

MINUTES FOR WORKSHOP MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240**

Ray Tonkinson the applicant for a part-time police officer spoke and he mentioned that he lives in Berwick, PA and works for Salem Twp Police Department Full-Time and that he is a firearms instructor; Red dot instructor; crisis negotiator. He said that he has been part time in Tamaqua since 2008. He said that his availability would be night shift, usually his Full Time job he works 10:00 pm til 8:00 am. He said we were looking for a cover shift and he is looking for a twelve hour shift. This is the last night at my Full-Time job, so my rotation off would be, I usually work every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and then Wednesday, I could work. Every other weekend also. Councilwomen Kuba said that it is good that you are familiar with the area. Councilwomen Kuba said that it is good that you have all this knowledge and could bring it to the Borough for an OutReach program. Ray said he finished up the FBI training for crisis negotiator. Councilmen Kattner said that he has gone through the courses already that we are now sending our Police to. Ray also mentioned that he teaches at the Police Academy. He mentioned that his last student was Samantha Janner who is now a Full-Time Police Officer with the Borough. He also said that he has worked with most of the police at the Borough.

President Hawk called meeting to order at 6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN OBSERVANCE OF 9/11.

ROLL CALL: COUNCILWOMEN/COUNCILMEN: FOX, SHUBECK, SMITH, KUBA, NALESNIK, KATTNER, PRESIDENT HAWK. MAYOR KATTNER ABSENT

PURPOSE: Committee/Workshop Meeting. President Hawk mentioned that we do not have a specific hearing of visitors on the agenda, this is a discussion meeting for Council, that we don't take action at these meetings, however if we are discussing a subject and you do wish to speak, we will recognize you.

Sam Kitchko said that he was in Jim Thorpe this morning with the 911 celebration that they have and the COG decided to do something for the first responders so we are giving \$500.00 to each community that is in the COG for their fire departments. We have three in Nesquehoning, so they are going to have to split it up. So here is you check for \$500.00. Sam Kitchko asked if he could have put on the agenda for the next meeting, that the Conservation Club will be applying for a LSA Grant for new equipment and that they will pay for the fee of \$100.00. He would like to borough to sponsor the Conservation Club.

Cathy and Rick Reaman said that they were inquiring about the soccer field along Industrial Road, we were inquiring if the Borough would have any desire to lease us the field, we will obviously maintain them, we do have coaches lined up. Councilwomen Kuba stated that you mentioned that if you would move the entrance a little bit. Cathy Reaman showed plans to council. She said that the current driveway, which I understand is to close to the property and we had our surveyor up and they could move it 30 feet to the west and there are not wetlands in there, we made sure, that would solve a couple of problems, the proximity of the railroad tracks, it will make it a little bit more easier to get in. The only thing we need to check into is if we could park on the field, so it would be after the ditch for the railroad, but we want to make sure we have enough parking on that space so we are not blocking Industrial Road, so that is the only thing we do not have laid out yet. There were multiple soccer fields on that lot and we are looking to do one. If we could do more eventually that would be great, but for right now only one. It would go east to west and like I said we would move the entrance to make it easier with the railroad and traffic. She showed the map and such to Council. Cathy Reaman said that the teams would practice inside during the winter, we are doing adult leagues and during the week we are developing the Narrow Valley Trouble Team for us, so we are looking at ages 10-12 so that is where we would be practicing. Councilwomen Kuba mentioned that maybe down the road we could have lighting down there and concession stands. Cathy Reaman said that right now it is not in the realm of things. Councilmen Nalesnik said that they have been contemplating on what the do with that property and I think it is a great idea. I think we should move forward with a lease agreement preparation. He said maybe we could have our attorney do the agreement. Cathy Reaman said that the only thing they would ask is if they could get the entrance moved before winter, but that way we have a chance of getting it grown in. President Hawk asked if they would do the entrance. Cathy Reaman said that yes, we would be doing the entrance work. Rick Reaman said that any of the improvements that needed to be done, we would handle all of that. Councilwomen Kuba asked if they would also take care of the grass. Cathy Reaman said yes, they would take care of the grass. She said that they would have bleachers and a portable potty and that we would like to start playing there in the Spring, that is the goal. President Hawk said that we could take a look at it and have something we could take action on in the next two weeks. Councilmen Nalesnik said that we would need the deed description so we know what it is exactly like. Also, clarify the parking, so we know and the entrance. Councilwomen Kuba said the original agreement was that there was no parking on the field. That would cause more damage to the field. Cathy Reaman said that we would have to stare people to a certain section for parking. Councilwomen Fox said that I was told you could do wetlands as long as you replace them some other location.

STREETS: Councilman Nalesnik said so this Center Street paving and concrete ramp project, the specs will be released and hopefully the bids will be received by noon on the 25th of September and we could award at the meeting that evening. We put in a bid that the concrete ramps will be done this year, but that we would have a window of allowing the paving to be done at the break of winter next spring. We extended the time line for the work to be done and there might be change orders done if needed. It may go up or stay the same, the hope is to get the concrete work done this year. The first

two blocks of Center Street. Some specs and pricing are being obtained for a possible Super Duty Small one ton dump truck, so the street committee will be getting specs and maybe a proposal to council at the October workshop with specs and payment options for council to consider moving forward. The truck we presently have, we always did have, but we sold the one several years ago, so a decision was made to sell the truck. It is the most useful truck we had. Councilwomen Fox asked if we have the plow from the other truck. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that we do still have the plow and it would be crossed over to the new truck. The pricing is to remount the current plow that we already have and remount the spreader. We are probably saving at least \$15,000.00 by having those items.

Councilmen Kattner said that we know that most people are here for the curbing issue. Earlier today myself, Councilwomen Smith and Bill McMullen, from ARRO, we met on Park Avenue and we heard the concerns of the property owners. They are concerned about water, with curbing being installed. The issue of how much curbing is going to come back onto, the borough streets, their yards, with the cost of removing the shrubs and trees and who does that fall under, and also the cost of them not being able to afford curbing and needing some sort of plan to loan or something of that matter, so after we met with Mr. McMullen, he did send an email this afternoon to us and I would like to read it to you. Bill McMullen stated, "I did visit the site this morning and there is no visible reason why curbing would not be possible on Park Avenue. As of other parcels, the installation of curbs may require property owners to make provisions for water runoff from their property, adjust their driveway and remove trees and shrubs." Councilmen Kattner said that was Mr. McMullen's recommendation or his words. He also did mention that we did have the letter go out to the homeowners, that a possible date of the end of October for, the curbing to be installed. He did admit to us that, there is no way possible that he could foresee having the grades to make that date happen. He does feel it needs to be pushed out until next year. Councilmen Kattner said that the other things the Council would need to consider, if the borough could somehow make it happen or afford to offer some sort of reasonable payment plans to the homeowners, if we could assist them with the cost of this project. While we would be assisting the homeowners of Park Avenue, we also would have to offer that the East Diaz as well. Councilwomen Smith stated that I have the letter and it said that they are to respond to the borough by October 1st as to how they are going to proceed and the project needs to be completed by the end of the year. She said, even that is not a realistic time frame to get that done or to get contractors to respond. So it is on record that the homeowner needs to respond the borough by October 1st as to what they are going to be doing and that the project completed by the end of 2024. Councilmen Kattner stated that the homeowners did mention, that since it was no curbing for years, why can't we just go forward with an overlay, and I did want to mention that at the meeting, because they did point that out to me. He said that is what went on with today's meeting. I believe going forward the date needs to be different going forward. I think we need to push out the dates, like Bill said there is no way of doing this at this time. Councilwomen Smith said, I know that it is upsetting for some to hear, when I said, when asked, I wouldn't change it. Do I think we could adjust other situations regarding this, yes I think we need to adjust time frames and things like that, but as far as rescinding or removing the vote to mandate curbing, as I expressed earlier I would not be changing my vote. I am one

vote, and it is up to Council, but to me, we made the decision, we should be moving forward with the progress of the decision, but trying to mediate the situation to get the work done feasible in a time frame and offering potential payment arrangements as they have done in the past. Councilwomen Fox said, if we are going to be offering payment arrangements to the people in the Estates, we are also going to have to do it for the people on East Diaz. The Borough would have to go and take a loan to put all the curbing in. Lisa Lapos from Park Avenue said, if we all on Park Avenue answer that we can not afford this and the people of East Diaz said the same. Councilwomen Smith did state nobody on East Diaz has called and said they could not do the curbing. 90% of them called and told the borough who they were going to use for the curbing job. So if we are the rescind it for the people of Park Avenue, how would that be fair for us to go back to East Diaz. Lisa Lapos then said, if you say no to a payment plan, but we still can't pay, the borough is going to end up paying for curbing anyway, because you said in your letter. Councilwomen Smith said that I am not opposed to a feasible payment arrangement, I know that the borough has gotten burnt in the past, but as I said before, we can not hold it against a resident for a failing to recoup the money that owned to the borough for whatever happened. Someone had a job to do in collecting that money and they did not do it. Lisa Lapos said, if we can not do it, the borough has to fund it and even if we pay for it down the line, the borough is still funding the project. I just want to add about the rain water, with my mom's property, she does not have a basement, because it is the ground water coming up and when we have a rainstorm, and with the curbing, I think it would come up will hold it in the yard. Lisa Lapos stated that Park Avenue has not been paved in 40/50 years and it has lasted this long without a curb and in front of my mother's house is not bad, it is down by the intersection that it is bad, so it lasted this long without a curb, so why is there curbing required now? Jessica Aungst said, if I am understanding correctly, Bill the engineer of this project wasn't at location upon until today is that correct. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that he has been there plenty of times before. Jessica Aungst showed a map of the area. She stated that it was said to day that there are no evidence of wetlands. We brought the property behind us and on the map she pointed to all the wetlands and said that when it is severely raining it all comes into our yard, and this is a flood zone from the wetlands. Councilwomen Smith said, let me clarify something, Lisa you said earlier in the day, that if you do not have a mortgage then flood insurance is not required. She asked Jessica is it was required upon her mortgage and she stated yes and that she does have flood insurance. She went on to say the here is our drainage, the entire length of my property does have drainage, it has been there. She showed a picture of the hole that fills up with water. She also said that to say that there is no evidence of wetlands, there is certainly wetlands here. Councilwomen Smith said that Bill McMullen did not say there was no evidence of wetlands, he said there was nothing evident to prevent curbing, because of wetlands. Precautions need to be taken, or may require more. Jessica Aungst said that they already and inlet and she asked if that was going to removed? Councilmen Nalesnik stated that if we need to move the inlet, we will move the inlet. Councilwomen Smith stated that when the engineer explained to me today, that curbing on that side versus the other side is because the drainages are on that side. Jessica Aungst said that last month the borough said they did not know who owned the property across the street from us, so a land development plan done before the premature letter

was sent out? Councilmen Nalesnik stated that it is a repaving not a land construction. So Jessica Aungst asked how many feet down is the paving going down? Councilmen Nalesnik said that it was in the specs. Councilmen Nalesnik said that the grading will be determined by the surveyors and then ARRO engineer will make sure the curbing will be done to the grade requirements by the surveyors. Councilwoman Smith said that her property is going to be recessed because of your driving pad. Jessica Aungst asked why wasn't curbing put in on other streets, like Marconi, or old Hauto Road? Councilmen Nalesnik did mention that all of Columbus Ave is curbed and was curbed. He went on to say that we repaved Columbus Ave. I am not going to defend curbing or no curbing, but you are right, we did pave some alleys in New Columbus that did not mandate curbing. Councilman Kattner stated that it is in the Ordinance and it is at the discretion of council. It is up to the council of that year as to whether or not they want curbing or not. Lisa Lapos stated that when Bill McMullen was there on Park Avenue he made light of the wetlands and just Cathy and Rick coming here today, wetlands are a big deal and with him making light of the wetlands, but it is still a wetlands. With the water from the wetlands it is going to cause my mom to have more water than she has now. The wetlands come out to the street. Councilwoman Smith said that she did not think that Bill was there to make light of the wetlands, he was there to say what can be done about it. Lisa Lapos said that if you put curbing in you are disturbing the wetlands. Jessica Aungst said she contacted the other boroughs today because I wanted to find out if they offered payments for something like this, and I spoke with Beaver Meadows, I talked to Slatington and Lehigh county. They said that could not believe that have been given a month to decide on what we were going to do and they always offer payment plans and it is usually 24 months depending on the bill. They look at it case by case, not like Nesquehoning. They do not think it is a whole and it is based on the job. I understand, but there has to be payment plan for everything, but if other boroughs are doing it and Nesquehoning is not. I want Nesquehoning to strive, I believe in the borough. I think it is great of what Cathy and Rick Reaman is doing. For you to say that your vote is not going to change and not hearing the people, that does not make a good person on council. You should hear and understand what the people are saying. Councilmen Nalesnik said that as everyone here knows, I was not for curbing. I voiced against it for several months, I was outvoted, so I will go along with Council. I don't think it is a good precedence and a good idea to offer financing for curbing. I just don't think it is in the boroughs interest to finance private property projects for people on the backs of the taxpayers. We did not offer financing plans to the residents on Willow Lane, we were forced to put curbing in at the end of the project out of desperation because they at the very end refused to do it, and then we tried to collect monies for that and have been unsuccessful since and honestly if we finance, then everyone is going to jump in on it, so what enforcement do we have versus a bank, when you go to a bank you get a home equity loan, pay on it five, ten years, with us if we offer finance then it is on the backs of the taxpayers and what enforcement do we have, we could put a lien on the property, but that could be twenty, thirty years until the house is sold again and we still may not get our money back. Councilwoman Smith said that the homeowners seem to think that the lien was meant as a threat, it was not. It was said because maybe someday we could collect the monies that are owed. Councilman Nalesnik said that we could be out thousands of dollars of taxpayers money, this is

mileage and never get it back, I just think it is a bad idea and to pick the winners and losers, that is worse yet, we can not pick and choose who we would for financing for. Willow Lane when it was done, I was not here for that, but at the end of the job and there were two or three property owners that refuse to work with the contractor, they said we are done, we had to bring in a contractor at the very end to get the job done. We told the people that we expected them to pay for the work and they said okay, but there was never any agreement and it fell through the wayside. He said, I believe is was \$17,000.00. That is an example of non-payment, except a municipal lien. I don't know what other boroughs do, but you are probably better off going to a bank for 24 months. Once again, enforcement options do we have. Lisa Lapos asked if the money that is owed could be kept along with the sewer and garbage and then when the home is sold that could be included in the closing. Councilmen Nalesnik said it is a bad idea. Whatever council decides is what they decide. He said that is why I was against it, because I knew what the cost was going to be. If we are told by an engineer that curbing was definitely mandated by them, then yes it needs to be put in, but we were not told that, so that is why I voted against. I will go with whatever Council decides, but I want it on record that Borough financing of taxpayer money is a bad idea and a bad precedence. Councilwomen Smith said that I appreciate that you said that publicly on the way you feel, so that people don't think that it has not been discussed or talked about, it has been. When we looking at it, at first the cost was \$85.00 to \$100.00 a square foot to now the most recent one is significantly lower and I heard that you are having issues with getting contact back and that is that time frame wise, we need to work on. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that he did not think that was a problem. Jessica Aungst asked for a re-vote because some council were not at the meeting and that the council members were unaware of the wetlands and borough property line. President Hawk stated that anyone at a regular meeting can make a motion. A Council member can only make a motion. Bonnie Hunaydi from 65 Park Avenue stated that she purchased her house from the Remans and that they are aware of the wetlands, they did all the drainage they could until they could not do anymore. She said Industrial is a different road, it is were trucks go and Park Avenue there are no trucks aloud. Again what I said about Cathy, she had her dealings with wetlands, she knows not to touch any of it and if I have to call DEP and ask them if we are allowed to have someone dig here. Councilwoman Fox said that maybe that is what you need to do. I was going to suggest that. If your yards are wetlands and she the said Sam Kitchko you would know something about this. Sam Kitchko said I am going to make one suggestion and then I am going to leave because I will be stirring the pot. I would leave Park Avenue alone, with the holes that are there the traffic drives slow, you pave Park Avenue it will become a race track. I would concentrate on the hills, the hills that are bad, they need drainage, there are a couple. We should try and fix the hills. Most people live on the hill and they have a nice road. I believe that you should leave Park Avenue alone, leave the holes there. Councilwomen Smith said, what is your suggestion for the residents on East Diaz, do we tell people not to worry about curbing that we are going to skip that project and go to another. Councilwomen Fox stated that East Diaz was put through as a Grant. Councilwomen Kuba said that it is job to job. President Hawk said that we are not forced to do the same on both projects. Jessican Aungst said the Councilwomen Smith, I know your daughter is dealing with water, but she is not dealing with wetland

water to where we can not dig. Councilmen Kattner asked if they are content with the condition of that road as is? They all said yes. Councilmen Kattner said that actual road as of now. Lisa Lapos said that the borough has covered the holes with cold patch. President Hawk said that we appreciate what you are saying, and that council will have to continue to discuss this matter. We can't take any official action, I am sure over the next couple of weeks we will discuss. Like I said a council member can make a motion to rescind or make a motion not to do the project. We have some options to consider, at the upcoming meeting we might have some action to take. We thank you for coming tonight to express your opinion and ideas. I know there were several things brought up here tonight that weren't previously brought up. Bonnie Hunaydi said that in the future, could something be put out to the residents before a decision like this one is made. Councilwomen Smith said that the minutes are up on the Website. They stated that some do not have a computer. President Hawk said that he agreed, that not all have access to a computer. We could do a notification if something like this is going to be discussed in the future. Thank you again. Councilmen Kattner said that he had a person that lives on Railroad street, but the face of his house is on Orchard Lane. He said the road is in disrepair and he was wondering if he could pave in front of his home, even though it is borough property at his own cost. Councilwomen Fox said that this is a question for our Solicitor. Councilwomen Smith said she would hate to have something go wrong when it needs to be plowed. President Hawk said that we should speak with Robert. He also said that the resident should put a letter in stating what he would like and what the specs are before we go to Robert. President Hawk mentioned that at the Water Authority meeting the other night, the Authority did vote that they are willing to go 50/50 with the Borough for any of the drainage work up on Diaz. I guess it was mentioned at the meeting that the pipe has been looked at on Padua and it has the capacity to carry the additional water that would be put into it. There was a quote on the boxes and manholes and grates that are needed. It would be \$8995.00 for the material and it was discussed at the Water Authority, that we would probably need to rent a mini excavator, but then the borough crew and the water authority crew could do the actual work. We would get Rachoda excavator and an operator, but then the borough crew and water could do the work. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if the real issue of water running onto Diaz or diverting water from the stream in front of the property owners house, do we get serious run off onto the street from that stream. President Hawk said onto Diaz, yes, when there is heavy rain. Councilwomen Fox said, we would go 50/50 with the Water Authority. Councilwomen Nalesnik asked Bob Pilla from the sewer department if we had the pipe to do the street. He said yes we have it. Councilwomen Fox asked if the estimate was for just the inlet boxes. President Hawk responded and said yes, it is for the manholes, grates, boxes, everything except the pipe. Councilwomen Smith said that if it is done now, it will give it time to settle over the winter for when the black top came in. It would make it easier. President Hawk said that if Council agrees to it at our next meeting, the work could be done now, give it time to settle, so we will not have any issues next year. President Hawk asked to have it put on the agenda for the meeting.

SEWER: Councilwomen Fox stated that she was going to read an email from Bill McMullen. There is a pipe up at the Estates that is exposed, it did have a cement casing

around it and somehow the cement casing ended up in the woods. Bill had to apply for a permit in order to work in that area to have it fixed to the railroad. This is the answer that he received from the railroad. We will need you to also submit the following fees before we review your application. \$10,000.00 behavior money, \$1,500.00 temporary entry permit application fee and an applicant inspectors fee. It comes to about \$14,000.00 on top of what we are going to have to pay the contractor to redo the pipe. Councilmen Nalesnik asked if we would get the \$10,000.00 back, as long as we behave. President Hawk said that the behavior money is something that is standard and it is in case anything happens to the baldest of the rail. They know they have the money to remediate it, they do take that up front. And if nothing happens, they we get the money back. Councilwomen Fox stated that we also have a \$1,500.00 temporary entry permit application fee. President Hawk said that is a standard fee. Councilwomen Fox then said we then have to pay a \$1,000.00 a day for their inspector. President Hawk did say that, that it is their standard fees and they are not price gauging us in any way. He said that the behavior money could be much more depending on the size of the job. With the meeting we had with them a couple of months ago, I think it would be worthwhile for us rather than ARRO to possibly waiving some of these fees. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he spoke with Bill today on another matter, and we did touch briefly on this situation and he is reaching out to the railroad other than Matt. Deb DelFranco stated that Bill reached out to Jolene and that Jolene responded and said that she received his request and that she would bring it to the next meeting that the railroad had. He will let us know what the outcome is.

Councilwomen Fox mentioned that there is not much going on with sewer. Bob Pilla did mention that the easement for the Lake Hauto Club was signed and ready to go. Councilwomen Fox stated that the letters did go out with regarding the smoke testing, the down spouting into the sewer system, Bob has gotten some, he stated that he received three calls and we sent out 12 letters. The time frame on was 30 days from the date of the letter to response. Bob Pill did say that the biggest one was the Church. He said he does not know what their response is going to be. He said that ½ was the church and ½ was the rectory.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Councilmen Kattner stated, the wire guys were at the police station and found that the relay switch and limit switch were no good. That could be the main problem that has caused the problem. The wire guys are going to call with the price of the items to the secretary and we can move quickly to get this fixed. The tree that is dead in New Columbus park will be taken down either October 7th or 8th, as the tree people seem to be in demand. Councilwomen Fox said when you are saying about the generators, she asked Bob Pilla, does the generator at the rec center, does automatically test itself? Bob Pilla said, it won't cycle so the battery is dead. There are two generators, one behind for the police department and one in the front for the rec center. This one for the rec center, I have an extra battery. It will not cycle, that keeps the battery charge. It should cycle once a week and that should charge the battery and that is not taking place. Councilman Kattner said that once we have the police generator all set, maybe we should have them take a look at the rec center generator before the winter time. We will have the wire guys look at the rec center and give a

quote. Councilwomen Kuba stated that the land at LCC. I have been up to see the land and Robert is in contact with Attorney Frank from LCC on what the particulars are. Maintenance, insurance. If it is feasible to turn over to the Borough, it has to go to a 501, if the borough says no, the historical society will take it. Conservation Club was looking also at it, but if the borough says no, the Historical Society will take, we want the land. Councilwomen Fox said the acres are 41 and 39 are going green and can not be used, but it can be used if okayed by DEP. The land is close to Tonoli Road which is 4 acres can be used. Back in the day there was a cement plant, so they did not have keep on bringing trucks in there. Councilwomen Kuba stated that I spoke with Doctor B from the LCC and they are very happy to turn it back over to us. It is a gorgeous piece of land. It is like the hidden gem. It is from Tonoli Road all the way up to Tippetts Road. We went and talked with bio-hazard and there is water and sewage over there. Borough will have first crack at it. They can not sell it, it would have to go back to a 501. I think it is a great idea. President Hawk said that Robert was checking into things and maybe he will have an update at the September meeting.

POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwomen Kuba stated we had a meeting with Chief and he suggested for the part time police officer, we met him tonight. Chief will go through all the checks and see what pans out. We will get reference letters before any hiring. I think it is a good thing that we have people seeking out part time work. Just to fill in, and I did tell you before that there is a possibility with Rick Bekesy turning 62 this year, that he will have to watch his hours. He may not be able to do the three days a week. Civil Service, we also had a meeting with them, we are in the mix of comprising a list of full time officers that want employment in the area, so we are going to try to branch out and involve other towns as much as we can and there will be a master list, if we can, that we can go over and see what we can get. It will start with Nesquehoning and see where to go from there. I spoke with Christine from Senator Argall office and she said that there are no LSA Grants out there for police vehicles. Senator Argall believes in more tangible projects right now. We might have to go federal to see if there is anything out there for the police vehicle. We also met with the three fire chiefs. Everything went well. We did bring up the sign on the road on Mill Street. It falls down and they keep picking it up and placing it up. What we are going to try and do is to ask the railroad if there is any possibility if they could locate the sign on the other side of the railroad. We are going to ask. Councilmen Nalesnik stated that the reason the sign was put in was for their regulation of the signal box across from has to be, it is mounted per regulations, just to clarify they do own that section of Mill Street, we can see what they say. They did inquire about barricading that part of the street. It may happen, I have asked them to send me a proposal to me first to see if we could come to an agreement on things like traffic, but have not gotten anything as of yet. Councilwoman Kuba stated that there will be a bake sale this Friday and it will benefit the purchase of new flags for the borough, the second bake sale will take place on October 11th will be for community events. Councilwomen Fox asked if it was talked about the SOP, policy and procedures for the police department being updated, because they have not been updated since 2006. Councilwomen Kuba said he was looking into having that done with a company to find out what the cost was to storage. He said this company updates this automatically. Councilwomen Fox said that their computers needs to be looked at.

Councilmen Kattner mentioned that the Charger was hauled off the Renchlers to be looked at.

SANITATION & QUALITY OF LIFE: Councilwomen Smith stated that we received the garbage contract back from Robert and reviewed and everything was changed that Tamaqua Transfer agreed to. I know that they were going over the bills and what the increase could possibly be and I think the final discussion was, because we have that \$5.00 bump the last time the rates were done, you could leave it at 5.00 increase, but then that might suck up anything we may put aside or we can potentially look at a \$10.00 increase. Councilwomen Kuba stated that we are going to eat some of the cost for October, November, December. I also think it is a good idea to increase by \$10.00. Councilwomen Fox said that a couple of years ago, we took \$5.00 off sewer and then last year we took \$5.00 off sewer. Councilwoman Smith said that we are better off doing the increase in one shot, so later on down the line we do not do a significant increase that will be much harder to come by. It would be \$75.00 for the sewer and garbage bill per month. Under Blight, Councilwomen Smith said that we did receive a check for the tear down of 208 yard street. We were talking with Chip about getting together to put together some sort of policy for emergency tear downs. Apparently, there was an insurance policy on that property. Councilwomen Shubeck mentioned that there was someone who wanted to purchase the property, but was afraid if there was a lien on it because of the fire. Quality of Life: Councilwomen Fox asked about the rental license and do we have a lot that came back. Debbie DelFranco said that they were coming in at a large amount. There are three binders full of them and now they are just trickling in. Councilwomen Fox said that we talked about raising the fee for the rental licenses. As far as short-term rentals, we still have not gotten anything in on, and there is a lot of stuff listed in Nesquehoning for air b & b, that we don't even know about. I think that is something we really need to look into. Councilwomen Smith stated that the fee amount that we discussed earlier was extremely high it was like \$600.00. Councilwomen Fox said that we do not want this to fall through the cracks. Councilwomen Smith said that we can email the proposed rental agreement and make any changes that we think may be needed. We do not want this to go to the wayside. Councilwomen Smith said that she spoke with Chip earlier this week about the dumpster down at the property on Mill Street, Family Promise, they were asked to get a dumpster and every week that I go by, the garbage that they have out there really exceeds the dumpster that they have, so I asked him to look at it and to reach out to them and let them know, that there are going to have to increase the pickups or get a dumpster that accommodates that amount of garbage. I did have a resident approach me today, from what they are saying the police have been there numerous times in the last couple of weeks, and to their understanding, it was a shelter for women and children and there are men living there. Councilwomen Fox said that it was okayed for family living. The shelter was suppose to be for women and children, but has been approved for family. Councilwomen Smith said that the garbage is outrageous and I am not sure how many times it is being picked up, so that is why I have asked Chip to go and look at the situation. Family Promise was asked to get a dumpster because of the increase in the garbage that they have.

RECREATION: Councilwomen Shubeck said that the meeting for the Rec Commission will be October 7th at 7:00 pm. Councilwomen Smith mentioned that the basket raffle is on Friday, September 20th from 6-8 and on Saturday, September 21st from 10-4 with the drawing at 4:00pm. That is what they have on the schedule. Councilwomen Kuba said that hopefully within the next few days the park will be under construction that is Johnson Memorial Park. They were in contact with Deb for the paperwork. Deb said that Michael from Barry Isett was waiting for some paperwork from the contractor. Councilwomen Kuba stated that the road department got everything together earlier because Andy was going on vacation. Councilmen Kattner asked that as the time got closer to construction that the road department maybe put up another No Parking sign. Councilwomen Kuba said that if all goes as planned, the finished product will be October. Councilwomen Fox mentioned that they would be bringing some of the cement down to the sewer plant. Councilwomen Kuba said that Lisa, and Sue and myself were talking when they do the Christmas up at the park (New Columbus), how many Christmas trees do you think for electric could be plugged in. Councilmen Nalesnik said that there is more than enough, especially if they use LED lights. It needs to be mandated that they use LED lighting for the trees. The fire company is doing a Truck or Treat, so that will be their community event for the town, and New Columbus and Hauto will do the Christmas up in the park. It will not be the recreation commission. Councilwomen Smith stated that the three fire companies have agreed to each hold an event. Hauto doesn't really have the area, so they are going to work with New Columbus on the event. I think the trees are going to look great. We are looking to get at least 25 trees up there. Councilmen Nalesnik mentioned about putting on the agenda next meeting about what night is trick or treat in town. President Hawk said that the mayor normally designates the date and time. Councilwomen Kuba said the next thing for Recreation is that we get the approval from Council for the LSA grant from Blue Print for the Christmas tree lights. We will not know until early Spring, but hopefully we will get it. It is a \$25,000.00 grant. I have been grateful for the help from Senator Argall's office and Dave Wargo on teaching me how to write a grant, I am learning. Deb is going to help me submit to the grant next week. Coaldale and Lansford chose not to do it this year because they had other stuff going on. We need to figure out where to put these lights throughout the town.

BUDGET & FINANCE: Councilwomen Kuba said that at the end of September, early October will set up a Budget meeting with Deb. Deb mentioned that she would like to meet with the street, and building and grounds and possibly sanitation.

President Hawk said that he sent out an email last week or something about the CRIZ, the community revitalization improvement zone, maybe getting involved with as part of the Blue Print Communities. Councilwomen Kuba stated that right now the way it stands with Blue Print, we are just getting our feet wet with this. When Tamaqua did that, they were probably into it around 6 or 7 years and we are not ready to do that yet. What you have to do is to pinpoint so many miles in the community. It involved taking away from the community, but that money comes back to the community. We talked Saturday at our meeting and we are not ready for this step yet. We are not ready to jump into that, it is on hold right now.

PERSONNEL & SAFETY: Councilwomen Fox asked if everyone had a chance to look over the teamster contract, so that we can vote on whether to accept it at our September meeting. She said that Mark Laubach from teamsters did not receive the job description, Deb DelFranco will send it over to him the next day. Councilwomen Fox stated that we need a cleaning person for the office. I thought we were set with Stephanie, but I guess not, she got a full -time job. So possibly is we get something in the next two weeks, I can talk to someone, do an interview and possibly put something on the agenda for September.

President Hawk said that he put an email out about having a facebook page for the Borough. I know that I brought that up a couple of years ago, but nothing ever came of it. Councilwomen Fox said that she does not know how the police department has their setup, where people can not come in and comment on it. President Hawk said that he was told that is extremely easy to do. Councilwomen Smith said that the Water Authority has a private page, people send in a request and the administrator has to okay it and we can turn off comment, so ours is strictly more so for informative purposes. If they post a question that is reasonable, but as far as comments, we have the ability to remove the comment. President Hawk said that he envisioned the site to be strictly only information out, no body is going to be able to ask a question, only to post for information. Once you put the message out, they do not have to go to the website. The question is who is going to be the administrator? Councilwomen Smith stated that the borough did have a facebook page, but it looks like it was set up during covid, but there is no information. A new facebook page would need to be set up. Deb DelFranco will be Administrator for the facebook page.

Deb DelFranco mentioned that she received an email from Greg Haas stating that 65 Park Avenue would like for him to do a survey of their property, but wanted to make sure it was okay with council? Council had not problem with it. Deb mentioned that the office needs to get a new copier, the copier that is currently in the office is out- dated and it would be \$1500.00 to purchase. President Hawk asked that Deb check into the multiple fax numbers in order to share a copier with the Water Authority. She mentioned that Diversified is changing from Nuvei to ProPay and we are waiting for the process. I did do an LSA Grant with David Bodnar with the county for playground equipment. I did request \$25,000.00, I asked for ADA equipment and swings, and rubber mulch. The borough would like to do a table for the Trunk and Treat and asked council for a \$500.00 donation towards candy and such. Councilmen Nalesnik said that he would like to allocate that partial for trunk or treat and partial for Halloween night.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned the meeting 8:35 pm.

DEBORAH DELFRANCO
SECRETARY/TREASURER