucks and our letterhead. It is a newer fresher look.

Mr. Reynolds stated I would question the quality. \$4,600.00 for four signs, barely over a thousand bucks a sign. I do not see that we are buying a very good sign. Before we vote on this, maybe table it a

month, contact Mr. Betler and his shop crew at TJ. Maybe they actually want to work on a project with the kids to do something. It creates a little bit of ownership; it creates a little civic duty for the kids. It creates a good atmosphere. I think it is worth at least approaching that with Mr. Betler because he did such a great job with that Lobb's sign. Maybe that would be something that they would be interested in doing as a project with the school.

Mrs. Bucy stated I am not opposed to that. I know that he did do all the ones that are in Andrew Reilly, they look really nice.

Mr. Reynolds stated think of it this way like we are spending \$4,600.00 here. Instead of paying a manufacturer \$4,600.00 for it, what if we gave \$500.00 scholarship to the kid that helped the most with the sign over the next three or four years. Spend the money that way. Help the kid out. That could create a lot of goodwill, and a lot of civic pride. Just going out and buying the cheapest sign and sticking it up there just because it has a logo on it does not represent what we want our community to be.

Mayor McCaffrey asked what makes this the cheapest sign?

Mrs. Steffey stated the signs that Ms. Dinardo had looked into are very close to representing the same signs that the school district has around our community. It looks very nice when things are symmetrical and definitely look almost the same so that people can relate to them and understand that we are all one place. The signs are made of that material, so we do not have to constantly redo them, or pay for them to be redone. It looks very nice when the signs are consistent and match the school board's design.

Mr. Reynolds stated it would come down to is having a uniform sign for a manufacturer or trying to do something to create a program for the kids in school. They do good work. It is worth exploring. What could go wrong with trying to set a program up so you could possibly end up giving a kid a scholarship. It is worth it.

Mrs. Bucy asked are we taking the wood signs down?

Mrs. Budd responded these are to replace them.

Mrs. Bucy asked what about down at Coal Valley Road and going up Large Hill? Are we taking those down?

Mrs. Budd stated these are for the parks right now.

Mrs. Bucy stated they are not going to all be uniform because we have a sign right outside this borough building that is made out of wood.

Mayor McCaffrey stated that is falling apart. I do not think you can do everything at one time either. This is a start. Ms. Dinardo and I have put a lot of work into it to get all of this done.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think there needs to be signs. Gill Hall has no sign, and all the letters are falling off. Tepe has no sign.

Mrs. Steffey stated as far as giving out scholarships, I would love to have every TJ kid in the community get involved in things to upgrade our community. I can tell you on firsthand experience that

we have to beg kids to apply for a recreation initiative scholarship. Signs have been something that I have been trying to get completed so that was on the record well over 10 years ago. It is way past time for our community signs in the Borough to be updated to make sure that we are marketing our parks so that people know where to go and what parks they are.

Mrs. Bucy asked if these are the first installment, are we also going to do the rest of the signs in the Borough to be with the same logo and the same sign?

Mrs. Budd stated if these are going to upgrade the parks, and we talking about uniformity, then that could be a potential next step to upgrade the look for the other signs.

Mrs. Bucy stated I think we should get a price for them all. We might as well do it right.

Mr. Reynolds stated we should also have something done on Peters Creek. The Montour Trail is not ours but if you are advertising parks, why not advertise that there is a bike trail there.

Mrs. Bucy stated if this is Phase 1, I want to see them all be uniform. So, maybe we have a Phase 2 also.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated the phase idea might be a better route for now.

Mrs. Budd asked do we want to consider these ones Phase 1 potentially depending on how Monday comes out, and then look at prices for the other three that you mentioned and call it Phase 2?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated we need to look around and see other signs that also need to be done as well.

Mrs. Budd stated these signs are specific to the entrance for marketing the parks themselves. I would think that location signs pointing to where the park would be a different type of category, almost similar to a street sign.

Mrs. Bucy stated these signs are pretty large. I just would like to see everything be uniform. If this is Phase 1 and then we have a Phase 2, then I am fine with that.

Mrs. Budd stated I will ask Ms. Dinardo to see about looking at a price for that. We will call it Phase 2.

Mr. Montgomery asked where are they going to be put in Reilly Park? The Reilly family put the one down at the park. They paid for that, so I would like to stay there.

Mr. Volpe responded the Reilly goes up along 885. The sign that has the planter was destroyed in the windstorm last year. There is the one that the Eagle Scout project did at the top of the hill across from the fire hall. The Eagle Scouts did that one, but the sign that was going to be replaced was along 885 at the top of Wray Drive. It got destroyed in a windstorm last year.

24. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 3 from Morgan Excavating, LP in the amount of \$38,706.80 for work completed on the 2023 Road Program

25. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from SHACOG for Nick Pollice Plumbing and Construction, LLC in the amount of \$53,360.00 for work completed on the CD 48 Andrew Reilly Memorial Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 4 Project, subject to the receipt of an invoice from SHACOG
26. Discussion to approve Application for Payment No. 1 and Final from State Pipe Services, Inc. in the amount of \$6,100.00 for work completed on the 837 Pump Station Wet Well Cleaning Project
27. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 26-2023 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 50 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$30,534.00 for the Gill Hall Community Park ADA Upgrades – Phase 2 Project
28. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 27-2023 authorizing Stanley L. Gorski of SHACOG to file Year 49 Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of \$35,100.00 for the Demolitions at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road
29. Discussion to adopt Resolution No. 28-2023 declaring the structures proposed for demolition at 102 Arch Street, 1412 Worthington Avenue, and 1420 High Road as blighted structures
30. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Budd read a comment from Pete Doel, 420 Old Clairton Road.

“For the last two meetings, I've asked for updates on providing adequate fire protection to the Gill Hall area. This was in light of the recent tragedy in Plum. Since then, we have had the recent fire at Banana Peppers. While our fire departments did get there, they did not get here as fast as truck could have had we had a fire department in the Gill Hall area. So could we please get an update on where we are with providing adequate fire protection to all residents of Jefferson Hills?”

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated first of all, I would like to direct all Council not to comment in public to anything in regard to the Gill Hall Fire Department, the mergers, or the litigation. There is current litigation. The Borough is not a party; however, we are a party of interest. I have consulted with Attorney Gabriel who is representing the Borough's interest in regard to this litigation, and he concurs that nothing should be discussed at a public meeting. In regard to the specific requests as to facts and fire services provided, I would again ask that we direct those questions to the fire chief who will be here on Monday, and I believe he can answer those questions then.

Mr. Reynolds stated to Mr. Doel thank you for your tenacity. You do deserve a fire department over there. The Gill Hall area is obviously the largest group of residents that we have in this community. You have all paid fire tax for the last couple of years. You have not had adequate fire protection. I am glad that you keep bringing it up and keep reminding us of that.

Michelle Dunn, Fund for Feral Cats, stated we are a very small trap-neuter-return organization. We've probably done probably about 200 cats within the Jefferson Hills community with just people calling us to say, "Hey, I'm feeding a stray, or this stray showed up, or somebody abandoned some cats at a trailer park." We became aware of the Oak Street area in large. We estimated in the summer, there were 70 cats that are strays down there. I wrote a letter to Mr. Drager before he left asking for help from the Borough. At that point, we were thinking the best way to do it would be to mobile clinics. Volunteers

would come in, help trap the cats, get them to the mobile units that would be parked there and get them spayed and neutered, and rabies. That stops overpopulation. However, we just got 30 free spots at the Humane Animal Rescue's Spay-A-Thon. There's no cost now for the spaying. But we need some traps purchased. We need help with transportation to get a van rented to get the cats all the way over to HAR. I'm asking the Borough if they can help us out with anything. We have volunteers lined up. We're borrowing traps. We have 30 spots to fill. I'm guessing it would be around \$1,200.00 to get all the traps. We have to rent two vans to get them over there and bring them back. It would help stop that menagerie down there in the Oak Street area.

Mrs. Budd asked is this specific to the patch area, Oak Street?

Ms. Dunn responded yes. I've talked to the business owners. I've talked to the residents down there. They are all on board. They're going to let us set the traps on their property. The best way to handle this problem is to get them spayed and neutered because that's a drop-off place. I've already taken several cats out of there that have been so sickly that somebody must have dropped them off. I had to have them euthanized. I did a project out in Route 51 Estates. We had 94 cats at that trailer park. We did find homes for all the friendly ones, the kittens and everything. There's only 12 left but we have a rapport with the residents. Somebody drops a cat off, they call us. We can go pick it up if it's friendly, figure out what's going on. Another thing is when people move out of those trailer parks, they leave their cats so there's two more that we're trying to catch out there. We are hoping we can work with the Borough to help get this managed down here and then it's out of your hair. We've worked at several places before. Over on Heath Street, there was a very bad hoarding situation. We got Animal Friends involved and they got all those cats spayed and neutered. The owner of the cats was supposed to work with the animal friends to get them adopted. The trailer park down behind 43, we did 25 cats there two years ago. There's not been a new cat born and they're just slowly going away. That's the best way to approach something like that. I know you have Hoffman Kennels. I think that's going to be the best way long term to stop that situation down there.

Mrs. Budd asked can we look into potentially seeing what the Borough is able to do with this part of things?

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I think that this could be a discussion at an executive session. I am also thinking that we have a lot of residents here that would also like to help and possibly contribute to donate. Possibly, we could advertise that we are accepting donations. I do not know if we could do that. We are a very pet-friendly community, and we certainly want to help. I am sure a lot of our residents would also like to help.

Ms. Dunn stated when I say small non-profit, it's me and somebody else. Somebody will call and say, "Hey, you know, I got your name through so-and-so, can you help get these cats spayed and neutered?" That is how we work. But, any partnership would be great. Now, the spay-a-thon is October 16th so I'm trying to get everything lined up by then since we have 30 free spots.

Ms. Dunn stated we work with Animal Friends, homeless cat management. We have such a great rapport in this area with all these rescue groups helping each other. This is going to be another great opportunity. We have a lot of groups trying to help us to get this under control.

Mrs. Ruscitto asked would reach out to our Borough Manager, Mike Glister, and send him all of your information via email. We could possibly speak to Caitlin Dinardo to put a QR code on our website

for donations. We would have to discuss it with the solicitor to make sure that everything's on the up and up with that.

Chief Dziezgowski asked what is your need as far as how many traps are you looking at purchasing?

Ms. Dunn responded I'm looking to purchase 10 if I can't find enough through the rescue community. I looked at them at Harbor Freight and they're \$30.00 for a cat trap. If we get all 30 cats, maybe two vans at \$20.00 a van, plus I have to pay gas to go over there. We have a professional trapper and she said she'd help us out for \$25.00 a cat. If we could get all 30 cats said she it would be \$750.00. If we need to buy traps, that's \$300.00, and the van rental. I haven't asked U-Haul or Haddad's to donate a van yet. Right now, it's the traps I'm worried about.

Mrs. Budd asked when you do reach out to Mr. Glister, are you able to itemize everything just as you did in that email so that we can take a look at it to see what the overall plan is as you described tonight?

Ms. Dunn responded yes. In that email that I had sent Mr. Haberstock, and Mr. Drager back in June, we estimated 70 cats, but we've been back there monitoring it and we're pretty close to 30. With this free program, we wouldn't even have to be worrying about a mobile unit so it's just trying to get these 30 cats snipped and clipped.

Chief Dziezgowski asked since you are engaging with a professional trapper, do they have the traps available?

Ms. Dunn responded she has 15 but we need to do 30 cats. The way this works is when you're going to do a mass trapping, you've got to trap and set them aside and just keep trapping more. Our goal is to get all 30 of these cats at once. That's why we need extra traps.

31. Reports

Fire Chief

The JHFR written report is on file in the administrative office.

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

Mr. Glister had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Consulting Engineer

Mr. Minsterman had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Mr. Haberstock had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Public Works Director

Mr. Volpe had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski had nothing further to add to the written report on file in the administrative office.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey congratulated the Rec Board on a very successful Rocktoberfest. This was the first one that they have done. They had a great turnout and a beautiful day. Hopefully, this is something we will be seeing in the future. A big thank you to our Police Department and Public Works for everything they did to help out with everything, too.

Halloween will be on October 31st, rain, or shine, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glister apologized for not having his written report in the packet. I will have that in the packet on Friday. Outside of that, I have nothing.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer noted for the record that there was a brief executive session held before the meeting in regard to personnel matters.

32. General Business

Mr. Reynolds stated I know it's not actually in our community, but I wanted to congratulate Susie Grimm, her family, and her Elrama Tavern family. Just to let everybody know that they broke ground on Saturday, so the ET will be back. I know it is over in Washington County but we kind of adopted it as our own.

I would like to briefly say one more thing about Gill Hall to the residents. Because of small-town politics, your Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company was taken over.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated to Mr. Reynolds, I would like to advise you on the record, you should heed the advice of your solicitor and not discuss the matter in public.

Mr. Reynolds stated there are other members of Council that have already shared the results.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated we are not discussing this.

Mr. Reynolds stated the Solicitor can recommend to me not to talk about it, but I still choose to.

Mr. Lynch congratulated to the Rec board. Right On! My wife and I were down at Rocktoberfest. We had a pretty good time. So, keep it up.

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report. The police chiefs met on September 23rd. They decided to do active shooter training on December 23rd. Firearms training is pending. Fitness training will be a new program. Taser training is on April 24th. The team reports CIRT had two callouts and that was in August. The investigative team had no callouts. Accident and Reconstruction team had two callouts for August. Peters Township is providing new equipment for the CIRT team. They have a new item called a capture-imaging device which will give 3D mapping of a room in six minutes. That is a \$100,000.00 value from drug-compensated money. We need to thank Peters Township for donating all these funds. The fire chiefs met in September, training, recruitment, and retention was the focus of the meeting, as almost every meeting is with them. The technical rescue team had no callouts. The Public Works Advisory Committee met. The Franchise Board met on the 19th of September. They approved a five-year renewal of the franchise agreement with Verizon. It is only for TV due to an FCC ruling. There is no internet or phones in this agreement. Verizon will provide free internet service to certain designated municipal operations. That is a new thing. Verizon is losing interest in this endeavor. The push was to get a 10-year agreement and they only agreed to five. They did have a retainage refund of \$111,390.55 that will come to the Borough. This was not anticipated, so that is certainly a plus. That is from the 5% retainage for five years. Verizon will not have an active government channel as Comcast does. Verizon agreed to a predetermined fine of \$150.00 a day, up from \$100.00 a day, and not to exceed \$15,000.00, it was \$12,000.00. They have conditional unilateral termination of a contract if they decide to go out of the business. What triggers that is if they have a decline in subscribers of 6% over a year. Then they have to give 12 months' notice that they are going to go out of the business. Their concern is that as streaming becomes more mainstream then they do not want to invest in this anymore. They also authorized the cable franchise renewal negotiations with the Cohen Law Group with Comcast as beginning. To recap on the garbage contracts as they were awarded, Waste Management had received 14 municipalities and Westmoreland Waste had six. The Rock Salt meeting was held on September 19th. Fall commodities were bid on September 20th. No vehicles were bid on. Act 152 submissions are still being evaluated. Some are still in the first year of the program. The program is very slow to get an answer. That is for demolition. It is well-funded, but it is very poorly administered. CDBG 47 is the program for July 2021, and it had two contract extensions. All other projects are finished. CDBG 48, that is for July 2022. That has 180-day extension, one complete, three under construction, all are bid. CDBG 49, that is for this year, July 2023. All bids are scheduled to be developed. CDBG 50, pre-applications for 17 projects have been submitted for 13 communities. One thing that did come up is the budget was approved for 2024 and there is no increase in membership fees. That is a 34-year run of not increasing fees.

The Route 51 grant that Senator Robinson was able to acquire, the focus of it was explained in more detail. There will be three main locations that they will work on. The main one for us and really for the whole project is the Lewis Run flooding at Sheetz. Every time there is a major storm, it does flood, and it always comes down to us. It is a major advantage. They are not going to work in the Borough, per se, but that water runs downhill. The other two locations are Streets Run, and Maytide. It is all to minimize flooding. We are very grateful that he was able to attain that grant.

There is a new program that just came out this week. It's called the PA SITES Program. It is a program that was initiated by the Shapiro administration. It is called the Pennsylvania Strategic Investment to Enhance Sites. It is for providing funding to build shovel-ready sites for business development or to expand a business or bring business into Pennsylvania. It is an executive order. It is to help develop fallow projects that have sat for years. This is a great thing that the Governor has committed money to this.

PennDOT has issued an Innovative Challenge Program open to students from Grade 9 to 12. They are encouraged to develop a plan to replace aging multi-lane roads that will reconnect previously separated neighborhoods with the use of bicycles and pedestrian traffic. The challenge winners will be selected and invited to make a presentation to the PennDOT Secretary and a panel of judges for a \$4,000.00 winning prize, sort of like a scholarship. penn.gov/innovation is the entry form website. It would be a good thing for young engineers to tackle. It is a team approach.

Mrs. Bucy reminded the residents that October 10th, the Cloverleaf Food Bank will be having their distribution. It is a 2.5-mile radius from any church within Jefferson Hills.

I also would like to thank the Public Works, which I brought to their attention just the other day, that I would like the left side of the Borough Building to look as well as the right side with the Dale Provins Memorial. Within a day, Public Works trimmed all the trees and the landscaping. It looks so much better.

I have had several phone calls about this, and I know certain people have displayed some information on their personal social media, and also we have it posted at our own social media in the website at Jefferson Hills Borough that your sewage bill is delayed. The next sewage bill that you are going to get from Legal Tax Services is going to be large because you did not get a bill in August, September and now October. Please plan to budget for that.

I would like to address this with Mr. Volpe. About a month ago we had a very hard rain, and water runs downhill. Many of the storm sewer grates were all packed in with mud. If a resident needs to have that storm drain cleaned, they can call the Borough Building. Mr. Volpe will put it on a list, and they will go down there and clean that drain because we do not want to have any more flooding.

I want to apologize to all the people with blighted homes in their neighborhood. We have been working diligently to get these blighted homes taken care of through Allegheny County. It is a laborious process. Please bear with us. We are still well aware of the four that we have on our list.

We have a representative here and that is Mr. Montgomery that goes to the SHACOG meetings. There was a Verizon franchise rebate that was brought to the Boroughs' attention. The Borough is going to receive \$111,000.00 of a rebate through the Verizon franchise. I asked Mr. Haberstock to have a special account for when we get a big increase of money so that we can definitely work on improvements of our roads. If we did not have that attendance at that meeting I think it would have kind of been pushed to the wayside. I appreciate, as well as every other resident, getting that money so that we can still deal with our road infrastructure.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated a PUC update, as far as the railways are concerned, I have been in frequent communication with them as to having inspections done. With the help of Mr. Glister, we are going to have some inspections done around here to be sure that our residents are safe. We do not want to have another East Palestine incident which would be awful for anybody.

I do have to commend Dana Farabaugh, Caitlin Moyer-Dinardo, and Brandy Moyer. They had a trivia night. I was there with my monthly meetings with the residents when they had a trivia night. The way things were run, the way it was handled, these three ladies went far above and beyond things that they needed to do. We are in excellent hands as far as our library and communications are concerned.

32. Adjournment

Vice President Budd adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Ruscitto, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager