

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

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

None

5. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

Mrs. Janet Ries, 447 Elliot Road, stated my concern this evening is the hiring of the Borough Finance Manager. I know that you've had a process for the hiring. I have a friend, she's a CPA. She was explaining to me the importance of hiring someone that already has experience in public accounting. She is not a public accountant. She works for a firm that does taxes and things like that for individual people. She explained to me that she thought that someone who needs to take on this type of role really needs to have some experience in a larger type setting, such as borough finance. Please consider the importance of hiring someone with a minimum of a four-year college degree. I believe, and I think that most people in the Borough would agree, that they bring a higher level of knowledge to the position, as well.

6. Presentation by Kurt J. Lesker Company regarding potential recreation partnership

John Lubic, Vice President, and Tim Kravetz, General Counsel for Kurt J. Lesker Company gave a presentation regarding a potential recreation partnership.

Mr. Lubic stated we wanted to discuss a potential opportunity that we see for both organizations, that being Jefferson Hills and the Kurt Lesker Company. You may know that we own a property at the very bottom of the hill of Worthington Avenue, at Route 51 and Worthington Avenue, and then at the top of the hill, at 1515 Worthington Avenue. We've been looking to acquire the land in between. Our business is a technology company. We deal with the semiconductor industry. We're looking to form one continuous acreage of land where we have all of our properties on. We are looking to create a trail system between our two properties. Along with it comes a hockey rink. We're not in the hockey rink business. We were looking at the possibility of then leasing the hockey rink so that it could continue to be available to the public. We use it as an organization. Our teams play there probably once a week during the summer months at lunchtime. We would love to have it, and we'd love to keep it. We just don't want to run it. We're looking at opportunities to work with other individuals and or communities. We want to see if there's any interest in Jefferson Hills wanting to partner with us in the form of a lease. I would be interested in talking to Jefferson Hills about potentially doing something together.

Mrs. Steffey stated Mr. Drager had done some rough numbers after our meeting. He was going off of what was given to us by the owner when we were possibly looking into the purchase of the property.

Mr. Drager asked for the purpose of any fixes related to the actual structure, or the surface, or lighting, would those things be part of the lease?

Mr. Lubic responded we're in the process of doing due diligence. We're doing just the basic home inspection of this particular property. We are looking at the surface of the deck. We play on it frequently. It's probably getting towards the end of its life. We're considering that in part of our agreement with the owner of the property. So, yes, our intention would be to have it in working condition, because we want to use it as well.

Mr. Drager asked would the lease include all things, including utilities?

Mr. Lubic responded we can certainly work on a lease towards that. I think we're flexible at this point. As I said, we're not in the business of leasing properties or the hockey rink.. We look at it like Jefferson Hills is our home team, and we really wanted to give you guys the right of first refusal when it comes to taking a look at how to use this. We would be open to suggestions on this. We had given Mrs. Steffey some ideas as to what we would be looking at in terms of revenue that we would generate from it. We're also open to any creative ideas. There's a lot of taxes that are paid between these three properties that we have and would entertain anything that would work for both parties.

Mrs. Steffey stated you probably still have a nice period of due diligence time that it will take in order to do all of your inspections.

Mr. Lubic stated it is surprisingly short. We did agree to 45 days.

Mr. Kravetz stated we don't own the property right now. We're under an agreement right now to purchase the property. It is subject to a lot of customary conditions to close that property. There is a lot to be determined before we get to this opportunity.

Mrs. Steffey stated at this point, we can let council think about whether they want to get involved or not get involved. We have at least until next month's meeting.

Mr. Lubic stated I'm pretty confident that we're going to be locked into it. If there are any questions that would arise, we're happy to answer them. We are pretty flexible at this point.

7. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
8. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
9. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting August 9, 2023

Mrs. Budd stated I had a couple minor corrections on it. On page 292, towards the top, Mr. Reynold's name is spelled incorrectly. On the next page, 293, Mrs. Steffey's name is spelled incorrectly.

10. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting August 14, 2023
11. Motion to offer the position of Finance Director to \_\_\_\_\_, subject to terms agreed upon, to passing a background check, and to securing any necessary clearances and bonding

Mr. Lynch moved to offer the position of Finance Director to Brian Haberstock, subject to terms agreed upon, to passing a background check, and to securing any necessary clearances and bonding, seconded by Mrs. Budd, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Steffey stated since Mr. Haberstock is employed by Public Works currently here in Jefferson Hills, we will be adding an agenda item for opening a Public Works laborer position onto our agenda for Monday.

12. Discussion to extend 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

Mrs. Budd stated I encourage residents to read Chief Dziezgowski's article in the most recent issue of the IN Community West Jefferson Hills Magazine. I wanted to touch on a few points in the article with the addition of some of my own.

As you may know, Jefferson had an officer retire last month, which led to the opening of a patrol officers position, bringing the department down to 20 officers. At the end of 2021, Chief Dziezgowski recommended to increase staffing from 20 to 21 in the department. This increase was able to help add further structure to the department in the way of traffic and investigative divisions, and further bolster crime prevention and school liaison relations. This structure gives officers with specialized assignments the ability to concentrate on those assignments, in turn helping the department function in a more efficient manner. This structure also helps to increase training opportunities, create stability and staffing, and overall creates a more professional and proactive department. Quoting the chief's article directly, "These efforts will foster continued collaboration between all parties and will have a positive impact on citizen-officer encounters while constantly improving community relations." In the monthly report we received from Chief Dziezgowski, he gives Council various stats. At last month's meeting, we received the completed July report with completed stats from June. In that report, the 2022 year-to-date calls were 3,119. The 2023 year-to-date calls were 5,236. This is a 67% increase in call volume. This type of increase is not unique to Jefferson Hills either, and is coupled with a nationwide decrease in police candidates. I'm happy to say Council voted on this year's budget unanimously, which included this 21st officer. That unanimous vote is a testament to the realized organization, planning, and financial accountability of Chief Dziezgowski and the JHPD as a whole. We have an excellent police department here to protect our growing community, and I just wanted to comment on a few items among many that make them the department that they are.

13. Discussion 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

Mr. Montgomery stated this board meets infrequently. I will do it, and Mrs. Bucy can be my alternative. We meet once a year, and it is usually all cut and dry by the time we meet there. Years ago, they did negotiations with Cohen Law Group to come up with the agreements for Verizon and Comcast, so it would be a large consortium that deal with them. Verizon never really did what they said they would do. They tend to want to be in areas of higher income, and I do not think they were serious about public utility. With the new streaming devices, this has probably become less important over time.

Mrs. Steffey stated that we are not voting on it tonight, but did you nominate yourself and Councilwoman Bucy?

Mr. Montgomery stated I could do it. I have always done it.

Mrs. Steffey stated Council is here as a whole to appoint people.

14. Discussion to adopt Resolution 21-2023 adopting the Borough of Jefferson Hills Emergency Operation Plan

15. Discussion 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

Mrs. Steffey asked did you get them to come down a little bit on this?

Mr. Drager responded it is right around what the same as we currently pay. We added one printer partway through the contract, so we actually make two different payments. One's \$953.00 a month, and the other one is approximately \$95.00. They were able to basically match what we were paying currently. They are going to bring us the three new main units. We still have some of the individual ones in the office.

16. Discussion to enter into an agreement with Jon Drager regarding consulting services to the Borough of Jefferson Hills

17. Discussion 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

Chief Dziezgowski stated these were two capital accounts that were for 2023. We already purchased two AEDs this year. We have \$1,000.00 left in that account. We made a purchase of a traffic sign. We have four right now that we believe are enough. We want to reappropriate those funds from the traffic signs to purchase three more AEDs, which we just found out are expiring at the end of this year. This is a needed expense so that we have the proper equipment to save lives.

18. Discussion to distribute remaining 2022 Real Estate fire taxes to Jefferson Hills Fire Rescue (JHFR) in the amount of \$22,467.00

19. Discussion 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

20. Discussion to move potential CHIRP vehicle over to public works

Chief Dziezgowski stated I have been working in conjunction with Manager Stinner on a HARM reduction responder for the community. This has taken a lot of time and energy to get all the pieces in place to make sure that we are putting out a good product. Unfortunately, for personal reasons, Manager

Stinner had to take a leave of absence. This vehicle was just sitting there, rusting away. We believe it would be better used at this time if put it into the Public Works fleet as needed. Then, as we rotate our vehicles out in the police force, we will have another vehicle available when we continue to do that project, if we continue that project.

21. Discussion in regard to paper streets within the Borough of Jefferson Hills

Mrs. Steffey stated currently, our Public Works Department does maintain those paper alleys only on heavy snowfall days. When the resident came to speak, I thought that it was time that Council has some discussion about possibly paving the paper alleys. There is a little bit more in depth that we want to get into with Mr. Volpe, our Public Works Director, and Mr. Glistner. Some of the questions we had was total footage on the streets, and is this going to impact his timing?

Mr. Volpe stated the only issue is our new paver that we ordered is still on back order because of supply chain issues. If Council's wishes are for us to pave them, soon as we get the paver, that will be taken care of.

Mr. Reynolds stated I had a concern about upgrading the parking in our parks. It sounds like there is going to be extra money available for it.

Mrs. Steffey asked for Beedle Park?

Mr. Reynolds responded for parks in general. Lobbs only has paved a certain portion of it, and then it is all gravel. If we are going to have pickleball down there and more people are going to start to use the park, then I think that we address the parking while we have the money.

Mrs. Steffey stated this is still up for discussion. We do not even know who owns it, to be honest.

Mr. Reynolds stated for Beedle, there is a lot of room to pave.

Mr. Volpe stated the paving of the alleys would be under the road paving budget. We have our own category for park improvements. We did expand the soccer parking lot with the millings. The five-year plan was for there to be a design, possibly a youth field with more parking in the back road that is under review from the engineering committee. There is money allocated every year for park improvements.

Mr. Reynolds stated at Beedle Park over the summer, whenever the soccer teams are over there, it is just an asphalt milling parking lot. There is no structure to how they park. One person parks out of line, then the next does, and then next thing you know, you do not have enough parking there. At least if it was paved, it could be lined. People would have structure. They would have spots to park. Right now, there is not enough parking over there. You go over there for a big soccer day on a Saturday, the people were actually parked in the grass all the way up towards the baseball field.

Mr. Volpe stated when you start paving, we have to start putting controls for the water runoff. That is why we made the lot out of millings, because that is pervious surface.

Mrs. Steffey stated one of the main reasons we have not paved and lined that area is because there is the potential for that multi-use field. What is the time frame on that?

Mr. Reynolds stated they can enter from Collins up at the top. There are ways around that. They do not have enough room to park over there right now.

Mr. Glistler stated future phases of are calling for a field up on top of the hill that would not directly impact the parking that we have added here. Part of those additional fields would be additional parking. On top of that, we are looking into the secondary access road that would open up some additional parking, too. Those projects, unfortunately, are very expensive, which is why we have not been pursuing them at this time. You are talking about multi-million-dollar projects. The funding lined up for that is tricky because there are a lot of needs in the Borough and there is only so much money that we can use. Funding, and grant opportunities only go so high.

Mrs. Steffey asked once we get to the end number of the paper street paving, and see what we have leftover, is it a possibility that we can look into paving Beedle in house?

Mr. Volpe responded yes because that would come under park improvement. If council wants it done, it will be done.

Mr. Reynolds stated I do not necessarily like whenever we use the easy out of saying, "The master plan". You got to look at the timeline that it takes to have it happen. It has taken this long to get Beedle Park to this point. The athletic field could be decades away.

Mrs. Steffey stated they are saying we can possibly pave the incoming lot, which is where you wanted it to start at.

Mr. Reynolds stated we really did not do anything over at Beedle this year. I would like to see something small done on the park every year for the residents.

Mrs. Steffey stated we tried that whole hurry up and get a list of the parks to send to our state rep, but we have not heard anything. Is there any update on that?

Mr. Montgomery stated nothing is going to move that forward until the budget gets passed. The House does not meet until the end of September. You will not have an answer until the end of September at least.

Mr. Reynolds stated we do not always need a grant. We could fix things in our parks.

Mrs. Steffey stated if we have money in park improvements, we should definitely be adding a little play area. There is a plastic play area that is boarded up. It should be taken down and replaced.

Mr. Reynolds stated it was finally removed. When you drive out through South Park and you see the things along the side of the road, like the elliptical machines and so forth for the walkers. Put some stuff out there for our residents.

Mrs. Steffey stated I completely agree.

Mr. Minsterman stated the original concern of parking, which makes a lot of sense, if it is not striped, people will park everywhere. The millings are somewhat stable. You could probably just stripe

that the beginning of each season. It would fade, obviously, but you would still see the signs of lines, and people would generally comply with that. It is a simple fix, at least for that problem.

Mrs. Steffey stated it is a good suggestion.

Mr. Minsterman stated that paving might take a little more planning. Instead of just paving what is out there, you might look at the plan. You might look at potential permitting issues and discuss it before you go out and pave it. If the paint works, that is a better option from several different angles.

22. Discussion in regard to 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

Mrs. Steffey stated last month, we had three individuals that were residents that came to the meeting, two representatives from flag football and a resident who was formerly involved with youth tackle football. They were here seeking out options for property in order to facilitate flag football in the spring, and for youth tackle to have an actual home, because they currently do not. They have been shifted all over the place by the school district. They were basically asking if there was anything that we could do, or anywhere that we knew of where they could play.

Mr. Glister reached out to the Facchiano family, the former old Dick Corporation building on Route 51. Mr. Glister, Mr. Drager and I met with Michael Facchiano Jr. last week. He was extremely gracious in offering us that property again for these organizations to practice on for a possibility of two years for free. That is amazing. Right now, Mr. Glister is gaining information from flag football as far as numbers and dates and months that they are going to play, and same from youth tackle football. He will send the details over to Mr. Facchiano, who is with McNeely Realty Associates, and they have a lease agreement that they would put all those details in. The lease agreement would then be looked over by our Borough Solicitor. If Council so does agree, then we could sign the lease with Facchiano family for the Borough, leasing the property from them for a minimum of two years. The Facchiano family will maintain the grass. The only thing that we discussed adding would be Porta Johns and painting lines.

Mr. Glister stated we talked about some garbage cans, storage, and a couple other ancillary items.

Mrs. Steffey stated all of the details will be put in front of Council as far as what will be added and what will come from the Borough. It is a great opportunity and very generous of the Facchiano family as well. This gives our residents and two of our organizations that have been looking for homes somewhere to go for free.

Mr. Montgomery asked how long has that been out of service as a football field?

Mrs. Steffey responded they have not used it since 2014 when they bought the property. He said the youth tackle practiced there during the previous owners' ownership.

Mr. Montgomery asked what is McNeely Realty Associates?

Mrs. Steffey responded it is probably who facilitates their real estate leases.

23. Discussion 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

Mrs. Budd asked was this specific payment was for Oakwood and Grove Court?

Mr. Glister responded this was for Oakwood Drive, Oakwood Court, Grove Court, and Rustic Woods Drive.

24. Discussion 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

Mr. Glister stated it is a part of the Mon-Fayette Expressway Extension Project. They are going to be doing some additional signage along northbound, and southbound Route 51. Similar to what signs they have there, but they are going to have to update them obviously, because the expressway is going to continue towards Duquesne initially, and ultimately 376. The turnpike reached out to us originally a couple years ago for a very similar situation than what we are dealing with on the agenda tonight. They had some dynamic message signs that they wanted to get up before they started the construction on the expressway. So those signs have already been installed. One of the posts that go into the ground was very close to an existing 21-inch sanitary interceptor we have. At the time, we said it was encroaching upon our easement. It was not over our line, but we wanted some assurance from the turnpike that if we ever had to dig there. Trying to work around this sign is going to be additional cost to the Borough. We did not want anything to allow the encroachment within our easement. We wanted something from the Turnpike that they would commit to coming out and either removing the sign or stabilizing the sign themselves or reimbursing us for the cost that we would have to do if they were not able to come out and do it. We made that agreement a few years ago. Now, they are moving forward with construction. They are looking at additional signage. Some of it is existing, and they are just switching it out, and some of it is new signage. In this instance, it is a bigger sign than what is existing there, so they are making a different footing for it. It is a destination sign. This is the same scenario, where it is encroaching on our 21-inch sanitary sewer line we have running down there. This is the same agreement we had last time with some additional upgrades that we made to it. It just says that if, in the off chance that we ever have to do excavation there, that they will help us out with either removing the sign, supporting it, or reimbursing us if we have to do something ourselves.

Mrs. Steffey stated basically a pre-protection clause.

Mr. Glister stated hopefully we never do have to work on the line in that particular location, but this covers us down the road if we end up in that scenario.

25. Discussion to award Quote # 90207 from Sportsfield Specialties in the amount of \$10,367.50 for artificial turf for the 885 Park batting cages

Mr. Drager stated we did do some research on some of the surfaces. The most conducive one was the one that we originally got the quote for. They originally quoted us three 75-foot strips. We are going to need four, so that is why that quote was increased. That surface, we feel is the best one for to use. We do not have to do any adhesive. If we went cheap, it would just get ruined with the winter, and it would not be that good in a couple years. This was the best surface for what we have right now. It was a lot cheaper than with their installation, so we are going to do it in-house.

Mrs. Steffey stated the cheaper version really was not even that cheap financially. It was almost the same price as this.



Mr. Drager stated it was only \$1,500.00 to \$1,200.00 less.

Mrs. Steffey asked Mr. Volpe if have you looked over this? Are you OK with in-house installation?

Mr. Volpe responded I do not have any questions.

Mr. Reynolds asked do you have a quote for any pitching mounds? You should have a couple of mounds for the kids. The kids need to throw off the mound to warm up.

Mrs. Steffey asked are they portable pitching mounds?

Mr. Reynolds responded that would be best for there.

Mr. Drager stated we do have a quote for a portable mound.

Mr. Reynolds asked how many mounds?

Mr. Drager responded I believe there are four.

Mr. Reynolds stated let's do two mounds. It makes sense. You have a home and away situation in baseball. That way you could have kids that are in college that come back home and, still need to throw, and get their pitches in. They could go down there and use it. If you're going to do it, might as well do it right and put a couple of mounds down there, too.

Mr. Drager stated I actually do have a quote on those, and it was not too much. They were \$1,699.00.

Mrs. Steffey asked was it from the same company?

Mr. Drager responded it was not the same company. I can get them ordered.

Mr. Reynolds stated It makes total sense. How much money has been spent on the ground? How much money has been spent on the cages? How much money has been spent on the tunnels? We might as well go extra.

Mr. Steffey stated we can add those to Monday's agenda.

26. Discussion 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

27. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Dave McGuirk, 115 Providence Drive, stated I think you all have seen the news of East Palestine where the train derailed. Well, right now, the hillside along Peters Creek across from the park and ride, is only about four feet from the tracks to the edge of the creek. It's fallen in. This should be addressed immediately. I know it's the railroad doing this, but we sure don't want a train wreck like we had in East Palestine.

The Turnpike's has flex funding for athletic reasons or improvements in the park or paving. If you have somebody close to the Turnpike representative, open up a bridge there to connect funding sources. They are impacting the Borough quite a bit. I think we could get some more money out of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Your pavement at Beedle Park, or other things can be brought up and addressed. Maybe even in public service, another policeman, because they're going to need service on the road. Thanks everybody for your time up there. You're great people.

## 28. Reports

### Fire Chief

Not Present

### EMS

Not Present

### Engineer

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

### Consulting Engineer

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

### Finance Officer/Treasurer

Mr. Drager had nothing further to add.

### Public Works Director

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

### Police Chief

Chief Dziezgowski stated my written report will be completed for your mail on Friday.

It is important that all the residents and motorists that travel through our area are aware our school is in service now. School is in service throughout the county, throughout the state, throughout the country. It is incumbent upon motorists to slow down and be aware of their surroundings, be aware of school buses that are stopping for our children. School bus drivers and crossing guards have a responsibility. They either have a stop sign in their hand for the crossing guards to alert traffic to stop and they wait until the traffic is stopped before they cross, or the school buses turn on their yellow lights as a signal that a stop is approaching, just like a traffic signal, and then they activate their red lights to stop traffic. Traffic must obey that red light, those signals on that school bus. If they do not, they face a penalty of 60-day driver's license suspension, five points on their driving record, and a \$250 fine. The Jefferson Hills Police Department officers are out in force looking for those violations, because we are getting reports of people

passing school buses. We will not tolerate, and we will not give lenience to any individual motorist that violates or puts our kids or crossing guards or school bus drivers in danger. Take your time, be aware of your surroundings, because we do not want to have that negative contact with you. This is just fair warning, because the lives of our employees, our children, and our school bus drivers mean the world.

Mrs. Steffey asked is it state law, or is it just preference that children should not cross the double yellow line to get on the other side of the bus?

Chief Dziezgowski responded PennDOT recommends that the children be discharged and picked up on the side of their residence. It is not a law, but it is a safety concern. Whatever the industry is doing, meaning the school buses, the school districts, if they are made aware of a problem, they should look at alternatives to make sure that the kids, no matter what their age are, from elementary to high school, they should not be crossing busy state highways to be picked up or discharged from a bus on the other side of the roadway. We have received complaints. We are working with both the school district and the buses to make recommendations and improvements for our kids. We are working with PennDOT to have additional signage erected. We have to get permission to do that. We are doing our due diligence to make sure it is safe. It also is focused on the parents and what they are allowing their kids to do at the school bus stops. The school bus driver has a duty to make sure that the traffic is stopped, just like a crossing guard, before they open the door and allow kids to get on the bus. The other issue falls on the parents to be aware of this situation. Parents need to make sure that the kids, just like we have taught our kids early on in life, look both ways, make sure the traffic is stopped before running out into the roadway when being picked up or discharged from a school bus. It is a workaround and for everybody to be concerned on what they do. It starts with the motorist being aware, with the school bus working their signage properly, the crossing guards, and then the parents and the students obeying what they are being told.

Mrs. Steffey stated if you are working with PennDOT, and I am talking specifically on our county roads, Ridge, Gill Hall, and Old Clairton, we have a lot of overgrowth as far as trees, and weeds, that grow over the road. Can PennDOT send out County Public Works to cut that back? I truly think that that would be a piece to the puzzle, too.

Mr. Volpe stated PennDOT's position is, wherever the tree starts growing, they are responsible. Their position is if it grows behind the curb, it is the taxpayer or the Borough's responsibility, and they will not come out.

Chief Dziezgowski stated the county has been coming out to handle their roads. My hat is off to public works and Mike Volpe. He has been very respondent for overgrowth, especially around Old Clairton and the schools. Again, we can argue whose property it is, the school district, or the County. Our public works should not be responsible for that.

Mrs. Steffey stated it is just that there are so many blind curves on those roads.

Chief Dziezgowski stated the main thing is the safety of everybody. We put these signs up for a reason. We want to make sure they can see the school zone signs, and the crossing signs.

Mr. Montgomery stated the speed signs really helped because cars slow up when they see them. I have not had any speeders this year yet.

Chief Dziezgowski stated that is great, but unfortunately, we cannot dedicate speed signs to that area on a constant basis. That is something that I am hopeful that I can open up a dialogue with the school district and explain to them the importance of that and try to get stationary speed signs put up at that location in Gill Hall for that very reason. I have to spread out our traffic signs throughout the Borough.

It is not just picking up a traffic signal at \$5,000.00 apiece. There is also a software upgrade of \$1,500.00 per sign that has to be done annually or we cannot operate it efficiently. All of that has to go into the budget. I have to think about what areas I have to put it in. I would love to keep a sign up there 24/7, but that is just not economically sound for me to do that when I have other area concerns.

Mr. Montgomery stated when it is there, it is very effective.

Mr. Volpe stated getting back to the vegetation issue, as far as the county roads, they have a big road mower like we do. They just do not come out and do anything. Maybe a letter to our Council Rep and the Manager asking why we get short changed. We have been calling about these potholes at the bend of the Old Clairton. It is a disgrace that the County employees ride up and down the roads, they stop here every day and use the bathrooms, but they will not do anything. As far as the PennDOT roads, we reached out to them that we would do some mowing along their roads for the Agility program, and PennDOT's response is they contract that work out. I do not know if the state rep can help do something for another Agility program with PennDOT then these issues would go away.

Mr. Montgomery asked what is the Agility Program?

Mr. Volpe responded it has been around for years. The Agility Program is an agreement with PennDOT and the local municipality that you have something to offer to them and they have something to offer to you, say, road mowing. They would give you so much a lane mile as a credit, and then in return, if you wanted road line painting or some tar and chipping or some type of work like that. It is a trade of services, and each service has a value. The program gets some traction every now and then, and other years, it just does not work. It is different than the winter maintenance agreement that we have with the County and PennDOT. That is a different program in that they pay you outright to do the work.

Mr. Montgomery stated if you would come up with some specifics, I can refer that to PennDOT. We had somebody that was complaining about their weeds. I could see that it was not the Borough's. PennDOT said it was behind the guide rail, that means it is not theirs, either.

Mrs. Steffey asked do we have anything as far as code enforcement goes, if it does come down to the resident?

Mr. Volpe stated people have the misconception that the right of way of the road belongs to the borough or municipality. The right of way is owned by the property owner. The municipality or any utility company has the right to put utilities in that right of way, and if they do put them in, they have to maintain if any disruption. But the right of way is owned by the homeowners. I am sure there are some homeowners that cut their grass out to the curb. Why should people get the freebie of letting their weeds go wild and expect the Borough to come and clean their mess up?

Mrs. Steffey stated that is what I was told when I purchased. I have one in between myself and my neighbor. We maintain it, we maintain the trees that are hanging over the road. We can look into code enforcement also if we cannot get PennDOT to come out and cut the overgrowth, and then we are going to have to go to the residents, because it is getting really bad.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey stated I want to thank Mr. Volpe and all of Public Works. The batting cages look incredible. I know how hard everybody worked all summer. Thank you guys, you did a great job.

This Saturday and Sunday is JHFR's Fall Mums Sale Fundraiser. It runs from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be at both Floeffe and 885 fire houses. Mums are \$15 for the large pot.

I want to talk about our new Jefferson Hills alert system. You are going to hear us talking about this a lot over the next few months. Jefferson Hills Alerts is the new official alert notification system for the Borough of Jefferson Hills. The robust system plays a pivotal role in swiftly distributing critical emergency information, essential public safety messages, and need-to-know details. Seamlessly utilizing voice messages, text messages, emails, and social media. This platform ensures that our residents and businesses are always in the loop and prepared. Opting into these alerts will help keep you and your family safe, connected, well-informed, receiving communications such as emergency notifications, traffic advisories, weather alerts and Borough specific news. If you go to our borough website, [JeffersonHillsborough.org](http://JeffersonHillsborough.org), there is a link at the very top to get signed up for that. In addition, you can download our Smart911 app from the App Store and Google Play.

Acting Manager

Mr. Glistler stated we are currently in the process of switching billing for sewage and garbage from PA Municipal Services, PAMS, to Legal Tax Service. We are experiencing a bit of a wall. The last month that PAMS did was June, and the June bill was sent out by PAMS in July. Then July, August, and moving forward, is going to be billed by Legal Tax Service. Now, Legal Tax Service does not have the information they need from PAMS yet, because they are not turning over the data they need to generate the bills. It is supposed to be happening very soon. We will not get a bill from Legal Tax Service until the end of this month, more likely. For the July billing, a lot of people are starting to have questions about why did they get their July bill in end of August? We have a lot of residents calling PA Municipal Service, and PA Municipal Service is just saying, "Well, that's not our problem. Call the Borough." We have been getting inundated with phone calls today. In fact, I think it is an understatement. I think our phone line outside is probably smoking. Every call was about this question, "We're not aware of it." Anybody listening, we are aware of it. We are working through it. Have a little patience for the sewer bill. It should not impact our trash, because that is quarterly. We are working to get this resolved as quickly as possible. It is also my understanding that PAMS was supposed to send out a notification with the last bill that this change was going to be happening, but I do not believe that happened, either. There is a little bit of confusion. We talked about this a month or two ago. There was an update at the meeting, and not everybody watches these meetings, but just trying to get that out there, that we are aware, and we are working on it. Have a little patience with us as we are trying to get it resolved as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Steffey stated just to be clear on that PAMS versus Legal Tax situation, the Borough has done absolutely everything that they could do as far as our part was concerned. This is something that is taking PAMS the time to transfer the information over to Legal Tax, hence why we are no longer with PAMS.

Mrs. Budd stated we had talked to Ms. Dinardo, and she has utilized Facebook. I read her report and saw that Jefferson Hills now has a Nextdoor account to put information out there. I know there are a lot of people that frequent Nextdoor. Reissue this message to the public, because I do not know how well attended the meeting is viewing wise, but there are a lot of people on social media that pay attention.

Solicitor

Solicitor Cromer had nothing to add to her written report.

Solicitor Cromer stated for the record that there was an executive session held immediately prior to this agenda meeting in regard to various personnel matters, along with potential property acquisition.

## 29. General Business

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report. The Police Advisory Committee met in July and August, and active shooter training is coming up for December 23rd. Firearm training is to be announced. Driver training will be November 23rd and October 23rd. Fitness training is April 24th, and taser training is to be announced. The CIRT team had two callouts. The investigative team had no callouts. Accident and reconstruction had one callout. Peters Township is still providing the tactical vests for the CIRT team. The fire chiefs met and discussed retraining, recruitment, and retention. The technical rescues group squad had no call outs. The Administrative Committee met. The Franchise Authority is going to meet about the Verizon negotiations and the Cohen Law presentation. As far as commodities, there will be a salt meeting on September 19th. There will be no vehicles in the fall commodities for SHACOG, because of supply chain issues. Act 152 applications are under review, but they are very slow in their review process. CDBG 47 is complete. The contracts are under extension for CDBG 48. That is the one that started in July of 2022. CDBG 47 is 2021. The next one is CDBG 49. Municipalities are receiving what they are approved for at the present time. The pre-applications are in for CDBG 50. It has always been a \$20,000.00 minimum, and that's still in place for this year but there is some talk of making it a \$50,000.00 minimum. That may make it harder to match it with \$50,000.00. It is just not as easy to deal with. The SHACOG dinner is October 19<sup>th</sup>. Senator Robinson's grant has come to fruition. There will be a flooding evaluation in the Route 51 corridor. The work will start at Lewis Run Road. That is the worst of the flooding. They will look at the flooding down to the Monongahela River. It is \$149,605.00. We do not have to match it.

Mrs. Budd stated that September is Love Your Library Month and National Sign up for a Library Card Month. Please visit the Jefferson Hills Library, or you can go onto their website throughout the month of September to donate. All donations, whether big or small make a difference. They will receive a partial match from the Jack Buncher Foundation. You can also share your support by picking up a Love Your Library yard sign, tagging us in your photos, signing up for a library card, and purchasing tickets for Love Your Library raffle baskets. Please, even if it's not for this, go online to see the other activities, which just seem to be growing exponentially as time goes on. They have many ideas, many great programs that are going to continue through the fall.

Mrs. Steffey welcomed Mr. Haberstock to our new finance director position here pending his acceptance. I also wanted to thank Ms. Dinardo, our PR person, for her diligent work on our social media. She is always trying to find new avenues to get messages out to our residents. I know it is not easy without putting things on a letter and stamp anymore to reach every single person, but we truly are working on it.

With election season upon us, just a reminder to please make sure that you have a permit for any type of signage that you are going to post on Borough properties. If it is not in somebody's residential yard, then you need a permit. Please stop by and get a permit, and then please make sure that the signs are removed after the election.

30. Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Budd and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister, PE  
Acting Secretary/Borough Manager