

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, Councilman Bentz, Vice President Budd, Councilwoman Mares, Councilman Montgomery, Councilman Polick, President Steffey, and Mayor McCaffrey answered to roll call. Borough Manager Stinner, Finance Director Haberstock, Solicitor McPeak Cromer, Chief Dziezgowski, Engineer Glister, Consulting Engineer Minsterman, and Public Works Director Volpe were also present. Councilman Lynch was absent.

President Steffey stated from now on into the future, we are going to do the Report from Borough Boards and Commissions, and then go into our staff reports. We do have some emergency management chiefs that would like to give their reports at the beginning of the meeting. Then if they need to be called out, they can go ahead and get back to the station or get back to a call.

4. Report from Borough Boards and Commissions

Richard Moore, Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Council, stated as the Environmental Advisory Council to Borough, we review things on occasion throughout the Borough that are a primary nature. Some things are just pet projects we are interested in like litter pickup at Peters Creek. So, when the proposed tower at TJ came up, we thought that maybe this is something we should review from an environmental perspective. We did review it from several different angles, from location, aesthetics, and environmental considerations. We did a review particularly on the location where it is being proposed, the construction on the school property, and if there are areas on the property that would be less visible to the residents in the area. We reviewed several locations initially proposed to the school district from TowerCo. I want to be very clear of the other locations proposed, none appear to be in a location that would be further away from residents or otherwise visible in the area. One location was proposed several 100 feet north from the currently proposed location. It is about the same distance from the residents on Wakefield Road, as the proposed location is from residents on Chamberlain Road, which is a little closer to on the south side of the property where it's being proposed. A question is, are there other locations on that property where the proposed tower could be built? Were all possible options considered? We recommend the company and school district review other areas where this tower could be placed in lieu of this current proposed occasion.

From environmental impact standpoint, the regulations get a little long. But from a federal level, the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA, requires agencies and the federal government to consider and disclose environmental effects of its actions. The FCC treats the construction and registration of FCC licensed towers and facilities as major actions that trigger agency NEPA obligations. There are three levels of the environmental review process under NEPA. One is environmental impact statement. These are reserved for massive projects where you go into it knowing you will be affecting the environment. It describes how you're affecting it. Usually, you come out of it with a plan to rectify the damage that you may have done to the environment. Not really the situation we're talking about now. The next is environmental assessment process. The third is a categorical exclusion. The FCC does require builders of towers to follow the NEPA process and to make a determination if an environmental assessment is required. Not all projects require environmental assessment. But all projects should be reviewed to determine if an environmental assessment is required. The SEC does categorically exclude all towers from

detailed environmental review except those associated with construction of facilities under certain categories. They list them very specifically. They're associated with the service of wildlife areas, wilderness, threatened endangered species and their habitats, historically significant places, floodplains, significant changes, and surface features. We're having high intensity lighting in residential areas. All that would cause radio frequencies in excess of FCC established limits. The environmental review is a shorter version of that environmental assessment. It applies to any element of the project, including the tower, the fence, trenching, roads, parking, lots, cable, electric lines, things like that. Any one of those could trigger environmental review or an assessment. Our question is, was a NEPA environmental assessment required? Or if it was required, was it completed? Or the flipside is, was the proposed tower deemed a categorical exclusion under NEPA? That means it didn't fall into those categories I've explained, the wetland areas, the wilderness areas, or places of historical significance. To make that determination, every project needs an environmental review. It's a simple review, but it determines if an environmental assessment is needed. The applicant to the FCC, when they apply to it, they need to determine and state that it is or is not required to submit environmental assessment. Part of that process is they're supposed to retain documentation of their environmental review so that they can be produced upon request from the FCC. I presume if that was done, that those same documents could be or should be disclosed to the Borough that it's built within. That's a big part of the federal requirements for building a tower.

We reviewed some of the zoning ordinances. There is a specific ordinance that was discussed at the last meeting. Zoning Ordinance Section 4, B 10 H. It's specific to building communication towers in the Borough. It has several items in it. It's basically designed to note the visual impacts of building such a tower. The first one on that list is a zone of visibility map is required. It's very vague in the interpretation of the zoning rule. In my assessment and asking people at my work what this actually entails, it should be a computer-generated map showing every place typically within a mile of the tower where you can actually physically see the tower from. Another is pictorial representation of before and after. Key viewpoints throughout the Borough. It actually says within and outside the Borough where the proposed towers are actually going to be seen. Those key locations actually could be picked by the Borough themselves or amended to say, hey, you didn't really look at this angle or this angle. The Borough should have some assessment to say go back out, take some more renderings of where this tower is actually going to be seen from. Assessment of alternate tower designs and color schemes. Everything I've seen from what was presented to school district or to Borough is one rendering, one image of a tower with cell antennas around it. No alternate designs, at least what I've seen. I may not be privy to everything that's been presented. But different tower designs, different color schemes. These towers come in all different shapes and sizes. They can look like Christmas trees. They can look like palm trees if they're built in Key West. They can be built to match the aesthetics of the area that they're built in.

The last is the visual impact of the tower base. There should be a written assessment of what that looks like from the tower base, the accessory buildings, overhead utility lines, and how those would be portrayed from abutting properties and streets. Talking to the people at my work, that should be a rendering. It should be a digitally produced street level view of what this facility would look like with all components, as they would be installed with fences and buildings and towers and electric lines of how those would actually look. I guess my question on behalf of EAC is, were the obligations of our zoning rules sufficiently addressed? From the publicly available information there may be some additional work that could be presented to the Borough to better aid in your decision making.

Part of our discussion was basically in general about communication towers. If the Borough itself had a mapping or a census of all towers in the area in the Borough, it may help with the approval process

for future towers, knowing where these things are and how close they're getting. With 5G network, they will be getting closer. There will be more towers. This will be a recurring theme over, and over as new areas get identified for towers. A census of all towers may help the Borough with better decision making.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated on behalf of Council, as I think many of you know, because you have been emailing, and Council appreciates that, the applicant did provide us with an extension to continue our investigation. We are not in a position to answer any of your questions this evening. It will be part of the investigation, and Council is taking it very seriously.

President Steffey stated the letter from the EAC was submitted to Mr. Stinner, me, and Solicitor McPeak Cromer on April 1. I am forwarding it to you all right now, so you have it to look at.

5. Reports

Fire Chief

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

EMS

Not Present

Engineer

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

Consulting Engineer

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

Finance Officer/Treasurer

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

Mr. Haberstock stated our representative from the Auditor General's Office was in last week to do an audit of our liquid fuels allocation. That went fine. It is done. No issues to report there.

Public Works Director

The Public Works written report is on file in the administrative office.

President Steffey stated our public works and our emergency services amongst other staff had a very busy past two days here. We just received a list of storm and flood issues.

Mr. Volpe stated that was the only thing I wanted to add to the report. It was a brief summary. We are still adding things to the list of all the damage and work we are doing for the flood cleanup in the last two days.

Police Chief

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

Chief Dziezgowski stated I just have a couple items to express to our residents. One is referencing fraud in our Borough. The Police Department is receiving more and more calls for grandparent scams. This is a scam that is targeting our senior residents. What the scam is, criminals will actually pay for your information. They get your phone number. They find out who some family members are. The criminal calls you directly and says that your grandson, grandchild, family member has been arrested by the police, and they need immediate funds to bail them out. Those funds are in excess of several thousand dollars. We have had victims hand over tens of thousands of dollars of cash to individuals that are actually showing up to their residence. I can tell you that the Police Department, any police organization out there, will never ask you or demand money from you. It is a scam. Please, if you get a call like that call the Police Department immediately so we can help you through that and investigate where the calls are coming from, and to assure you that it is, in fact, a scam.

Secondly, from a youth standpoint and social media standpoint, criminals are targeting children on social media. Parents, please take advice and monitor what your kids are looking at on social media, so they do not fall victims to any of this fraud and scam that is going on.

On both the Borough website and the police website and social media outlets, we have posted that the school district has started demolition on the old school nearest the field. It is fenced off. Do not trespass. For your safety and the safety of the workers there, do not trespass. Enforcement action will be taken for any violators caught there trying to circumvent all the barriers there. We do not want that to happen. So, we are giving you forewarning. We want everybody to be safe. We want that property to come down as quickly as possible without any issues.

Mayor

Mayor McCaffrey thanked the Recreation Board for the Easter egg hunt this past weekend. Unfortunately, the weather did not exactly cooperate. But we had a large number of kids, and they did a great job with everything. Also, a reminder that April 20 is our Borough Cleanup Day. Everybody is to report to the borough building at 9:00 a.m. Gloves, and vests will be provided. Please wear closed-toed shoes. You can call the borough building to RSVP, especially if you have large groups. Snacks will be provided, and we will conclude around noon.

Manager

Mr. Stinner stated I would like to continue with what Chief Dziezgowski said about fraud. This comes from my time in Congress. The federal government or the state government will contact you by mail if they need money from you. They will not call you on the telephone. The federal government, the state government, they send you mail through the US Postal Service to recoup debts, payments, etc. So

please, if someone calls you and says this is the Social Security Administration, and I need X amount of dollars, that is not the Social Security Administration.

Also, just as important, I would like to thank Mike Volpe and the Public Works staff for the work that they did over the last 24 hours. When the sky falls in, they are the guys we call. The sky literally fell in. So, thank you, Mr. Volpe, and thank you, Public Works. I will have my written report in Friday's voting meeting packets.

Solicitor

Solicitor McPeak Cromer had nothing further to add to the written report.

6. Borough Resident/Taxpayer Comments on Agenda Items

President Steffey stated to benefit yourselves, I know this is in response to the cell tower, we are going to do a four-minute stint for those of you that want to speak on Agenda Item Number 10 and Number 10 and 13. Because right now we are really not talking about the cell tower, we are trying to follow procedure on the agenda. We have a portion on non-agenda items, which is at the end of the meeting, because we have other people here that are going to speak tonight as well. Mrs. Hakala and Dr. Hakala, I would be happy to put you back on at the end of the meeting for an additional four minutes.

Rosa Hakala, 3051 Chestnut Ridge Drive, stated I'm a resident of the Borough, 3051 Chestnut Ridge Drive. Regarding Agenda Item Number 10, I'm asking you not to approve those minutes. I am also here to ask that you reject the TowerCo application and to request an update regarding the status of the TowerCo application to install the 130-foot monopole cell tower at the TJ football stadium. On Sunday, March 24, Superintendent Sardon replied to an email I sent addressed to both Melissa Steffey and Superintendent Sardon with all of you on copy. I quote, "The next step in the process is approval at the bar level between them and TowerCo. If they deny the permit, TowerCo and the lease with the school district does not move forward. At this time, the district is bound by the lease with TowerCo, and we'll await further correspondence from them regarding this issue, whether they have received final permits or not. The district has reached out to TowerCo who stated they believe another hearing may be held at the Borough in early May. However, they were waiting for a day from their attorneys, and we're planning to be present at the Borough meeting to answer additional questions." At least I got an answer from the Superintendent. I have not heard from Melissa Steffey nor from any of you. The superintendent knew about the May potential meeting. I believe I was not afforded the right to voice my objections to the zoning hearing board. By default, the Planning Commission and the Borough Council did not properly advertise the hearings required by the Borough's Zoning Ordinance dated September 12, 2022. On Page 207, the ordinance states under 2.8.1 that a written notice of said hearing shall be conspicuously posted at least one week prior to the scheduled hearing. That was done. Such sign shall be at least six square feet in size. People, this is 6 square feet. Actually, it is 5.574 square feet. The yellow is the sign size that was posted. How do I read that from the road when I'm driving? By the way, the sign was all curled up because of the wind. I had to physically get out of the car, park it on the parking lot, unfurl the sign to see what it said. Unfortunately, that was on March 9. That was the hearing for March 6. That's how we the residents were notified. You did not follow your own code, Page 207. Please be reminded. Page 207. Therefore, I don't believe that meeting was properly held. Add insult to injury, the sign that was posted was 1.15 square feet versus the 6 square feet require. To make my point on how the Borough's zoning notifications were not in compliance, I have shown you the size of the sign that was supposed to be properly posted. As such,

I asked that the Borough take a step back, deny the current variances, not approved the minutes of March 6, so we can all go through the hearing process after complying notifications are made and the impacted residents can voice their concerns.

President Steffey stated I know that every single email that was sent to us, to myself, to Council as a whole, to individual staff members has been responded to by our Solicitor. We were instructed by our solicitor as Borough Council Members, until she spoke with the representative from TowerCo that we were not to respond in any way shape or form other than a blanket statement. So, you are right. You will not be receiving personalized statements from us until all things are settled. I appreciate, again, everyone's compassion and emotion in this. I specifically did ask to just stick to the agenda items if we could.

Dr. Alexandra Hakala, 2020 Laurel Ridge Drive, stated I'm here to comment on Agenda Items Number 10 and 13. Regarding Agenda Item Number 10, the major point I'd like to make here is I asked for clarity on next steps as I'm concerned about an account of no decision, leading to a default approval of the conditional use permit, which I don't see as an acceptable outcome. I can see the proposed location from my home, and I'm concerned about impacts to my property value and health of residents, especially children and others who will be using the field and track. I also have a point just to raise that I'm concerned for the school district. As a recipient of federal funding, they receive \$2.4 million. I worry about impacts if there are issues. Mr. Moore from the Environmental Advisory Council gave an excellent account of the NEPA process. A point I'd like to highlight is the record of decision and public ability to comment on what's happening in the community. So, I'm requesting timely and good faith communications and whatever official channels necessary on that item.

On Agenda Item Number 13, regarding appointment of a new member to the Zoning Hearing Board, I highly recommend Gloria Koehlinger as a candidate. Ms. Koehlinger notified me that she applied for this position. Her excellent engineering and communication skills will be an invaluable contribution towards the betterment of our wonderful Jefferson Hills community. Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments.

7. Presentation by Lisa Graves-Marcucci regarding the Synthomer Chemical Title V air quality permit

Lisa Graves-Marcucci, Environmental Integrity Project, stated thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight. Just briefly, I know there are new some new faces in the crowd, I'll reintroduce myself for those who have not met me. My name is Lisa Graves Marcucci. I was an over 25-year resident of Jefferson Hills. I was on the original Environmental Quality Board years ago. Both of my sons graduated from TJ. I now live in Pleasant Hills. I work for an environmental nonprofit that works on permitting issues like the one I'm going to talk to you about tonight. The Synthomer Plant, which formerly was known as Hercules and Eastman, are the two previous iterations. They are considered a major pollution source. They're governed under the Federal Clean Air Act. As such, they are required to have what's called a Title V, Roman numeral V. In all of its history, I know it's shocking, they have never had a Title V. The County Health Department is the overseeing agency that is supposed to issue that permit. They did not issue the permit. As a result, our organization, representing another organization called Food and Water Watch, filed suit against the Allegheny County Health Department in Common Pleas Court. It was a mandamus action. It's basically asking the court to order the County to do its job. We didn't have to go to court. It was settled out of court. It triggered the information that I'm about to share with you tonight. The Title V permit has been put out for public comment. It is in a draft form. So, it's not been finalized. Public

comments are being accepted between now and April 18. April 18, there will be a public hearing. Now they did originally schedule it for Elizabeth Borough. Earlier this month or last month, our organization requested a change in venue. We have not heard back. We had requested that it be moved to West Elizabeth Borough, which is legally the address for the permit. They should be holding it in the host municipality. If they don't, it's okay. We'll continue on. We're still going to proceed with submitting public comments. Everyone is invited to participate in the public hearing. Pro, con, doesn't matter. It's just your opportunity.

What's really important about this permit is a couple of things. I sent Council a fact sheet that has a lot of the information, but for the public so they understand as well. The federal permit requires transparency. It requires the public to be part of this process. Without having that Title V permit, it basically precluded the public from being involved in the process. That has now changed. I encourage everyone, even if you're not going to comment at the hearing, to attend so you can hear and learn. You might hear some information that you've not known before. The other really big thing about it is the Title V permit sets limits for the pollution. It also sets mandatory monitoring to make sure the facility stays in compliance. Because they don't have a Title V, we can't really have those checks and balances that are afforded to us by the Federal Clean Air Act. It also takes away a provision where the borough or citizens could file what's called a citizen suit if the regulatory agency, the County, isn't properly enforcing against the facility. You can see why all these pieces sort of circle back to transparency and public participation. We're very pleased that we finally got this out of the starting gates. We're looking forward to the hearing. On the back of your fact sheet, you'll see where our attorneys and our engineers have been reviewing the draft. As you can understand, it's a very big permit. Very complicated. Our attorneys have written some basic thoughts on what they saw at first that they feel are areas of deficiency that need to be addressed. They, today, also supplied me with an additional four bullet points, which I spoke to Mr. Stinner about. I will email it to him so he can share with Council. There are several options. Citizens and the Borough are welcome to sign on to our comments if they want. Our engineers will be writing very heavy, very technically legal and engineering heavy comments that address how the Clean Air Act is supposed to oversee this permit. Or you can write your own. You can testify on your own. Several options. The main thing is the public. This is now being opened up for everyone to take a look at and comment about.

I also just wanted to very briefly address the other fact sheet that I gave you because it's about the two title files for the US Steel facilities going through a similar process as well.

Mr. Bentz asked once this is enacted, who's required to enforce this?

Ms. Graves-Marcucci responded the Allegheny County Health Department. We have 67 counties in Pennsylvania. There are only two local county air programs. That's Allegheny County and Philadelphia. Everyone else falls under the Pennsylvania DEP for air, wastewater, and everything else is DEP. We're unique in Allegheny County in that we have an Allegheny County Health Department that is solely responsible. But the important thing is the backstop is the Federal EPA. Like with the US Steel, Allegheny County issued Edgar Thompson and Clairton Coke Works Title V permits that were not in compliance with federal law. We petitioned the EPA to take a second look at those. We filed 10 concerns on each of them. On the Clairton Coke Works, the federal EPA agreed with us on nine. On Edgar Thompson, they agreed with us on all 10. Mostly, it was because they didn't have the required monitoring. They were only required to monitor once every two years. and people were breathing it all day every day. Workers in Clairton, by the way, are being exposed to very high levels of benzene. So, the EPA agreed with us, and they sent it back. They remanded it back to the County to redo those two permits. Those two permits are also being redone as well. This is a unique opportunity for voices to be heard. If Council or anyone has

any questions, my contact information is on the bottom. Just let me know if there's anything else. I will keep you apprised if we do get a change of venue.

8. Discussion to approve the monthly bills
9. Discussion to approve the monthly payroll
10. Discussion to approve minutes of conditional use hearing March 6, 2024
11. Discussion to approve minutes of agenda meeting March 6, 2024

Mr. Montgomery stated I have a spelling error. On Page 508, the last paragraph, it says that our plan is that the building be completely demoed, which I guess means demolished.

12. Discussion to approve minutes of regular meeting March 11, 2024

Mr. Montgomery stated I have one on that, too. On Page 517, Pat Capalupo name is spelled wrong.

President Steffey stated it is C-A-P-A-L-U-P-O.

13. Discussion to appoint _____ to one seat on the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2025

President Steffey stated as Ms. Hakala stated earlier, we do have one submission from Ms. Koehlinger right now.

14. Discussion to authorize the advertisement and preparation of an Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 901 Temporary Posters

President Steffey stated so we do not have any confusion between posters for zoning hearing and temporary posters, these are the advertisement signs that you see with the yard stakes and political signs during elections. You will see home health care signs for example. A lot of them are around the Borough in our right of ways. I have made my concerns quite clear years ago when I was elected that I truly think that the temporary signs just trash up the community. I am going to be honest. They blow in the wind. People do come here and fill out an application to have a permit for these signs. The reason we were wanting to amend that ordinance was because there was not an expiration period. These signs could not stay up forever. No one comes back to pick them up except for people that are in elections. once the election is finalized, you have to come back within a certain amount of time and pick up all of your temporary signs. If you see at the bottom, the island of Elliott and 51, that is County. Our public works do not cut that. When the County decides to come cut that, they take all the signs out, and they just lay them down, and they blow all over the place. We have a huge issue with litter as it is in our Borough. I think with today's digital age, we can do a lot better. We do not need to have as much litter in our community anymore. We do take deposits with these applications, but we didn't have an end date. We could either put an end date on here, and if they do not come, then their deposit gets cashed to pick up the signs. Then that entails our Public Works having to put that on their daily agenda or weekly agenda to pick up garbage or signs. That also includes our code enforcement, Mr. Seskey, to go through what we have on file and to drive around and seeing which sign has expired, which sign has not expired, whose sign do we pluck out of the yard this week. We have a lot of bigger things going on. I think it is time to

do away with them. We can also put an end date on it if you want to for the ordinance. There are many other municipalities that do not allow yard signs. You can still put yard signs in your residential properties. We are talking about our Borough right of ways where people come, and they ask for a permit application so that they can advertise or put their name out for something. It has gotten pretty out of control. If you drive around, you can see a lot of the stuff that has been here for ages. It adds to our Public Works Department, and I think that there are better ways that we can be utilizing their time as well. I wanted to make sure that that was clear. We were not talking about zoning hearing signs. It was the marketing temporary signs.

15. Discussion to award the contract to _____ as Borough of Jefferson Hills Pension Counsel at a rate pursuant to the proposal received

Vice President Budd stated we received two. The Pension Committee was given the chance to review them. Other comments received were they are both capable. They both have the ability. They are pretty equal in nature. However, the one is considerably, considerably more expensive than the other one by several hundred dollars.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated the one who is less expensive is actually more experienced in this particular, and is the one that's taking over for the retired pension attorney.

16. Discussion to award the contract to Third Generation for a new Borough-wide telephone system including the servers, all individual telephone units, and any new wiring or equipment with an initial setup and installation fee of \$9,499.00, and a monthly fee of \$580.23 plus tax, or \$6,962.76 plus tax annually

President Steffey stated we did receive three bids. Two of the other bids dropped out. If anyone has any questions on the set-up or what is included here Mr. Stinner and Chief Dziezgowski were involved in the process.

Mr. Stinner stated the purpose of the RFP was because our existing phone retailer actually sold to the Ring Doorbell Company. A lot of our services have been interrupted or are planning to be interrupted. So, we put an RFP out. We had three letters of intent. After the walkthrough, two withdrew.

Chief Dziezgowski stated there was a significant increase in price with the current phone company, Ring. This new company should save the Borough a significant amount of money in the future.

Mr. Haberstock clarified this will get rid of Consolidated Communication.

17. Discussion to authorize a contract with Integrity Brokerage for a natural gas supplier for a 5-year contract at the lowest current market rate

Mr. Haberstock stated I would like us to table this one until we have had more time to investigate. I do not feel comfortable signing a five-year contract for natural gas supply at this point.

President Steffey stated on Monday, if we could have a motion from one of the Council members to table.

Mr. Montgomery asked how does that work? Is there an average every three months or every year or all the time?

Mr. Haberstock responded that the rate they give you at the beginning is based on current market rate. That is your rate for five years. The broker told me that if rates were to go lower, you were allowed a one-time reset of your rate over that contract, but just the one time. I think it is a bad deal.

Mr. Montgomery stated it does not sound right.

Mr. Haberstock stated I have questions. I read through the contract, and I did not even see anywhere in the contract that said you could reassess your rate at any point.

Mr. Montgomery stated that is not worth it. If rates were dropped, you be paying a higher rate.

Mr. Haberstock stated it is a commodity. It probably trades on the Chicago Board of Trade. It is changing all day every day. Sometimes it is higher, sometimes it is lower. But they always make it sound like you better lock it in now.

18. Discussion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Jefferson Hills Police Department and West Jefferson Hills School District as required by Article XIII-A of the Public-School Code of 1949, popularly known as the *Safe Schools Act*

19. Discussion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) and Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Psychiatric and Behavioral Health Services that would permit an AHN Board-certified Social Worker to be available to assist the JHPD for individuals in crisis

Chief Dziezgowski stated that this is a unique partnership that we are experimenting with, in cooperation of AHN. We currently, the Police department, through a grant funded program, are involved with this organization with a two-part project for the wellbeing of our officers. As this has progressed, we have discussed with AHN expanding the project under the grant, which would allow for a board-certified psychologist to be available to our officers as a resource to handle nonviolent, noncriminal mental health, substance abuse, or homelessness individuals who are in crisis, but do not fall under that criteria of going to the hospital immediately or being arrested or are a danger to themselves. This is that fine line where we cannot find the resources. We are tying up first responders. We are hoping that this initiative will help soften the burden and provide the needed resources available through a board-certified individual to the officers, to first responders, to get that back out in the streets answering the calls that they need to answer.

Mr. Haberstock asked if we were to utilize that service, is that paid for through the officer's health insurance, or is that billed to the Borough?

Chief Dziezgowski responded right now, this is a no-cost initiative that is covered under the current Chill Project Grant. That is what the MOU is about. It is just that agreement to allow both parties to enter into this partnership. It is a work in progress. So right now, there is no cost of the Borough. If there is, we can reevaluate at that time. At this point, there is no cost. With all the substance abuse litigation out there, there are a lot of grants that we can apply for down the road that can supplement this if need be. At this

point, there is no cost because it is covered with the grant. We are building this initiative, so I do not have all the particulars.

20. Discussion to authorize the Jefferson Hills Police Department (JHPD) to establish a part-time therapy dog program with the purpose of promoting a positive work environment, boosting morale, and enhancing the wellness program for JHPD officer, along with other Borough employees

Vice President Budd stated I had some questions regarding the veterinary insurance. The original paperwork received in our packet, the veterinary insurance, the price per year, and then any costs outside of the insurance coverage felt open ended to me. So, I spoke to the chief about that, and regarding the dog being made available for stressful events, such as funerals, death notifications, or any high-stress situations and, a concern about potential for overtime. He took the liberty of speaking to Lieutenant King, since he is going to be handler for the dog, and rewrote the MOU to change it to a maximum amount of \$1,000.00 per claim. That would be what we would pay.

Chief Dziezgowski stated we fall into another unique situation at the Jefferson Hills Police Department. The Mayor has been very supportive of this. Lieutenant King was looking for a pet at his house. It just so happened that the Chill Project has their own therapy dog, Bodie, who came to visit us at the station. It was very well received. I do not know any person that does not like dogs. It brightens up their day. Helps with wellness. So, in the course of Lieutenant King searching for a pet, he was approached by the Chill Project and the facility that provides therapy dogs to the project. They offered Lieutenant King a free dog, which is a \$3,500.00 value as a pet, but also as a part time therapy dog. That is the requirement to get this free animal. He approached me and discussed this venture where we could utilize the dog on a part time basis. It would be his family pet, but also utilize his dog as a part-time therapy dog for not only the JHPD, which is important. Also, for the other Borough employees for their wellbeing. Council has always expressed to me that they really are invested in making sure that the employees here have a good foundation and show their support to their employees. We felt this would be a good program to utilize across the board for the Borough, with minimal cost to the Borough. When I say minimal cost, the dog is free. The cost of the veterinary insurance is roughly about \$1,500.00 annually, and then the training, which is just under \$1,000.00, which would be done once the dog reaches a year old. Then the dog would be used on a part time basis to come in and act as a therapy dog, as a PR animal for events like Community Day. Funerals, hopefully, we do not have to deal with that. Anything that the wellbeing of an individual or a Borough employee or even interactions with high school and elementary kids just to brighten their day. I think it was a terrific idea. Lieutenant King, because this is going to be his pet half the time, will be incurring the cost of food and maintenance of the dog. No outside expenses other than what I told you. So, when Councilwoman Budd approached me and said that there was some concern about the funding if the costs of the dog increases, we put a dollar amount on it. Anytime there are copays with the insurance, there are deductibles with the insurance, it's a 90% payment. There is a 10% offset to that. We figured that \$1,000.00 per claim would be reasonable for our budget, outside of that ancillary cost that I mentioned. This is going to be a healthy dog. It is going to be a dog that is bred. They monitor the health of the dog. We did not think that that was absorbent for the expense for our budget. Also, Lieutenant King falls under the collective bargaining agreement. So anytime that the dog is used, it has to be approved by me or my designee. If there is overtime involved, it would fall under the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

President Steffey stated this is not saying that I do not want this. But only because I have had this happen, I have had it happen to people in my family. It looks like this is coming from a doodle. So, I'm going to assume that it is hyper allergenic.

Chief Dziezgowski stated it is a multi-breed. It is not just the Doodle. It has an Australian mix to it. Because if it was just the two breeds, it would be a lot more costly. This is a three-breed, which makes it a mixed, which is less hyper allergenic.

President Steffey stated that is my concern. What if we have people in the building with allergies? As much time as myself and Vice President Budd spend here on a weekly basis, I would love nothing more than to have a dog running around here to make us smile on a daily basis, especially for the officers as well and our staff. My only concern is I think people sometimes lose sight of the fact that there are people with severe allergies out there. We do have people coming in and out of the building that it could affect. I just think that it should be looked into a little bit more on that aspect.

Chief Dziezgowski stated before I came here, we had a K9 officer where they had the dog here full time. This is going to be on a part-time basis. These are things that we will address if approved by Council, we will address them as they come up. It being on a part time basis, I think that we can adequately resolve those situations better than we would if we had a full-time K9 program that has to be here 100% of the time. I am not saying that we would not run into those problems. But I think that we could counter those problems if they do arise and make sure that the dog does not come when that certain person is here to avoid that.

Mr. Haberstock stated I love the idea too. Just so I am clear. The Borough would pay for the health insurance, which we said was \$5,000.00 annually. If there was an event that required the dog to need medical care, the Borough would pay a deductible?

Chief Dziezgowski responded any deductible and copay and then up to \$1,000.00 extra if there was something seriously wrong with the dog.

Mr. Haberstock asked what if there was something that was not covered by the health insurance.

Chief Dziezgowski responded Lieutenant King would take care of that. Because this is a part-time pet, part-time therapy dog, I discussed this with him. He was fine with the parameters. In all of our research, our coverage through that insurance will far exceed what we are going to need. We will probably never hit that \$1,000.00 extra amount. Councilwoman Budd brought that to my attention, and I felt it was necessary. We can have our legal counsel look it over one more time to make sure. That is everything that I have for Council at this point to look over. I will budget appropriately and accordingly.

President Steffey stated this is not a K9 dog. This is a therapy dog.

Chief Dziezgowski stated this is not a vicious dog. This is a dog that is going to lick you to death, basically show you the affection and to bring up the spirits. That is why we looked into insurance from the Borough and from Lieutenant King. But because this dog is not considered a vicious dog, the insurance is not necessary. The temperament of the dog is already going to be assessed during the training.

21. Discussion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and Jefferson Hills Police Therapy Dog Coordinator regarding the shared expenses related to the Therapy Dog Program

22. Discussion to approve Quote No. 61010 from David Davis Communications for the expansion of camera network at Tepe Park in the amount of \$6,428.00

Chief Dziezgowski stated Director Volpe, from Council's requests, is making improvements at Tepe Park. Most recently, we had some vandalism up there. Since we are making the improvements and moving towards the security of our parks, I recommended that David Davis come on and give us a quote for camera installation to that park. This will lead to us getting internet service at the park. I have already contacted Verizon to get the same service at that park that we have in our other three parks. We are moving forward. This is the first quote for security cameras at Tepe Park.

23. Discussion to approve Estimate No. 1661 from Joe Thornton Roofing for \$7,000.00 to replace the roof of the 885 Concession Stand

Chief Dziezgowski stated when we do get that roof replaced, we have cameras installed on top of there from David Davis. Mr. Volpe, if you could just coordinate with them so they can remove the cameras before that is done and then reinstall them.

24. Discussion to approve the advertisement and sale of the 2000 John Deere Gator side by side and a 9-ton tag-along trailer from the Borough of Jefferson Hills Public Works Department on Municibid

25. Discussion on 2024 Paving Program Bids (Bid opening 10:00 a.m. on 4/2/2024, recommendation to be provided on 4/3/2024)

Mr. Glister stated the bids for the 2024 paving program were open yesterday morning. We received a total of eight bids. The apparent overall low bidder is Tresco Paving Corporation. Tresco's individual bid results for the base bid and add alternates as well as all the summary of the rest of the bid results are attached with the memo I passed out to Council before the meeting. Of the eight bids received, one bid is disqualified. They were the high bid anyways, so it didn't really have an impact. That is the bid on the far right. These are on the bid tab. It is set up from least cost to the most cost. We had to make some changes after the project was already advertised, and contractors picked up the bid package. The bids were picked up through Gateway. They track who picks the bids up. That way, if we do have to issue an addendum or make any changes, we know who we are going to reach out to. Oddly enough, this was the first bid I opened. For the addendum I added two additional unit prices and made some additional changes to the quantities. None of that was acknowledged or included. So really, of the eight bids received, only seven of the bids were acceptable bids. We have not had Tresco pave here for a while. They do a lot of work in Westmoreland County. They have done some paving for developers here. They are a reputable paving company. So, we will move forward with them. They must have really wanted this work because they came in underneath our estimate. We were right around \$650,000.00 for everything for the base bid and the five add alternates, whereas their total bid for the five add alternates and the base bid were just under \$615,000. So usually, we have the base bid, and then we have a couple add alternates. That way, we can sort of award as close to the budgeted amount as possible. I think this was the first time ever that the total amount came in below that overall budgeted amount. The recommendation for Monday would be to add to the agenda a motion to award the total bid, which will be the base bid, add alternate one, add alternate

two, add alternate three, add alternate four, and add alternate five for the 2024 paving program for Tresco Paving Corporation in the amount of \$615,000.00. Looking at Tresco's individual bid, they were a little light on the cost they put in for base repair. Usually, it is a higher number. They were \$25.00 per square yard. Usually, you are around \$40.00 or \$50.00. That leaves us some additional room for adding on roads. But when you look through the base bid and the add alternates with the amount the bid, that means if we do not find any base repairs, it frees up another \$25,000.00. I do anticipate us being able to get some additional roads beyond what is in this recommendation for award.

Mr. Montgomery asked have you dealt with these people before?

Mr. Glistler responded yes. They left me a message late this afternoon. I am sure they were just calling to check in. I have been talking to them. I might ask for a reference or two. I know they have had North Huntington where I live. They win that almost every year for the last at least probably 10 years or so. They do a lot of work out in Westmoreland County. They have their own asphalt plant in Westmoreland County. It gives them an advantage over most of the other contractors out there since they can produce their own asphalt. A lot of the contractors that are bidding on projects in Westmoreland County have to come to them to get a quote for the cost of asphalt for their bid. So, of course, Tresco is not going to give them a good price. It frees them up. I will probably still give a reference check, but I do not see there being any issue.

26. Discussion to approve easement agreement between the Borough of Jefferson Hills and the Jefferson Estates Homeowners Association for an access easement to allow for future operation and maintenance of the Frank Street culvert subject to the approval of the Solicitor

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

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated Council has received all of your emails, and your phone calls, and your right to know requests. They are taking it seriously. They have been directed not to discuss it. They cannot respond to your questions. As we continue our investigation, we are not going to respond to any questions. We are working with TowerCo. Council is doing everything in their power to make sure they do the right thing. They are respectful of your concerns and are happy to allow you to speak your four minutes. But I just wanted to be clear, we are not in a position to make any decisions. We are not making any decisions. You are certainly welcome to speak your piece.

President Steffey read an anonymous letter mailed to the Borough. "The residents near Tepe Park field would like to have an agenda item added to the next council meeting regarding March 11, 2024, Agenda Item Number 19. Motion to approve the rental of portable lighting towers from _____ for \$_____ per month for temporary lighting at Tepe and Beedle Park fields from April to October 2024 for a total of \$_____ per lighting tower. Please advise why the additional bids submitted were not opened and the amount of the bid disclosed. Also, will the temporary lights be on a timer regarding when they are on and off?"

President Steffey responded we did have two bids on that. We had one from Moses Electric and one from CAT One. We did have two bids. Moses came in lowest. If you can recall, I sat here and did the math at our last meeting to put in monthly amount, and total amount. For bid items, there is a threshold that we do not have to put out an official RFP or an official advertisement. This was a simple lighting amount. The amount in total was \$615.00 per month. So, we are not going to revisit that agenda item. To

answer the question, will the temporary lights be on a timer regarding when they are on and off? No, they are generator powered. We have specific instructions for the coaches being able to start the generators and turn them off at the end of practice. Our ordinance states that these lights are able to be used until 10:00 p.m. Every permit that went out that was approved for these fields will have those instructions on turning the lights on and off and also reminding them of when their time is through the park. The last team will be responsible for turning those lights off.

Dr. Alexandra Hakala, 2020 Laure Ridge Drive, stated I'm here to comment on communication about land use in general. It's specific to the cell tower. I understand that there can't be any comment from the Council, per the Solicitor's comments multiple times tonight. I just want to know what's going on. I'm tired. I have a job. We all have jobs. I have kids. My husband has a job. We're all over the place. It's really hard to keep track of things. It's even harder to keep track of things when the communication isn't clear. It's really important to have community engagement and especially with decisions on items like a cell tower, on items associated with our school district. I'm trying to keep up. I used to be a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. I couldn't even keep that up, which I really truly love. I really appreciate Mr. Moore with his comments today. But I'm one person, and there are like 50 million things to do. I'm asking for help from you to help with the communications. When all of this came down in early March, I had to travel for work three weeks in a row. I've had to listen to my family, to my neighbors, and to my friends talk about what's going on. It's been a pretty stressful event because of the limited information and because it feels like one was pulled over on us. I'm just asking for clear communication. I'm asking you for some thought to making sure there's community engagement in how these decisions are made. I respect many of you. I respect this community. I'm proud to be part of this community. I'm proud that my children are part of the West Jefferson Hills School District. I'm excited about the flag football fields. Thank you for that, President Steffey. Steven loves it. But things I want to bring up are there's so many nuances when there isn't clear communication. Even just thinking about being recipients of federal funding as a school district, and I know you don't have decisions over with the school district does, but the decisions across the board of leadership in our community have a real impact. I don't want the school district to be in a compromised position with their ability to get funding for our students because of decisions made about land leasing, that have an ultimate chain of impact. There can be real implications because, as I understand, there needs to be a record of decision on things. I don't even understand where to start in understanding what that record of decision is. So really, I'm just asking you, as a community member, as somebody who is so happy to be in this community, who's brought my family to this community, I just really would like to be able to chat and understand. The same level of communication that we get on the exciting events in the community, I'd also appreciate that for some of these more nuanced decisions. Thank you very much for your time.

President Steffey stated we certainly heard Mr. Thatcher when he spoke at our last meeting as well. He had the same sentiments as you and wanted to have that transparency between all announcements in the Borough and not just the Easter bunnies coming or Community Days. I definitely have taken that to heart. It is something that we will discuss as a Council and make sure it is implemented in our PR moving forward.

Mrs. Rosa Hakala, 3051 Chestnut Ridge Drive, stated I just wanted to reiterate a couple of points. One is the proper communication. We need to go back to the ordinance where it stated a six-foot square board. I have some pictures that I'm going to leave with you so you can look at what we saw as a citizen versus what should have been per the Borough's ordinance. I want to make reference to the December 14 meeting of the Zoning Review Hearing Board and the January 22 meeting were the two variances were

approved. Those were not communicated and advertised as they should have. Neither was the March 6 meeting. But at least I know there was a bright green sign, 1 foot square, 1.1-foot square, that was on the side of the road that I had to get out of the car and see. I asked the Solicitor; I understand that you have to protect the Council. I know that. No question, right? They are public servants, and somebody has to have their back. At minimum, I would have expected in reply to my email something from you to say the item is under discussion, discovery, assessment, analysis, or whatever word you need it to use. You can say very conscriptly in one sentence, we're looking into it, but that's the only communication you're going to get. Recognize it. Say that. You don't have to ask the council members to say it. But you can say it because you're the Solicitor.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated any email that I received was responded to in that fashion, saying that it was under investigation, we had received an extension, and it would not be dealt with until May at the soonest. So, if I was on an email, everyone got that response.

Mrs. Hakala stated then I will look. Maybe it was my mistake that I didn't put you on the email, but the rest of the Council was. I'm sure somebody must have forwarded that to you. So that being said, I appreciate, and I do thank you for the opportunity for letting us speak a second time. I chose to move here because of what I saw. I chose to move here with my husband. This is our 19th move, our ninth state that we lived in. But we chose to come here because of what a great place Jefferson Hills is to raise a family. I want to make sure you understand I'm an invested member of this community. I love the neighbors. I love the neighborhood. I love what you guys are doing. Not all of it. But I really enjoy a lot of the things you have. You will see more of me because I will be attending these Council meetings because I need to be involved to make sure that you guys are listening to us. Thank you.

Dr Michael Jordan, 3039 Chestnut Ridge Drive, thank you guys so much for listening to us. I appreciate it. I'm here this evening, once again, to plead with the Council to reject the conditional use application for the proposed cell tower, which was never advertised as a cell tower, but a wireless communications facility. After research, they used that nomenclature to help with the passing. Our First Amendment rights were violated. We have the United States constitutional right to be heard before town boards, planning boards, and zoning boards, and to make submissions to oppose cell tower applications. Because of the improper notifications, we were not able to exercise such state and federal right.

The notification we've already touched on this was not followed. Another requirement is a notice in the newspaper in general circulation. It was done, but it was not a bona fide paid circulation within this political subdivision equal to or greater than any other newspaper published within this political subdivision. Red flag. Also, look at the attendance here. We went from zero members to having a filled house the last week. We'll have another one on the eighth. We have the right to fight against loss to our homes, to protect ourselves, family, and neighbors from tower collapse. At the next meeting, as long as I'm allowed to, I'll share a simulation video, because cell towers have collapsed. The last one was 2021. This will kill kids in the stadium because the wall is 40 feet. The height of the tower is 130. You'll have 80 and 90 feet going towards the field. It will cover the track and halfway into the football field. I'll do a demonstration of what that will do to the football players. Then the aesthetics. I redid some imaging. I have a beautiful picture of the stadium looking out towards our housing plan. Beautiful. Now I added the cell tower that you'll see is disgusting. I'll present that next week. I'm a member of this community. I do not want litigation. We can still handle this civilly. TowerCo states on their website that they work with communities. In fact, I have personally spoken with TowerCo. He was a very nice gentleman, very willing to work with us and with the community. I know you're afraid of TowerCo suing you if you reject this

application, but I don't believe they will. After talking with them, they seem very friendly and willing to work with us. There's no need for million-dollar retainers. The Borough losing hurts us, too. I love my Borough. The school board, all of you, you guys are my neighbors. I want to work together. The last thing is, I know you can't say too much, but if we can at least have a date for the vote on this, we have national news organizations that are going to highlight our community to the entire country about this. I want them to see that we can work together. It's good publicity. Thank you.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated we do not know when there will be a vote. We have requested 60 days from TowerCo as an extension. They gave us 30 days and as of now we are continuing to talk with them. When we know a date that this is going to be addressed, obviously, everyone will know. I wanted to make that clear, so everybody understood that.

President Steffey stated we had responded in some emails when we said we were given the 30-day extension. I know that our solicitor asked for 60 days, which we are hoping to get, because there is still communication going on between the Borough, the TowerCo attorney, and possibly some of the school board. We are still doing our research.

We have had numerous amounts of right to know requests sent in, which is obviously your right. Our staff is busy getting all of that information put together and properly sent back to you. That is why we mostly need those extensions, so that we can fulfill the right to know. We are doing those as expeditiously as possible. All we can tell you right now is exactly what Solicitor McPeak Cromer said. We were definitely granted the 30 days, and that had superseded what we thought would have been having to decide on it in this month's meeting.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated we would have had to have voted on Monday, which we obviously do not want to do, as we continue to investigate and cover all possible bases. So now we have the earliest it will be addressed is in May. We are hopeful that it will be after that.

President Steffey stated to continue with that transparency, if it does not fall on one of our scheduled monthly meetings, we have everyone's emails. I know that you all are in communication on your group Facebook page and things of that nature. We will continue to put things out on our social media posts and our website posts. If we need to have some sort of special meeting to coincide with the date that we will be given, you will certainly be notified.

Mrs. Hakala asked it's 30 days from what date?

Solicitor McPeak Cromer responded it was 30 days from when I spoke with him. Basically, by the May meeting. We were given until the May meeting.

Mrs. Hakala stated on the communication side, it would have been easier, and we would have prevented my asking all these questions had you say by May 6 meeting.

Solicitor McPeak Cromer stated I do not want to say that because I am hoping that is not the case. As I continue to negotiate with TowerCo's attorney, every time I talk to him, which is a lot, I cannot keep updating you. All I am saying is we have an extension until at least May. We are hoping for longer because we are doing everything we possibly can to keep all of you happy. We really are.

President Steffey stated if anybody else who put in requests would like to shorten your night, you can feel free. But I am here to allow you to keep speaking, allowing your voices to be heard. If you would like to do so, I am happy to continue.

This was sent to all of us. It was sort of a blanket email that you all sent. A lot of your names and addresses are on here. This is the First Amendment right was violated. I am not going to repeat that one, because it has 10 different people on here.

President Steffey read a comment from Kenneth Havrilla. "I do not believe the community was given a fair opportunity to know about the hearing regarding the placement of the cell phone tower. The Council needs to vote NO regarding the proposed location.

I am respectfully writing to ask you to vote "NO" on the proposed cell tower construction, There are many questions that need to be answered. It is not necessary to jeopardize our children with the unknown long-term exposure. Studies provided by the industry are certainly biased. There are many sites that are far better suited than the current proposed site. Vote NO."

President Steffey read a comment from Connie Havrilla. "Please reconsider the proposed cell phone tower in Jefferson Hills Borough. I am asking you to vote no!"

President Steffey read a comment from Robert Chase, 4332 Harlin Drive. "We don't want the cell tower by TJ Stadium. I don't believe the community was properly notified and did not have the opportunity to represent themselves. The individuals living close to this proposal were not given notice and other neighborhoods within Jefferson Hills also did not have a chance to speak out against it. It is unsafe being so close to a football field. The lower parking lot is always crowded and that runs the risk of a safety issues with young adults trying to climb the fence or the tower. Also, it will be an ugly thing to see sitting in the stands and reflects badly on the Borough that it was put in eye shot of so many. What about safety? That seems close to the field.

I request that this be reopened and the community, and those that live close, be given their First Amendment right to speak out against this at the Planning and Zoning meetings. The Council should have the power to make this decision, especially since proper protocol was not followed."

President Steffey read a comment from Mercedes Chase, 4332 Harlin Drive. "I am exercising my right of public comment about the proposed Cell Tower. I would appreciate it if you would read my email at the meeting. I was not given a chance to express my concerns prior as notification regarding this proposal were poor. I request that it be reopened and that the zoning and planning committees rehear this case and allow the community to comment. My first amendment right was violated, and I would like my voice to be heard."

President Steffey read a comment from Sharon Rusnak, 3001 Chestnut Ridge Drive. "On March 11, 2024, Council tabled the vote on TowerCo's conditional use application for 45 days. There were a number of issues raised including whether sufficient notice was provided that alerted residents that a 130-plus foot cell tower would be in a school stadium parking lot yards away from a residential housing plan. It would be helpful to understand what has taken place since March 11, 2024, and the status.

Council is well within its authority to deny TowerCo's conditional use application and it should do so at its earliest opportunity. At a minimum, the public hearing should be reopened to allow not only

the residents whose property is affected to be heard, but anyone in the community who would like to be heard. Council has the power to provide the necessary visibility on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.”

President Steffey read a comment from Gloria Koehlinger, 5004 Blue Ridge Drive. “I am writing to request an update to the public regarding the TowerCo application to install a 135-foot monopole cell tower at the TJ football stadium.

Can you please clarify exactly what extension the applicant (TowerCo) has agreed to? Is it an extension of the hearing or an extension of time for the Council to render a decision on the application?

I have multiple Right to Know requests in with the Borough that remain unanswered. I feel as though you are purposefully leaving me and my neighbors in the dark.

As we have previously stated, the residents’ position is that the hearing itself needs to be continued/held open so the residents can participate, as is their right under the Borough Ordinance and state law. Because the Borough has not issued a final decision on the conditional use application, the Borough has authority to continue the hearing to allow for consideration of additional evidence from the residents.

I along with many residents believe that we were not afforded the right to voice our objections to this tower. With regard to notice, we also believe the public notice wasn’t factual, wasn’t proper, and was grossly misleading.

Did you know that the notice called this 135-foot tower a “facility”? Do you know how misleading that is? Do you also know that “facility” and “tower” have dramatically different meanings in our zoning ordinance? That alone is grounds for this application to be denied.

I respectfully request that you look into this, provide an update to the public, and say no to this 135’ tower at the TJ football stadium.”

President Steffey read a comment from Pamela Smithburger, 2089 Laurel Ridge Drive. “Thank you for reading my email at the meeting. I do not believe this is an agenda item, but I wanted to communicate to you regarding the TowerCo proposal. This is an issue that I want to make sure I have a chance to express my concerns about the proposal, as originally, I was unable to exercise my first amendment right due to lack of notification . Unfortunately, I cannot attend in person, but this does not diminish my great concern about its proposed placement and the need to reopen the TowerCo cell tower hearing.

I live in Chamberlin Ridge and will be directly impacted by the close proximity of this very high structure. I was not able to voice my concerns and fight against this initially as I was not notified. I request the opportunity to exercise my first amendment right before the zoning and planning committees. The Council has the power to reopen this case, especially in light of protocol breaches that have been identified as several borough ordinances regarding notification were clearly not followed, as well as,. the incorrect label "facility", which is totally different than a tower. This alone should be grounds to reopen. Additionally, it is clear that an alternative solution was available, and it was not investigated. This will also be an eye sore to anyone watching games at the stadium and if there is any TV coverage of our sports teams, I believe this is a bad reflection of the borough on placement.

The Proposed tower location is a poor choice for so many reasons. I would like to make these reasons clear to the appropriate committees. In addition to the potential health impacts of the children living in the close proximity, several national and international health organizations state that more research is needed, and home values will decline. Additionally, life flight has used the lower stadium parking lot many times, and I am sure this tower location may impact this. There are numerous other reasons this tower does not belong in the proposed location. Again, I implore you as a tax paying borough resident to send back the proposal to the planning and zoning committees.

You have only heard one side. That side is not your neighbors'. The side you heard is a corporation whose bottom line is money who will say what they must to get you to believe it is a good idea. Our bottom line is our children and our life's investment of our homes in a community we chose. Do you value money over people and health? We voted for you to protect us. Let your neighbors speak. A one-sided conversation is not a conversation.”

28. General Business

Mr. Montgomery gave the SHACOG report.

Mr. Montgomery stated the concealed carry event will be in the community room on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There were 1,119 applicants last year. It could be busy as this year. Last year, they were waiting around the building.

I got this two days ago, put it on the website. It is called Keep PA Beautiful Young Ambassador programs. This is to engage students in cleaning up debris and litter on the roads. They are asking them to attend six mandatory sessions and to conduct a community assessment and organize a cleanup of something. The applications will be accepted till June 10. This is sponsored by PennDOT.

Mr. Stinner asked what do the students get in return? Service hours? Anything? What is to compel them?

Mr. Montgomery responded I did not see anything unless they need to have community service. It is PennDOT's approach to trying to involve high school students.

I saw Joyce Martin. That is Kathleen Reynolds' sister. She wanted to thank the Borough for putting her in the magazine. She is very grateful for that.

President Steffey stated this is for Mr. Volpe and Chief Dziezgowski. I did receive a quick text from a resident that lives close to Beedle Park, something for us to think about. She noticed that there were some girls at Beedle Park that were turning on the water near the softball fields and just letting it run. I asked her to call 911. Just to reiterate, I have said this before in many meetings, if you see anything, even if it is a non-emergency, just call 911 and say this is a non-emergency. Let them know why you are calling, and they will get the message over to our Police Department. I know we used to have a number that you could call directly. The Police Department closes at 4:00 p.m., and we do have officers that are already out patrolling. 911 is the catalyst to get our officers somewhere even if it is not an emergency.

First of all, thank you to the Recreation Board. They have been amazing. They have been a great cohesive team over the past couple of years and have really stepped up a lot of our community events.

They braved the weather for the Easter egg hunt. Thank you to JHFR as well for helping them coordinate that over at 885. We had a great turnout despite the weather. Our next event is Fish Day on April 13. It is at Peters Creek Park. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mayor McCaffrey stated it is at the intersection of Waterman Road and Peters Creek Road. Bait and food are provided. There are prizes and a raffle. You just need to bring a bucket and a fishing rod.

29. Adjournment

President Steffey adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Polick, seconded by Mrs. Mares, and carried unanimously.

Michael Glister
Acting Borough Secretary