

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 15,, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Borough Office

114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN/COUNCILWOMEN FOX, GUARDIANI, HEANEY, KUBA, NALESNIK, PRESIDENT HAWK & MAYOR KATTNER, SOLICITOR YURCHAK. COUNCILMEN PAUL, ABSENT

President Hawk starting meeting at 6:00 p.m. He stated that Solicitor Yurchak would speak first. Councilwoman Fox introduced Deborah DelFranco as the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Borough.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Councilwoman Fox approved, Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All votes yes. Motion passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Yurchak stated the first item was the Ordinance for the Insurance Cooperative. He asked council to ratify a motion to advertise the Ordinance. Motion to Ratify the Ordinance that was advertised. Council Fox approved; Councilwomen Guardiani seconded. All in favor of motion, motion carried. He stated that there were samples provided by Joe Pilla. He asked council to make a motion to accept Ordinance to join Insurance Cooperative. Councilwomen Fox approved, Councilwomen Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion carried. Councilwoman Fox stated that she would get together with Biros and get sewer report. Councilwoman Guardiani did speak about the current firearms Ordinance, posting land is not an issued. Solicitor Yurchak did stay that there would be no problem with the hunters. There is an ordinance already in effect.

HEARING OF VISITORS: President Hawk reminded everyone that there is a time limited for speaking and that was 5 minute limit on comments, also the hearing of visitors dialogue between speaker and council. It is not a forum for major questions and answers between various members of the audience. Please respect everyone's right to get up and speak. Also in full disclosure, he stated that he is an employee with Panther Creek and it is anticipated that there would be questions, so he stated that he was relinquishing the gavel to the Vice-President of Council, so that he is not in anyway in the decision making position toward hearing of the visitors. Councilwoman Fox asked the hearing of visitors to state their name and the affiliation with association.

I am Linda Christman, I am part of the Saving Carbon County, which is an environmental group. This is the 4th time our group has come to a meeting here to request that you file a comment as a borough council against the tire burning proposal for Panther Creek Power. We keep pesting you because we think that a comment from you as a borough representing the resident of Nesquehoning could make a big impact on the PA DEP deliberation on the proposed permit. I know that some of you think that no matter what you say PA DEP will approve the permit and allow tire burning in Nesquehoning. I think that one council member said that DEP attitude was tough nuggies. But your comment may get DEP to hold a public hearing in Nesquehoning and give the residents a chance to speak. Your comment may also get DEP to require mitigation measures, currently there is no plan to institute any measures that would decrease the toxic measures, your comment could change that. Your comment could also mean DEP require no tire shreds be stored on premises at the protection against a tire shred fire which is very toxic and very hard to extinguish. Further there are three statewide organization that are very interested in this issue. It is very possible that an appeal could be filed and this could be challenged in court. If you have not filed a comment it would be a set back to any appeal and to the judicial appeal process. As a borough council you speak for the people and if you do not file a comment, then it is saying that you have no issue with tire burning in Nesquehoning. We have provided a draft Resolution that could serve

as your comment with DEP or you could compose your own comment, but please stand against tire burning and file a comment as a Borough Council. Copies of the draft Resolution. I am Carol Etheridge from Mahanoy Township on the other side of the mountain. I am within five miles of Panther Creek Power Plant. As a neighbor I am very concerned about bringing tire burning. I understand that tire burning is being tested, so I believe that I was told by another person that they are burning tires along with waste coal to determine optimum. I ask the Borough Council if we can also ask for an emission test to be conducted while testing is underway, so we can understand what is being put out into the air, so folks like me, five miles seem like a long way, but I am right there, so I am concerned about what is coming over to my house, and the work on the power plant, especially because of the close proximity. I am also proud of the Pennsylvania Environment Amendment. I am going to read it right now. "The people have a right to clean air and clean water and to the preservation of the natural historic and aesthetic value of the environment. I hope that you would agree and hope that Borough Council will ask the Panther Creek Power Plant to conduct emission testing. Thank you. Steve Welsh, Mill Street. Here as a material witness, I can tell you what happens when you breathe benzene several days a week. I install carpet for a living and I got Leukemia. The doctor said, if you install carpet for a living it's a given, obviously you were exposed to benzene. It is the first thing they go to, but that is what caused it. I am standing here today because I had a stem cell transplant in 2010 and I hope none of you have to go through that, but that is the road we are going down. Councilwoman Fox thanked him and asked if there was anyone else? Councilwoman Fox did say that DEP notified the Borough they are going to have a hearing on the situation on January 18th from 6-9 at Panther Valley High School. Councilwoman Guardiani did say that it would be on the borough website for you are at the mercy of DEP unless they change, but as of right now, it is at Panther Valley High School. The meeting will be advertised in the times news as well on November 18, 20, 21st. The tentative date that we are aware of is January 18, 2024. That would be confirmed in DEP newspaper advertisement. James Whitehead of Mahanoy Township, grew up Panther Valley. As we all know that this summer the fires from Canada, we are all in this together. You could not even go outside without wearing a mask. You took it off and needed to put it back on the next day, it was like you were in a fire, that's working here. We are all in this together. Councilwoman Guardiani wanted to publicly commend the personal in the office of the borough, Sue, Shawn, Debbie for our professional handling of the calls regarding this issue after the papers were sent out. The girls did a good job. I also want to state that as the head of Quality of Life for this borough, since you brought this to our attention. Myself, Mary Fox, Lois Kuba was not able to attend, met with Panther Creek, of course, they have a whole different side of this, as we know there are two sides to everything and we are required as a borough to listen to both sides. We can not just take your information as factual information. I can tell you that I have supported you in the past, I can tell you that I am a green girl. I can tell you I wrote the letter against Sludge. I am an outdoors person, so I do not take this very lightly at all. I didn't appreciate a comment from someone in your (saving carbon county) group that came here to the last meeting stating that we as a borough council don't care about our residents if we do not make a statement, don't care for that. (Linda Christman) I don't think it was meant that way. Guardiani, I will tell you it sounded that way. Anyway in meeting with the people from Panther Creek, again, they have their side to the story, they have provided to everyone here. So from Panther Creek is information, we have to hear both sides, as a council we have to hear both sides, that is what is fair. So in the end, I personally have done my homework. I want to hear at this meeting what DEP says. I think everyone on this council wants to hear what DEP says. I think you have a responsibility to attend the meeting and hear what DEP says. We will be there, Guardiani, I have no doubt. Then, draw the conclusions on what we want to say and resent, but I will not come forward with any statement until I hear every bit of factual information from both sides and form my own conclusion. I am not being rude, I am bright enough to write my own letter, if I believe it is warranted, and I will not say anything more than that except, you are all welcome to meet the other side of the story and I think

everybody needs to take a step back and hear both sides of the story and then make a decision, that's all I'm saying. She then put the paperwork on the table for people to take. The wife of Steve Welsh then stood up and said I have a hard time understanding that why is there two sides, that burning tires create benzene which is toxic, it is air borne and causes cancer. It affects us all. How could there be two sides when we already know the science is in. It has to be something more, money, power whatever the case may be, we are in this all together, nobody wants cancer, nobody wants our grandchildren to get cancer. I only see one side, I don't see two sides. I see the science and that's all I wanted to say. I am Fred Osman, I did the application for permit for Panther Creek. I know that you all have concern about this issue and I like to talk a little and answer questions if time permits. I did this application, previous to that I did tire burning, I got approval and after that I got permission for North Hampton. As of today, there are two places burning tires in PA. You could go down to North Hampton and ask if they to see if they have the same issues. It's totally not what you think about burning tires, like burning tires in the back yard. If they burn tires and they have burned tires in Nesquehoning and Panther Creek, was told that they are still burning tires, they are not burning tires the testing is done. All data has been collected. There has been unplanned plans in the United States to burn tires, if this was an issue, that caused harm to people we would have heard about it by now. In North Hampton for 15 years and no complaints. If they burn tires at Panther Creek, you would not know it. They have burned tires, and there have been no complaints or smells. I have not heard complaints, there are DEP regulations, if they would burn tires, out their site, you could call DEP and they would send an inspector out to check the mal order. There has also been talk about smoke coming off the property line, that is also within DEP regulations, if you have smoke crossing the property line, that is a violation call DEP and they would take action against the company.

Audience member asked when was the testing done? I think the testing not occurred everyday, but from January 2-23 to June 2023. EPA looked at the issue of air toxins, we are talking about tires. EPA looked at all the risks, they said that mercury was a risk, metals, and acid gases. EPA focused. All were evaluated by DEP, Linda Christman, the EPA has said that there are several carcinogens like burning tires. Fred said that one of the papers that he saw floating around had to do with tire fires, and in that same document they speak about control combustion of fires and how it is done. Linda Christman said, we understand that the plant does not attempt to have any additional scrubber or electric static plant. Fred said that you do not want one. ESP they trip, all the stuff would just coat the neighborhood with soot from the plant. They currently have a Bag, it is more efficient, than ESP, and I don't think that DEP would approve an ESP. Councilwoman Guardiani said that she had never heard of the Bag, but it was in the material. I was told by EPA that is the best practice to have. Was also told that the one EPA sites for tire burning is actually the tire burns, the study was done literally on a burning pile of what's admitted from a burning pile of tires, not the percentage that's mixed in with coal, it is a different emission, if you light a pile of tires on fire, you will have a total different outcome as opposed to what is mixed in, again that is what I am being told, as I weight things, I have to try and figure out what is what. Jim Whitehead said that when Cogen was brought in, it was brought in to eliminate to coal, it did not meet the standard for the coal, are the tires going to be shredded and brought in as bulk? They will be stored onsite. DEP required how to store. That would need to be addressed to DEP. Councilwoman Guardiani asked if the tires were brought in shreds and the permit was to store 15,000 tons (max). 15,000 tons of shreds on the property at any given time, under DEP regs they are to minimized the pile size, monitor sub surface, monitor the moisture, turn piles at risk of spontaneous combustion, minimize any external heating. DEP regs, that they are required for storage. Linda Christman say that there seems to be a feeling of belittled on the Resolution, I am saying that you could do your own comment, but we thought that maybe this could help. No disrespect intended. Guardiani, believe that goes back to you, no disrespect was intended, I respect that you are looking out for our environment, and I think everyone on council would agree with that. We appreciate the fact that you are looking out for the environment. I just

simply my personal request is that you respect the fact that this council representing the citizens of Nesquehoning, need to make sure we have our facts. 100% facts. I'm not saying that what you are presenting is not factual, sir, I'm not saying your cancer is not factual. Steve Welsh stated, he has a problem with not hearing the dirty b word the whole meeting. Guardiani, I'm sorry the what. Mr. Welsh, the dirty b word, the company who has something to gain by polluting our area is Bitcoin. We have to make sure we can build that machine. The profit of this company is being weighed by human health and I find that problematic. Looking forward to outcome of this meeting. EPA risks assessment are 70 years for cancer. Councilwoman Fox hit gavel, because the time was getting longer and longer. People were talking over each other. Councilwoman Fox said, We can not solve any of this here tonight, and I would like to reiterate what Abbie has said, that as a council, I am not educated enough on all this scientific stuff say like from Carbon County, or facts from Panther Creek or your company, I am not up on Bitcoin, so this something between now and January 18th on Council, will have to do our homework and decipher all the facts in the case and then we can make an educated decision. I thank all of you for coming and thank you for coming out and giving us your opinions on everything and I think that we need to move on with our council meeting. Fred Osman said that the meeting would be advertised. Councilwoman Fox thanked everyone for their opinions and we will all do our homework. Linda Christman said, in appreciation to the secretaries, I answered a lot of phone calls and on the flyer it did say to contact the office. Councilwoman Fox said that should have not been done, because the girls in our office took many phone calls, if people wanted to come out to come to the meeting, flyers were put out at each home and it stated to contact the borough office, but it should have not been to call the office, the girls had other job duties that they needed to attend, but took phone calls, which was not fair to them, because they need to get done what they need to get done. Linda Christman asked, how many phone calls did they get and what were they asked? Were they in favor or not. Councilwoman Fox, they did not take a poll, they told the people to either come to the meeting or give a written statement. Councilwoman Guardiani told the people to stop at the desk and pick up the information that she had gotten from their meeting with DEP. She said that it was worth hearing both sides. President Hawk asked if there were any other visitors. Bonnie Aneed, said that she was out walking her dog and she could smell something burning, did not know where it was coming from, she stated that she heard there was some kind of testing and could that have been what was I was smelling. Councilwoman Fox said that you would need to contact DEP with a complaint and to come in and do testing. Bonnie Aneed said that it was late night and not during the day that she smelled the burning odor. Bonnie Aneed also said that, this may be off topic, but her daughter lives in New Columbus and there is a person that lives below her with a wood burner, and a chimney and now that you are saying that smoke and smells can invade your property, she is having a very hard time with it, she has air purifiers, she has kids, the smell is coming through her dryer vent, she opens her vent and it smells like it is burning. She said that the neighbor has an add on pipe at the back of his house. He has a regular chimney, but the smoke is just coming straight up. Her address, 46 Columbus Avenue (west). She just bought a whole punch of air purifiers, when you take your clothes out of the dryer and they smell like burning smoke. President Hawk asked if there was anyone else. No one responded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was an executive session at 5:00 p.m. for personnel reasons. No action taken by council as a result.

PLANNING COMMISSION& ZONING HEARING REPORT: No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT: No Report

TREASURERS REPORT & CD REPORT: Councilwoman Fox made a motion to accept, treasurer's report,

CD report and the Solicitor's Report. President Hawk mentioned if anyone was interested in the treasurer's report under Sanitation Fund the balance is listed as \$562,306.42. That figure is an error due to a backlog of transfers from that account for sewage. The way our receipts are set up is that all of our monies received into our Sanitation account, for garbage and sewer bills and then the sewage portion is transferred to the appropriate sewer account. Due to the resignation of our Secretary/Treasurer earlier this year, those transfers have not been made for several months and they will get caught up on shortly and the true balance in the Sanitation Fund is about \$130,000.00. Motion to accept reports. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: October 2023 Real Estate, \$2919.36; \$82.50 in Occupation Tax; \$77.00 Per Capita Tax, making it a total of \$3,078.86. There were three exonerations requested 2 for deceased individuals and one for a none resident. As of today, no applications.

COMMUNICATIONS: We have two items of communication, I would like to add a third is the information that was provided to the borough yesterday by this evening by Panther Creek. 11-1-23 Borough of Palmerton approval of request for Fire Police for Veterans Day. 11-3-23 Save Carbon County. Motion was made to accept Tax Collectors Report, Exonerations and Communications. Councilwoman Heaney approved, Councilwoman Kuba seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwoman Kuba wanted to thank John McArdle for making the Veteran's Day Parade run smoothly with the Fire Police. John McArdle coordinated the whole parade route with all the different towns and John we would like to thank you for your work involving the parade. She asked Deb DelFranco, Secretary is all the letters went out the fire police thanking them for their participation with the parade, Deb DelFranco responded by saying, Yes letters had gone out. There was no fire report this month given. Mayor's Report: Everything went beautiful with the parade. There was a lot of cooperation with all the volunteers. The most I can say is very thankful to the people who are using their time to make the town look beautiful. It is very nice. Police Report: Magistrate Kosciolk, vehicle, crime code & Misc-#1,398.41; Magistrate Kissner- Title 75- \$243.31; Attorney General Reimbursement-\$441.36. Parking tickets-9; Moving Permits-14; Accident Report-4. Total \$2,733.08. 49 Traffic Citations; 24 Code Complaints; 11 Traffic Accidents: Total 221 for month. Thank our police they are doing an unbelievable job.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: No Report

HOUSING & CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT: No Report

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT: John McArdle stated cooperation from the Chief of Police; 3 Fire Companies cooperated together; our borough workers also need to be commended. They did an excellent job and there was communication back and forth as well as council.

Motion to accept the Police/Public Safety; Mayor's Report; Police Report; and Emergency Management Report. Councilwoman Fox approved; All in favor, motion passed.

STREETS: Bruce Nalesnik spoke about the readdressing of the Narrow Valley Sports Complex address. John McArdle has been working on it. John McArdle said that he met with the Reemans and they came up with the start of the cooperation building will be the Market Street address. It will be 20 Market

Street and since there is a potential for three addresses there we went along with did that. It would be 20, 40 & 50 Market Street. In addition, the side by McDonalds, which I would consider a Railroad Street extension, not sure if it is a borough street or not. Councilwoman Fox state that it is not a borough street. He then said, that there is a parking lot there and if they had a client for that building to utilize the parking lot on top. My suggestion, and have council decide what happen with Railroad street. They did ask about Stock Street addresses for the buildings going up along Stock Street, that would be on the southside, need a little bit more information. They are talking about several things that are going to happen there, nothing to do with Bulldogs, Sports Complex itself. At this time, I would prefer to hold off on anything more until we get more definite plans. If it becomes something that we have to do, I can probably make it work, sooner or later going to have to bite the bullet there. Bruce Nalesnik said he was approached by two separate entities, businesses. St. Luke's site, they have physical therapy on West Railroad Street, they asked if they could paint the curb right in front of their entrance for proper patient dropoff for physical therapy and also asked to put a crosswalk across the street, so requesting council permission for that as well as the building directly next to borough building that has been vacant for several years. The store front is not occupied, I have been asked by the owner of that building, if they could designate one site there for their business to have a sign put there that they would purchase with the designated business hours similar to what the pharmacy has down the street. Asking council's approval to let those entities know to proceed with those two parking situations. President Hawk believes we need to do an Ordinance for parking, but Councilman Nalesnik said that the pharmacy already has it. President Hawk believes it is granted by Ordinance. President Hawk stated that we could make a motion to approve them based on any Ordinance or Resolution that needs to be taken. Councilman Nalesnik made a motion that we tentatively approved these parking spots and signs for businesses contingent upon the compliance with the Ordinance that we currently have. Beforehand, I will check with attorney if there is anything additional they need to do. President Hawk asked that we get written requests, Councilmen Nalesnik said he has one and it does state times of operation and he will check on the other one. Motion to tentatively approve the parking restriction request based on any satisfaction of any Ordinances or Resolutions that need to be amended to accommodate. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Also, Motion to approve 20, 40 and 50 Market Street for the Narrow Valley Sports Complex and notify the post office and 911. Councilwoman Kuba approved; Councilwoman Guardini seconded. All in favor yes, motion passed. President Hawk was contacted by Matt Johnson from the railroad, Tippetts Road Crossing is considered a private crossing. It was never adopted as a public crossing by PUC. Just for information, Mountain Road leading into Amatek is also a private crossing. The crossings in town and on Industrial Road are public. The Tonoli road is a public crossing, but again Tippetts is not an avenue we never have gone through with PUC to turn them into public crossing. The railroad has a desire to install upgraded signaling and gates at Mountain Avenue and Tippetts road, because Mountain avenue being private they are working with Amatek on coming up with an agreement with installation and cost of installing gates, even though Mountain Avenue is a borough street the crossing itself is a private crossing certainly in the eyes of the PUC. Since it primarily profits Amatek, the railroad is working with them and he said they think they will reach an agreement and be able to get gates installed. They would like to put gates up at Tippetts, because they get numerous calls and complaints as to why no gates at Tippetts. But because of it being a private crossing, it kind of presents a problem for them, what he has told, that is the borough would entertain we own Tippetts road from 54 down to the southside of the crossing, but the road on the northside is privately owned. It is half owned by the properties on both sides. He asked about the borough acquiring 20 feet beyond the crossing, if there was a way to do. I said maybe by eminent domain. If we take over the 20feet of the road way so that it was actually a public street on both sides, there is something in the legislation that would allow them to obtain funding to put in the signaling even though it is a private crossing, there is public road on both sides. The questions is do we want to pursue having the Solicitor look into obtaining

20 feet of Tippetts road ,northside of the crossing in order to help get gates in there. Councilwoman Guardiani asked, why would they not work with the owner? President Hawk responded by saying, he is not sure if they have approached the owner. Councilwoman Fox proceeded to state that for six months she has been waiting for Matt Johnson to call her back about the pipe going down to the sewer plant. We are willing to put the pipe in, he did not call me back until I spoke with the police officer for the railroad last Sunday and to let Matt Johnson know that she has been waiting for his phone call since August. She stated that she called him numerous times, I've called the real estate person for the railroad, Robert Yurchak gave her phone number and email. Never heard a word evidently the police officer did speak with Matt Johnson and Matt messaged me and said Mary I will give you a all this week, I have not heard from him yet, so tell Matt Johnson when I hear from him about the pipe going into the sewer plant, we will think about putting that forward. According to council members Matt Johnson has not returned any phones to any of them.

Councilman Nalesnik said on the Rush side, the railroad crossing at the main entrance, is that actually private or Rush side. President hawk was not sure. John Mcardle said that the road is Rush Township, we had an accident there and Rush Township owns that track of land all the way down to the gate, and I always thought it was owned by Lake Hauto, because they took care of the road, they have an agreement there were Rush Township provides Lake Hauto with salt and material and it is on them. Mountain Avenue is a private crossing. Even though we own the road on both sides, it is still a private crossing. Councilman Nalesnik said that he would like the Solicitor to check on it and if that is the case, then his caveat would if you put a gate there, then also put one on Allen Street. President Hawk stated that they do eventually want to get a gate on Allen Street as well. When they redid the crossing, they said that the put provisions in there for it. Councilmen Nalesnik state that the Winter parking signs will be going up and he is meeting with the workers for the signage and the snow removal process plan, so everyone is on the same page. Equipment ready. They had some work done on the vehicles and got all that completed. The mower has been maintained properly. The Christmas lights were also discussed, so the end of month the Christmas lights will be up. Councilwoman Kuba would like to thank the borough workers for helping in doing all the banners and flags. Mike Gruber was great, we were able to get all banners and flags down in one day. It was really an asset to have them help. Councilwoman Fox asked Councilmen Nalesnik to schedule sometime with Andy and let her know about putting the Christmas lights up. He is going to take the bucket truck and I do have all the lights in the garage and the Christmas tree lighting would be December 1st at 6:00 pm. And will be caroling at the church.

SEWER: Councilwoman Fox asked the make a motion to accept the September 2023 Sewer/Sanitation Adjustment Report. Councilwoman Kuba approved; Councilwoman Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. Councilwoman Fox asked to make a motion to award Environmental Service Corp bid on the sludge hauling contract- 100% Unit Price 0.099, extended Price \$44,325.00. We did get other bids from Biros Septic Unit Price 0.103 and Waste Management at 0.112. She is asked to make a motion to award the contract to Environmental Service Corp. Motion by Councilwoman Fox approved; Councilwoman Heaney seconded t o Environmental Service Corp at a Unit Price of \$0.099, extended price of \$44,325.00. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Councilmen Nalesnik, some updates, New Columbus Park the electrical work has been completed with assistance by borough workers. The pedestal is inside the park and we are waiting now for a loop hole that PPL wants to install before they connect the power and the subsequent inspection so the meter base can be installed we are moving there finally and hopefully we will have power there soon. The pedestal was placed right next to the steps at the stonewall. Still on New Columbus Park, even though we got some quoted figures on an email, I am waiting for an actual on the topographical and boundry survey for New Columbus Park as part of a grant for part of the renovation

project so waiting for that from Brinkash, so we need to wait until we actually have the quote from them. I am hoping to have it by next meeting for council. On Industrial Road, we approved Grant application preparation with ARRO Engineering, they continue to do the ground work on that and gathering all the information for formal grant request. They are also talking with Senator Argall's office on the type of grants, so hopeful to have something in January from what they are telling me, they would have a more formal update, Industrial Road Grant. Recreation Center, the environmental study has been completed, the results are in your packets. There is no obvious hazardous with operating the building, no hazardous environment there. They did find asbestos under the floor in two areas, so as long as that is not repeated or interrupted there are no hazardous conditions to the public, so when the time comes when we are awarded the Grant for renovation at that time the remediation of that asbestos material will be included in the Grant and the work to be done. Other than that the Recreation Center passed all other environmental studies which environmental study is part of the actual Grant preparation that needs to be done prior. For the Recreation Center there is an upcoming meeting with an architectural engineer get more into the site prep, preliminary drawing estimates and things like that as a way of compiling a formal package that we then can take to the appropriate legislative offices and pursue the Grant, all ordinary work done to go to them with a formal plan. In the Borough building the alarm system has been installed, the monitoring has not started yet when we have to proper financial card to do which in the works. The alarm system was installed by me, which, includes fire, carbon monoxide, monitoring, entry and flooding water sensors.

SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE: Councilwoman Guardiani in prep for what is to come a year from now September, I would like to discuss our current sanitation contract will expire September 30, 2024. We currently are in a five year contract with Tamaqua Transfer and the cost of that five year contract for the borough was at \$1,936,000.00 and that was five year contract, which was signed October 2019. Tamaqua Transfer just did their proposal, of course it has to go out for bid, but Jim Thorpe just put theirs out for bid and the lowest bid was in fact Tamaqua Transfer and a three year contract was \$2,700,000.00. A five year contract came in at \$4,600,000.00, so a five year contract that we signed about five years ago was \$2,000,000.00 is now at \$4,600,000.00, so we are to prepare for this, so Jim Thorpe right now is looking at a three contract with Tamaqua Transfer and their sanitation bills are going from \$25.00 per month to \$50.69 more than double. So in prep for this, so that people don't get hit over the head with a bill in September, I am proposing that we look at generating money into our Sanitation Fund, so how I would like to do this is, currently when sewer and sanitation are paid, it is paid as one unit, when it comes into the borough, it is separated and so much of it goes into sewer and so much into sanitation. The sewer account is doing well, sanitation we are going to need money what we are proposing on doing is split the bill differently. We would take \$5.00 off the sewer bill that is currently \$30.00, and make that \$25.00 and take the \$5.00 of the sewage money and transfer to sanitation and on top of that make a slight increase to the sanitation, so looking at increments, we just did the \$5.00 transfer and added nothing, with 1565 accounts being paid for monthly we would end up with about a \$94,000.00 buff. Obviously from what I just told you about the upcoming contract numbers, it is going to be nothing. A \$10.00 increase on the bills that will be put into sanitation and that would end up giving us a buff of \$187,000.00 a year. Is it enough, no but it is where we need to start. We don't want the people to end up with a double bill next year. \$25.00 a month may not be much to some of use, but to some other it is a lot of money. Try and do this in an increment. The motion I would like to make is that sewage to give a \$5.00 transfer to sanitation and then another \$5.00 increase to each bill to begin to cover what's coming down the line for sanitation. Motion by Councilwoman Guardiani to adjust the rates for sanitation and sewer rate. The sewer rate would decrease by \$5.00 and the sanitation would increase by \$10.00, but \$5.00 transferring to sanitation. Motion made by Councilwoman Guardiani, Councilwomen Fox seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed. The

second thing I wanted to discuss and a letter of support. Discuss the Blue Print Communities. Joe and Lois and I have been moving forward with Lansford, Summitt Hill and Coaldale as the Panther Valley Community, to submit our application to become a Blue Print Community. We have been meeting regularly with the other surrounding communities to find tune our application which is due December 1, 2023. If we are chosen as a blue print community it is a 10 year commitment, some of us are going to be representing the team and proceeding through an 18 month training program to design a plan and implement initiatives for our communities. This is an incredible opportunity for revitalization, development and redevelopment. We are hoping to get this designation, if it comes through, it puts us in a great position to see changes in all of our towns. Each of the towns are required to have a letter of support from borough council, stating that you support the efforts of applying for this blue print communities designation, so David, you have the letter to sign. Motion by Councilwoman Fox, seconded by Councilwomen Heaney to approve the letter of support in Blue Print Communities application. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

RECREATION: Councilwomen Kuba stated that the park schedule is still on. Bids will be done soon. Johnson Jacobs Park. Everything is on scheduled, spoke with Brian Smith last week and we have not heard anything on the second grant. November 30th the recreation center will be having an ornament making event for the children. December 10th will be Christmas Party, sign up until the 27th of November and that will be at 5:00 pm. Santa will be arriving after 5 pm. December 1st at 6:00pm at St. Patrick's Cemetary, we will be having the lighting of the Christmas tree and caroling and then off to Meads Memorial Church for refreshments. December 4th will be the next meeting of Recreation Commission. Future things for the new year. Kiddie Bingo, Gun Bingo. McDonalds asked to announce that now til Sunday in their playroom a basket raffle for a couple of things and all proceeds will go the Ronald McDonald House. Library has a lot going on almost daily , storytelling, gingerbread house making. Santa will be there on the 3rd. There is a basket raffle on Sunday, happy that Tyler Sherle is back in commission. Tyler was sick and out of commission for 6 weeks.

BUDGET/FINANCE: Councilwoman Heaney said the budget is moving forward. Bruce informed her earlier that going to try and get budget meetings together with herself, Bruce, David and Lacey so can get back on track. Lacey has been a huge help to the committee. End of year, trying to get all transfers done and give Deb some insight of what she has signed up for. Councilwoman Fox said that we are going to have to call a special meeting. What is the mil rate this year, no one knew. Last year it was like 63,000.00. At that time the new rate had not come in. Councilwoman asking the Budget committee is the budget would be done by the end of the month, to which they responded that they hoped to have a special meeting in December to tentatively adopt the budget.

PERSONNEL & SAFETY: Councilwoman Fox spoke about the PMHIC Consortium Agreement for the Health Insurance for the borough. The borough is going to have the same insurance as last year the policy will be the same with Highmark, but we are entering in a Consortium with the water authority to provide through Benecon. We did this a few years ago and we are going to go back into that this year, because we could do a savings in the consortium up to \$55,000.00 a year, so hopefully our savings would be close to \$5,000.00 per month for being in the consortium. We did have to go into the consortium with 15 employees that the borough did not have so the water authority employees will be included in the this consortium. So I am going to make a motion to pass the PMHIC Consortium Agreement. Councilwoman Kuba seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

Motions to accept all committee reports. Councilwoman Fox made motion, Councilwoman Heaney seconded. All in favor of motion, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Councilmen Nalesnik spoke about website update. At the last meeting said that it was up and running. A lot of technical issues regarding our old emails looking into transfer them to the new, after some back and forth between diversified and internet, the best decision was for diversified to maintain the emails. They agree that they will maintain the domain and that internet will maintain the website hosting, they work well together. Let the domain and hosting remain the same. We didn't want to lose emails because of the police department and the content. Councilwoman Fox asked if the cost would change. The response was no the original invoice will stay the same and website hosting only about \$220.00 a year. And we have total support for a year and next July if we decide to figure that out I think would we be more than capable of doing on our own. Councilwoman Kuba said that if anyone wants to put donations for the animal shelter have until Monday and then we will switch over to donations for the food pantry. Can goods, non-parishables, any kind of healthcare needs, toothpaste, toilet paper, shaving cream, tooth brushes, shampoos. Animal shelter is in great need of laundry detergent and dish liquid.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilwoman Fox moved, Councilwoman Kuba seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Deborah DelFranco
Secretary/Treasurer