

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steffey at 7:01 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, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Finance Director Drager, Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor Rosini, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer and Acting Borough Manager Glistler, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Borough Manager Stinner were absent.

Mrs. Steffey stated as we all try to maneuver through our daily lives and busy schedules, there are plenty of moments during each day where you probably remind yourself to not forget something on a to-do list, do not forget make an appointment or do not forget to pick up something at the grocery store. But on this day every year, the words “never forget” seem to take on a different meaning for many Americans. I am sure most of us can remember exactly where we were, what we were wearing, the confusion we felt, the anger we felt, the sadness we felt, and still probably feel on this day 22 years later. I myself can remember the camaraderie and solidarity that we each found in our family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers. No matter our differences, we tried to find solace together and lend a hand to one another. We prayed for the first responders and the innocent ones that were lost. We prayed for their families that they left behind. We thank the heroes of Flight 93 that took matters into their own hands in order to save others. We all came together in support of one another. Of course, I will personally never forget the cowardly, senseless tragedy on this day every year going forward. I will also never forget the passion, compassion, and love that brought us all together to help us try to heal. I urge you to continue to pass along the history of 9-11 and the sadness that followed it after to our younger generations. I also see the importance of explaining to them how we all came together as fellow Americans in order to rebuild and overcome tragedy. I would like you to share in a moment of silence with us, honoring those we lost not only on this day 22 years ago but those that we lost due to 9-11 medical-related illnesses as well over the years. Tonight, we honor them all as heroes.

(Moment of Silence)

REPORT FROM BOROUGH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dr. Janet Sardon, Superintendent of West Jefferson Hills School District, stated I wanted to give a few updates for the school district of what is happening across the board. We have had a good start to the school year. We are still working out some of our busing across the district. We changed some of our traffic flow at the high school, which I am sure the first few days were interesting for Chief Dziezgowski. All of that has settled down at this point.

We are excited about the 23-24 school year. A couple updates, educational programming-wise, if you have an opportunity to check out the district website, under the information tab down at the very bottom is a five-year plan for the school district. It is a five-year plan that was developed by our comprehensive planning committee over the course of last school year, and it has plans for education K to 12. It has plans for technology, cafeteria, finance, maintenance, athletics, and all the different departments across the school district. So, we have a five-year working plan where as we accomplish

things, we cross them off. We add things that we know we need to do. We are also conscious of our money. There are things that we might have to push off from year to year. If you have an opportunity to check that out, that is on our website.

This year, we started an iPad initiative in grades K to 5. We rolled out about 1,750 iPads to our students in place of Chromebooks because our leases were up on different grade levels of Chromebooks. They were comparable and have a lot more educational value. We have started the process of rolling those out and then doing some curricular initiatives surrounding the iPads. If you have any students that are in school now, K to 5, you will see some differences in those iPads compared to the Chromebooks.

In the next couple of weeks, we have a Science of Reading symposium coming up. It is a professional development opportunity for our teachers. We have two high-powered speakers, Pam Kastner and Nancy Hennessy, coming to the district. It is open to other districts in our area. We have about 120, as of right now, registered from outside of the school district to come and listen about the building blocks and the fundamentals of reading and also about how to take those fundamentals and build them into comprehension. It is a pretty exciting time. We do have a state representative coming to do some introductions for that. We will have panels for discussion as well as role-like meetings. Our teachers will be teaching lessons so that other teachers from the surrounding area can see what is happening within our classroom with regard to Amplify CKLA and the Science of Reading in the district.

We are currently doing two initiatives with our English language learner population. It is a population that has grown very dramatically over the course of the last five years. Five years ago, we had 18 students that were English language learners. This year, we have over 125. That number is growing pretty drastically. We are doing an outreach program to families to help get them acclimated to some of our different programs within the district, Skyward, Canvas, some of the technology that we are using. We are also trying to put together an afterschool program at McClellan Elementary for students. Right now, they are actually traveling outside the district for English language learners to a surrounding community for a program. We are putting one of those in place here at McClellan.

Enrollment is probably one of our biggest challenges right now in the district. Since we ended school on June 8th up until yesterday, we have over 100 new enrollees. That is a huge challenge for us. That is probably the biggest enrollment we have seen over the last couple of years. The year prior was 59 and the year prior to that was 51. That is almost double the number of students in just a summer period. Our enrollment right now is 3,404, which is higher than it has been. We did have a demographic study done in the spring by Dr. Shelby Stewman. This was the second enrollment study in the district in the last couple of years. He is predicting that we will have between 400 and 500 new students over the course of the next 10 years. Specifically, with the greatest amount being in grades 3 through 8. Between our enrollment growing as fast as it is, knowing what the predictions are going forward, the district has hired an architect of record in the spring for a couple different things. The first thing is a feasibility study. The architect is going to all of our buildings, analyzing our facilities, looking at the infrastructure within those facilities, measuring out classrooms to see enrollment-wise, what can we fit and where do we go from here, do we do renovations or something different than that. That feasibility study takes about six months to complete. The administration and school board have done tours of our four buildings with the exception of the new TJ High School. The engineers have come and done some pretty significant walk-throughs. We would expect to see that feasibility study probably in another four months. It takes a good six months to get a study like that done. The purpose of it is one, to give us some direction moving forward. Two, to make priorities of our facilities, what needs change, what needs upgraded, and kind of where do we go.

The second part of the architect of record is we are in the process now of finishing up our hazardous abatement up at the old TJ High School. That is due to be finished sometime in the middle of September. Once that building is clear, then we are having the architect of record put together a demolition plan for that old high school, which would require us to move the utilities because the utilities for the stadium are located in that building. Once we move those utilities, it will be a matter of razing the building. Then, using some of those feasibility studies and some other information, we have to determine what happens with that property there at the old TJ High School. We are hoping that project gets moving and that building will be down hopefully, by next August. It is a pretty aggressive plan because there is permitting, and some different things that need done.

We have some new personnel in the district. We do have three new school police officers. Tony DeMarchi is our new police officer at Pleasant Hills Middle School. Dave Webber is a new police officer for us at McClellan. We just hired a new police officer at Jefferson. His name is Joe Alessandro. We are looking for one more at Gill Hall Elementary. We are in the process of interviewing for that. In talking to Chief Dziezgowski, we are going to have some school safety meetings coming up, making sure everything is updated with our school plans. I have some training happening with our Navigate 360 program. It is either tomorrow or Wednesday so that all of our school police are up to speed and hopefully, we will get an opportunity to sit down and do introductions, so we all are on the same page.

We have started an alumni association. I do not know if any of you have heard of that. I do have some applications here I thought I would leave and if you could distribute them to people you know. You do not have to be a graduate from West Jefferson Hills School District to be a part of it. Persons who really give back to us as a school district and as part of the community are also eligible. So, whether you're a graduate, or you are a friend of the district, we are hoping to get a good base for our alumni association. We have about 36 people signed up to date. There is a cost to it. It is \$25.00 a year, \$200.00 for a lifetime. The intent of it is a couple things. One, it is to continue to bring the pride of the district back home. I can tell you that in a lot of our district, when you graduate, you do come back home, and you do not just come back home for homecoming. You want to come here, and you want to give back to the community. One of the things the alumni association is going to do is provide opportunities for networking for graduates to share connections, almost like a personalized LinkedIn where we can share connections and ideas and thoughts. The second piece of that is to allow us to have a database of people that have graduated from the district to come back and help our students. We like to have mentors for our students. We like to have people that come back and can share their careers, their pathways in life. They can come back and give good advice to students at a younger age up to grade 12. Career and college development is a big thing that we do as a district. It is an initiative that the state pushes. The more people we can get that can come back and really relate to our students and share what the real world is really important. We are hoping to use the alumni association not only for networking but for that purpose as well.

We will continue our Hall of Fame program. Last year, we inducted two classes full of hall of famers from 2019 and 2022. We inducted 28 individuals and two teams in the district. We had a really nice banquet, and recognized people for their accomplishments in the areas of arts, academics, and athletics. We are running that same program again this year. Hall of Fame applications are available on our district website. I think the due date is October 31st. If you know of any graduates from the district that have really given back and done great things in those areas, take the time to nominate them. We would really appreciate that as a district so we can continue to recognize our best. Alumni applications are here if anybody wants them.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

Mrs. Budd moved to approve minutes of agenda meeting August 9, 2023, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to approve minutes of regular meeting August 14, 2023, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to advertise for the Park Laborer position in the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to extend conditional offer of employment to Tyler Newman 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, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey called for a motion to adopt Resolution 19-2023 appointing _____ as representative and _____ as alternate representative to the SHACOG Franchising Authority Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Mrs. Bucy moved to nominate Mr. Montgomery as representative to the SHACOG Franchising Authority, seconded by Mr. Reynolds.

Mrs. Bucy stated Mr. Montgomery has attended every SHACOG function that there seems to be.

The vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

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

Four members voted yes, and three members voted no, motion carried.

Mr. Reynolds moved to nominate Mrs. Bucy as alternate representative to the SHACOG Franchising Authority, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy stated in the 3 and 1/2 years, close to four years, Mr. Montgomery has been on SHACOG, I have been the alternative and I have gone to one meeting. Other than that, his attendance has been perfect.

Mrs. Steffey stated my reason for voting no is because his attendance was not perfect when we had the special meeting, that was my choice. When we had alternates for SHACOG put on, was that a choice of Council or did Mr. Montgomery just appoint you as an alternate?

Mrs. Bucy stated we had a choice. I do not think anybody else wanted to do SHACOG.

Mrs. Budd moved to adopt Resolution 21-2023 adopting the Borough of Jefferson Hills Emergency Operation Plan, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to renew Ford Office Technologies as our printer/copier/fax service providers for a term of 36 months at a rate of \$1,065.00 per month, \$12,780.00 per year, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to maintain Jon Drager as a part time employee, with no benefits, to assist the new Finance Director of the Borough of Jefferson Hills as needed until March 31, 2024, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto.

Mrs. Bucy stated all of these motions have numbers next to them. I want to know if we should have the rate of pay included in this. I happen to have his salary. I did his per diem and the hours. It came out to approximately \$40 an hour. Should include that on the motion?

Mrs. Steffey stated it will be included in the offer contract. We did discuss that in an executive session. We were taking his rate, and it would be the per diem per hour, as you said.

Solicitor Rosini stated it can be put into it. I typically see that the salary is included in a motion, so if you can put it in there, if it is known.

Mrs. Bucy stated we have prices for everything else. I would like to see “as needed until March 31, 2024, at his per diem per hourly rate”.

Mr. Reynolds asked can we say not to exceed a certain amount?

Solicitor Rosini stated the as-needed language, would that potentially cover it or is there a specific number you want to cut it off at?

Mrs. Steffey stated I do not think we need a max because it states as needed. Do you want an hourly rate there?

Mrs. Bucy responded I want to clarify the hourly rate with a number.

Mrs. Steffey stated it is definitely going to be on his contract once he signs it.

Motion amended to maintain Jon Drager as a part time employee, with no benefits, to assist the new Finance Director of the Borough of Jefferson Hills as needed until March 31, 2024, at his per diem per hourly rate.

After discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to reappropriate funds from Capital Account #01-499-760 (Traffic Signs) in the amount of \$6,000.00 into Capital Account #01-499-758 (AEDs) for the purchase of three additional AED units and accessories, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to distribute remaining 2022 Real Estate fire taxes to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) in the amount of \$22,467.00, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to approve the Jefferson Hills Police Department to place orders in calendar year 2023 for the purchase of 2024 police vehicles and other related police equipment under State Contracted (COSTAR) or Government Regulated Pricing (GRP) due to manufacturer time constraints, current commodity shortages, and prospective price increases across the United States. Respective orders will not be received or paid for until, on or after, January 1, 2024, for the 2024 budget cycle, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ruscitto moved to move potential CHIRP vehicle over to the Department of Public Works for use as needed, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Budd moved to pave the paper streets, in-house, within the Borough of Jefferson Hills that the Department of Public Works is already maintaining to some capacity, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto.

Mr. Reynolds stated before we vote on this, being that one of the paper streets goes behind my house, and I do not want to vote for or against because I do not want any backlash saying that I have approved of it just because of that.

Mrs. Steffey stated you can say abstain during the roll call.

Mrs. Bucy asked do we have a number for this?

Mrs. Steffey responded we did not have a specific number but there is plenty in the budget left over, according to Mr. Drager and Mr. Volpe, regarding the in-house paving.

Mr. Drager stated we have approximately \$90,000.00 left for other road improvements. Mr. Volpe mentioned that he does not think it will be more than \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00.

Mr. Montgomery stated that leaves \$50,000.00 for in-house paving.

Mr. Volpe stated we are paving in the High Road area. The majority of the in-house paving will be over there. The motion says it is for the couple paper alleys that we do some maintenance, there are only three or four, so we have plenty in the in-house budget to do them.

Mrs. Steffey stated I thought we were discussing eight or nine previously.

Mr. Volpe stated there are only three or four that we do winter maintenance on.

Mrs. Steffey stated we are just paving the ones that we currently maintain.

Mr. Montgomery asked does that depend on what condition the alley is in, like if it is in use or not? Is that how you are determining that?

Mr. Volpe responded yes, there is residence access to the four that we are thinking of paving. They have millings on them. They are the four that residents do use.

Mrs. Steffey asked do we happen to have names of these paper streets? We were discussing a lot in general as far as each of them goes. I do not want to have this misinterpreted.

Mr. Volpe responded I can make a map.

Mrs. Steffey stated while we are going through the rest of the agenda, would you mind getting the names of those? We will come back to this agenda item once we list the ones that will be paved.

Mrs. Bucy asked once Mr. Volpe is done with this in-house paving, could you get the number of how much it cost?

Mrs. Steffey responded yes, once it is completed.

Mrs. Budd moved approve potential contract with McNeilly Realty Associates regarding field use at 1900 State Route 51 for football, subject to approval of contract by the Borough Solicitor, seconded by Mrs. Ruscitto, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bucy moved to approve Application for Payment No. 2 from Morgan Excavating, LP in the amount of \$309,843.66 for work completed on the 2023 Road Program, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve an Agreement between the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Borough of Jefferson Hills regarding the proposed Destination Sign along State Route 51 and its potential future impact to the Lewis Run sanitary interceptor, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to award Quote # 90207 from Sportsfield Specialties in the amount of \$10,367.50 for artificial turf for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park batting cages, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved to purchase pitching mounds for the Andrew Reilly Memorial Park batting cages not to exceed \$5,000.00, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Montgomery moved to approve street opening permit request by Peoples Natural Gas Company to renew the natural gas mainline on Hollywood Drive, Glendale Drive, and Vine Street, 1440' length by 1' width, seconded by Mrs. Bucy, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey returned to agenda item number 20.

Mr. Glistler stated we are going to call it 3rd Street, west of Collins Avenue, Dixon Alley at the end of Collins Avenue, 1st Street between Collins and Alice, and in the patch the alley between Cherry Street and 2nd Avenue.

Mrs. Budd asked do we need to amend the motion?

Solicitor Rosini stated for clarification purposes.

Mrs. Steffey stated I do not mind amending the motion. I wanted to have those stated for the record that those are going to be the ones that are going to come about with the in-house paving. We have a motion and a second to pave the paper streets, in-house, within the Borough of Jefferson Hills that the Department of Public Works is already maintaining to some capacity, being 3rd Street, west of Collins Avenue, Dixon Alley, 1st Street between Collins and Alice, and then the one in the patch between Cherry Street and Second Avenue.

After discussion, the vote was not unanimous, and a roll call vote was taken per Borough Code, which requires that the minutes show the actual votes by name, below are the votes of each Council Member.

Mrs. Bucy	YES
Mrs. Budd	YES
Mr. Lynch	YES
Mr. Montgomery	YES
Mr. Reynolds	ABSTAIN
Mrs. Ruscitto	YES
Mrs. Steffey	YES

Six members voted yes, and one member voted abstained, motion carried.

BOROUGH RESIDENT/TAXPAYER COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

“Last month, in light of the recent tragedy in Plum, I asked for an update on the issue of fire protection for the entire Borough. It's something I've been asking about for close to five years and still no real response or movement on this matter. We keep hearing while there's ongoing litigation, the issue cannot be discussed. The current litigation is over GHVFC's 501c status. The Borough is working to get them stripped of that status as they no longer see them as an active volunteer organization. The solicitor can chime in, but I'd think if the Borough were to reinstate GHVFC as an active volunteer organization, which we desperately need, then this litigation is no longer needed. In the last couple of weeks, a member of council and their friends made it a point to try to force a council member to resign for costing the residents money. The reality of this is our Borough is spending an absolute fortune in litigation over the fire hall situation. Not only are we paying an extra solicitor, but we're also wasting state funds by having our state attorney general's office spend countless hours on this matter. Since GHVFC has been shut down, we are spending more and more on fire protection each year. Hundreds of thousands of dollars is paid for shift crews to help cover the gaps. We've already been told the Borough does not have the funds to build

a new fire department. Any efforts to even investigate it, which we were promised would happen last year, never occurred. In last month's meeting, Council was on the receiving end of much anger from residents because we simply do not have the money or resources to provide the things our residents want and need for our Borough. One thing we could provide at no extra cost is adequate fire protection for every resident and business in the Borough by reinstating GHVFC. Any other option would cost our residents millions of dollars, which we do not have. In addition, at last month's meeting, the status of the merger between Floreffe and 885 was brought up. Chief Chalfant spoke and stated they are waiting to see how the litigation plays out. He also stated that because during one meeting, when they insisted they were one organization, Keith Reynolds mentioned if that were true, the fire funds should be split 50-50 between JHFR and GHVFC. In the majority of meetings, both in council and out, it has always been stated they should get 1/3. I feel we are being held hostage by Chief Chalfant due to his issues with Councilman Reynolds. We need to end this rivalry and pettiness and work together as a community to start providing for our residents.”

Mr. Reynolds stated I never used the term 50-50. I always said it should be equal. No organization should be treated differently than another. Fair is fair. If there are two organizations, you split the money equally, fairly. If there are three, you split it equally fairly. To me, that would be common sense, but that seems to have gone by the wayside here. I do believe that Mr. Doel has a point, and I am glad that he brings it up repeatedly. I think that enough time has passed for this Council to reconsider taking a look to see if we, in fact, made a good decision for this Borough and for the residents, to protect these residents. We shrunk the footprint of where our fire departments can cover with adequate protection. We have not done anything. We have not given you any type of answer. We have not given any type of movement forward to say this is what we are going to do. I believe in my heart, still to this day, Gill Hall should be active. I am not asking to activate them right now. I am asking simply for us to take a look and see where our community has gone. As you sit here and you have a representative from the school, who said there are more and more children that are going to be entering the school. Our Borough is growing. We are the only ones that I have ever seen that have the communities growing but yet we shrunk the footprint of what our people can actually handle in a timely fashion. It makes no sense. I would like to see it back on the agenda for next month that we at least discuss the reactivation. Like Mr. Dole said, the part of this merger that was sold to the residents was that it was going to save the residents money. You can go and look over the last couple of years where it went from roughly \$60,000.00 in a shift crew, to now where it is over half a million dollars. Obviously, that money could have been better used with other programs and so forth. We are spending that much more money than all of our neighboring communities combined for this service. Council was sold on the idea it was going to save money. Obviously, when you look at the sheer facts, it has not. That should be reconsidered. There are many issues with it that should be brought up. Proper decision-making should be a follow-up to see if your decision is actually having a positive impact or a negative impact. We owe it to our residents and our taxpayers to do our due diligence. We have never gone back to take a look to see if we, in fact, have made a good decision. It is the safety of the residents out there. I think we owe them more than that. They pay more in tax dollars than to receive an effort like this. Will we put this on next month's agenda if the majority of Council says we should bring it up for discussion?

Solicitor Rosini stated as it is currently in active litigation, it should remain in executive session.

Mr. Reynolds stated it is not in active litigation. That is between Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company and JHFR. They are no longer fighting over the fire truck, which was the active litigation. JHFR dropped that suit so there is no active litigation there. What active litigation are you talking about?

Solicitor Rosini stated there is active litigation as to their status.

Mrs. Steffey stated the answer is no at this point.

Mr. Reynolds stated so our residents do not deserve an answer if we, in fact, made a good decision or not.

REPORTS

Fire Chief

Not Present

EMS

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

Engineer

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

Mr. Glister wished Mr. Drager good luck on his future endeavors.

Consulting Engineer

The Consulting Engineer written report is on file in the administrative office.

Finance Officer/Treasurer

Mr. Drager thanked everyone.

Public Works Director

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

Police Chief

The JHPD COPS report is on file in the administrative office.

Chief Dziezgowski stated one shining example of how efficient and effective your police department is. In the early morning of September 7, 2023, Jefferson Hills Police Department received multiple calls for service for vehicles that had been entered overnight and various personal belongings stolen. I want to add that all those vehicles were unlocked. Through the diligent work of the JHPD officers and detectives, with the assistance of our Borough residents, the JHPD successfully identified the suspect, John Curtis Jacobs, Jr., who has been charged. JHPD officers had him in custody and within 20 hours

recovered all of the stolen items. The stolen items will be returned to their respective owners as soon as possible. I am proud of the officers that worked collectively and diligently in this matter to a great resolution.

Mr. Drager, thank you for everything you have done for the police department and for this Borough. You are going to be missed.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated you can go to jeffersonhillsborough.org, sign up for our new alert system to receive text messages, emails, social media platforms to keep everybody in the loop on things that are going on in our community. There is also the Smart 911 app that you are able to download from the App Store or Google Play.

I would like to thank President Steffey for what she said this evening. Everything rings true, and it is definitely a day for remembrance.

To Mr. Drager, I wish you all the best. Thank you for everything you have done for me and making this transition smooth. You are leaving a big seat to fill. You will be missed. Also, welcome to Mr. Haberstock. I look forward to working with you.

Acting Manager

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

Solicitor

Solicitor Rosini had nothing more to add.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mrs. Budd stated to Mr. Drager, thank you for everything, and for answering all my many, many questions with patience and kindness. I appreciate it. I wish you the best of luck in your new position. Welcome to Mr. Haberstock. Welcome to Officer Newman to the JHPD. I wish you a safe and successful career.

Mrs. Ruscitto thanked Mr. Drager. Good luck. Welcome Mr. Haberstock. Good luck.

I want to apologize for missing last week's meeting. I had open house. I am contractually, Dr Sardon knows all about this, obliged to attend. I did listen to the meeting. I wanted to acknowledge the fact that Mr. McGuirk makes some very serious comments about the railways that we have within the Borough. I wanted to let him know that I have several calls into the PUC. The Public Utility Commission is in charge, essentially, of all alterations, improvements, and, ultimately, suspensions of rail lines. I have asked for callbacks. Within those callbacks, I have received none. Within the last call, I suggested that they suspend railway thoroughfares through our Borough until we have inspections and remediations because there are some possible issues that could present themselves. It is a public safety issue. It is an

environmental hazard and health issue for all of our people that live here. Lastly, it is a property value issue. If you look in East Palestine, those people are unable to salvage anything that they have, nor can they sell their homes for any amount of money. So I am, along with other people on council, working adamantly to have that taken care of.

It is Love Your Library Month. All donations will be matched by the Jack Buncher Foundation. If you have it in your heart to give a little bit extra this month, please do so.

I have my meetings with the public on the 21st. It is a Thursday. I will be here from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. if anybody would like to come and talk to me.

Mr. Lynch stated I wanted to give a quick shout-out to TJ Football on win number 500. I hope to see you get 500 more. Mr. Drager, we are definitely going to miss you around here. Thank you for everything. Mr. Haberstock, an honor to have you. I would like to welcome our newest police officer, Tyler Newman. Obviously, the reputation of Jefferson Hills PD speaks for itself, so you will definitely prosper here.

As we reflect on this day, let us not only remember the tragedy but also the resilience and unity that emerged from it. Let us honor the memory of those we lost by cherishing the values of freedom, unity, and compassion. In doing so, we ensure that the spirit of September 11th lives on as a testament to the strength of the human spirit, our great nation, and our commitment to a better world.

In addition of honoring those who have sacrificed, I know this is not exactly Jefferson Hills related but something that is obviously close to my heart. I would like to say that this weekend the GoldStars Tribute Wall will be at Soldiers & Sailors Hall in Oakland. It is pretty neat. It is actually a rolling memorial. They are going to be escorted in by state troopers, city police, along with two veteran motorcycle organizations. This rolling memorial emphasizes the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice between Operation Desert Storm and then the fight against terrorism with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you need anything to do this weekend, please stop by. Check it out. It will be there from Friday to Sunday starting at 8:00 a.m.

Mrs. Bucy stated my personal thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of the victims of 9-11 on this 22nd anniversary of this event.

I would like to announce that the Cloverleaf Food Bank will have a distribution tomorrow, Tuesday, September 12, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. I have had numerous residents in this Borough ask if they could give donations. I personally will be there if you would like to come to see how this operates, and how we disperse this food. You can feel free to come down. I will personally show you how we proceed through the line to get this service provided to the people.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to Jon Drager at his new position. Welcome Brian Haberstock to the finance position.

I would like to give a personal thank you to my five retired schoolteacher travel companions and friends for the two-week trip that we continued throughout the countries of Eastern Europe. During my travels, I was vividly impressed by the cleanliness of these cities in the countryside. Streets were litter-

free. In fact, I only saw one empty cigarette wrapper throughout the streets in Budapest, Vienna, Salzburg, and Ljubljana, Austria. It renewed my commitment to pick up the litter that is thrown out along the side of the roads of Jefferson Hills. I saw that Allegheny County and our public works has cut down some of the high grasses that surround our roads. Once again, I will be picking up the litter in Jefferson Hills. If anyone is interested in helping me clean up these neighborhood roads again, please feel free to contact me at kbucy@jeffersonhills.net. I would appreciate your assistance in helping to make Jefferson Hills a litter-free place. I know this is possible because I saw this in four countries in Europe and not one inch of litter was on those roads.

Lastly, I would like to talk about budget. Budget time is upon us at Jefferson Hills. I would like to refer to an article written in the August 2023, *Pennsylvania Borough News*, Volume 16, issue site 7, titled *The Borough Budget*. All council members receive this magazine every month. There was a very in-depth article about budgeting and our responsibility as members of council in that budget. This article stated “an elected or appointed borough official serves as a fiduciary for the borough. The fiduciary is someone who acts on behalf of another person or persons and puts other person's interests and needs ahead of their own. Borough officials have fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the borough to prepare an annual budget, lay out how, when, where, and to what extent the revenues or monies received will be spent for the citizens' benefit.” Best practices for budgeting were listed as follows: Distinguish between needs and desires to rein in spending. Ask, how did we do last year? Look at outside factors that could affect the budget, such as new laws, new taxes, trends in employee benefits, changes in population, increases in contractual salaries during the length of a contract or the construction of tax-exempt structures. Overestimate expenditures and underestimate revenues. Maintain a safety net of cash for a rainy day—money to cover several months' worth of expenditures is customary. Look back several years for trends, good and bad. Remember, Council's fiduciary responsibility is to the taxpayers in this Borough. With these best practices in mind, is why I recommended that motions 15 and 20 need to have a monetary amount assigned to them to be complete. Also, I would like to advocate that in our 2024 budget, we have an increase in road paving for that following year. I would like to bring to the attention of the people of this Borough that we have several roads that, for years, people have been asking us to pave and maintain. One of them is West Bruceton Road to Cochran Mill Road. In our engineering meetings it was explained to us that it has a non-existent base. That portion of road will probably cost us, as estimated, \$750,000.00 to \$1 million to pave. Our paving budget for this past year was \$650,000.00. The residents can see why the road paving budget must be increased. Safely constructed roads are essential to all residents. We need to pave along another long road that is in litigation with a developer. Therefore, the finance committee may have to rearrange our budget to allow for these items to be fully addressed. That is why this is a long-involved process with many people's articulation, thoughts, and ideas on how this is to be expressed. I found this article very beneficial. I thought it was very informative about the process of establishing a budget, and why that is important. It also explains the timelines on when we have to have everything done.

Mr. Reynolds stated when you think about that railroad down there, think of the importance as part of the issue where Mr. McGuirk was talking about, it's close proximity to Route 51. If something happens there, how Route 51 would be affected. Mrs. Ruscitto, anything that you do with that, thank you in advance for doing it. I could not imagine what that would be like for our community to deal with.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated I would love to do more if someone would get back to me.

Mr. Reynolds stated maybe Mr. Montgomery could help you down at Representative Kuzma's office, to get a little traction with it.

Mr. Montgomery stated I have been talking to the railroad representative about getting a grant for the tunnel.

Mrs. Ruscitto stated ultimately the PUC is in charge of making those repairs. It is not on us. They are privately owned. Any remediation needs to be done by the railroad.

Mr. Reynolds stated to Mr. Drager, Iron Man, it was a pleasure. A couple of years was a treat. Mr. Haberstock, it is going to be fun, and you will be an asset to this community. I am sure everybody will see it in the years to come.

Going back to what Mr. Doel said briefly. I would suggest that Mr. Doel fill out a right-to-know to actually see the increase in the shift crew cost. That is a really easy way to determine where this is going and headed. Everybody knows my point on it. If it was truly about public safety, then the merger would have already been completed. This is years into it. I do not like the answer that the merger will not be completed until the money is taken care of. Do not sell it on the statement that it is about public safety if you bring the equation of money involved.

I would like to make a public apology to Mr. Montgomery on behalf of some of the nonsense that has been going on in social media. You have been taking a lot of hits lately. You do not deserve it. Some of this nonsense that I would like to clear up for the residents is that when the four of us did not attend the meeting, we costed the taxpayer money. Council President Steffey knew in advance that she did not have the support of the majority of Council .

Mrs. Steffey stated the support of not having a special meeting. Nobody told me that the majority was not going to attend.

Mr. Reynolds stated the support was not here by the majority of council.

Mrs. Steffey stated a special meeting is a presidential decision. I did it in order to get this gentleman more training. It was \$128.00 to advertise for that special meeting. At the time of advertising Mr. Montgomery and you did not tell me that you were not going to make it. Councilman Montgomery told me four hours before the meeting that he was going over to help Elizabeth Township residents instead.

Mr. Reynolds stated he had a professional meeting that he had to attend. He has a responsibility to his employer.

Mrs. Steffey stated he has a responsibility here also.

Mr. Montgomery stated there was discussion about the state budget at the last meeting. There were questions about it. The House is only going to meet one day in September, so the budget will not be determined in September. We will not know about any budget requests until October or November.

Mrs. Bucy stated since the budget was not passed, the grant money that we submitted, which was \$186,000.00 to improve the playgrounds, will not be announced until after the state budget is passed.

Mr. Montgomery congratulated Mr. Drager on moving up in his life. That is a great thing that you will be able to do that. Mr. Haberstock, welcome on. We will be working together a lot.

As far as 9-11, I hope at some point in time that the whole world will have the unity we did at that time.

Mrs. Steffey stated I would also like to extend congratulations to Tyler Newman as the new probationary patrol officer here at the JHPD. I would like to remind everybody that the rec board is busy with Rocktoberfest, which will be held on Saturday, September 30th from 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Andrew E. Reilley Memorial Park, otherwise known as 885. They will have bands throughout the day, food trucks, breweries, and vendors from all over the local area. Make sure you come out and enjoy that event. The rec board has done a fantastic job over the year with these concerts in the parks and this is the first year for Rocktoberfest. We are excited for it.

I would like to say my goodbyes and congratulations to Jon Drager as well. Over the past couple years, you definitely showed that you had innovative thoughts, like to think outside the box, but also you were conservative about things. You did your job very well. We would like to welcome Mr. Haberstock.

ADJOURNMENT

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager

An executive session of Council was held prior to the meeting in regard to personnel matters.