

**I. OPENING**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Announcement of Executive Session (if applicable)
- E. Public Comment Procedure

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY – 3-MINUTE TIME LIMIT**

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

- A. Lower Saucon Authority – 1817 Leithsville Road – Conditional Use Hearing

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

- A. Laurena LLC – 1897 Meadows Road – Request for Security Reduction

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Lower Saucon Fire Rescue Annual Report Presentation
- B. Review of 2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
  - 1. Recommendation to pay Saucon Valley Community Center for December services
  - 2. Recommendation to assign contract agreement with Fire House Grant to LSFR and reimburse LSFR balance
  - 3. Recommendation to appropriate unexpended 2021 revenue to Capital Fund
  - 4. Recommendation to appropriate unexpended 2021 revenue to Operational Reserve Fund
- C. Authorize Collection of 2022 Real Estate Taxes
- D. Authorize Collection of 2021 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes
- E. Request for Additional Funding for Feral Cat Program
- F. Authorize Advertisement for Pole Building Bid
- G. Lower Saucon Road Bridge Bid Award
- H. Lawn Mowing Bid Award
- I. Black River Road Detour
- J. Authorize Payment for Legal Fees for Old Philadelphia Pike Easement
- K. Resolution #37-2022 – Authorize the Grant Application for Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Approval of February 16, 2022 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of February 2022 Financial Reports

**VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Township Manager
- B. Council/Jr. Council Member
- C. Solicitor
- D. Engineer

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY – 3-MINUTE TIME LIMIT**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: March 28, 2022 @ Hellertown Borough  
Zoning Hearing Board: March 28, 2022  
Planning Commission: March 24, 2022  
Parks & Recreation: April 4, 2022  
Township Council: April 20, 2022  
Environmental Advisory Council: April 12, 2022

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. with Mr. Jason Banonis, presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Jason Banonis, President; Jennifer Zavacky, Vice President; Priscilla deLeon, Sandra Yerger and Thomas Carocci, Council Members; Peter Marshall, Interim Township Manager; Linc Treadwell, Township Solicitor; Brien Kocher, Township Engineer; Cathy Gorman, Director of Finance; Stacy Werkheiser & Carol Schneider, Administrative Assistants.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Banonis welcomed Peter Marshall. He comes from State College. He's our Interim Township Manager and is doing a great job. We hope he enjoys his time and experience with Lower Saucon Township.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – Mr. Banonis said that Council did meet in executive session this evening to discuss potential acquisition of land and authorize an appraisal for Property No. 2022-02.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to approve the appraisal for Property No. 2022-02.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Ms. deLeon said she'd like to amend the agenda and make a motion to add an agenda item this evening.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved to add the Hellertown Area Library (HAL) to discuss the March 14, 2022 letter that Council received regarding library services to our residents to the end of 2022. The purpose of this meeting would be for the Committee to discuss the key points presented in their proposal and report back to Council for discussion of a counter-proposal if warranted.

Motion fails for lack of a second.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Mr. Banonis said the Public Comment procedure is available on the table. We have a three minute comment period for residents and taxpayers. If anyone would like to speak on any agenda items, please come forward and identify yourself.

- Gerald Holum, Meadows Road, said he has a comment on the LSA (Lower Saucon Authority) presentation. Attorney Treadwell said there will be a period of public comment during the hearing.
- Laura Ray, 3357 Lower Saucon Road, said she emailed the board February 22<sup>nd</sup> but didn't receive any replies. She did ask about having the minutes amended regarding adding the name and address for the emails that were read into the record at the last meeting and wondered why they were treated any differently than any other public comment. Her other topic is the 2021 financial report. She noticed it has the American Rescue Funds that shows zero was used of over \$567,000 that we have. She thought the COVID bonuses last year were paid out of that. Resolution #66-2021 authorized a transfer of the funds. Why wasn't that in the report? She knows there were other things to be paid from that fund. That's not reflected in there.

**III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS**

**A. LOWER SAUCON AUTHORITY – 1817 LEITHSVILLE ROAD – CONDITIONAL USE HEARING**

**MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved to open the hearing.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Present: Mr. David Backenstoe, Solicitor; Brad Youst, Engineer; Bill Ross, Authority Administrator. Mr. Backenstoe said this is a project that has been 20 years in the making and they are bringing it to fruition. The developer in 1999 when they put the Giant in proposed an inappropriate waste water pump station. The LSA held its ground as they weren't going to put that kind of system in as it wouldn't serve the residents or development. They reached an agreement and allowed them to put in a substandard temporary system in at 412 and Springtown Road. After 20

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years, they have purchased or are under agreement of sale for the absolute perfect lot as far as elevation and location. The facility is a public utility facility which is a conditional use in your mobile home district. They went to the ZHB and they granted all the variances that they requested. They also appeared before the Planning Commission and they also gave them a positive recommendation.

Brad Youst and Bill Ross were sworn in. Mr. Youst said he's been an engineer since 1981 and is the engineer for LSA since 1999. He is familiar with 1817 Leithsville Road. He said the property is a rectangular tract of land with 40' of frontage on Leithsville Road, 120' deep, located between two residential properties. The current occupation on the property is a two double panel billboard elevated above the ground. Exhibit No. 1 is LSA's agreement with the existing owner of the property to purchase the parcel of land. It's conditioned on receiving approval. It's been in existence for decades and not been subdivided. Mr. Backenstoe said the lot was created to the Hellertown Park Plan back in the 1920's. Mr. Youst said correct. Exhibit No. 2 is the plan of Hellertown Park by the Home Construction Co. recorded in the early 1900's. It was divided to be utilized for mobile homes and is a non-conforming lot.

Mr. Backenstoe said Exhibit A3, tell Council about the property and what's there now. Mr. Youst said the property is in the center of the drawing 40'x120'. The two adjoining properties are residential lots. Both are developed with residential structures. The same person owns both of those properties. The billboard is at the front of the property.

Mr. Backenstoe said Exhibit A4, is it fair to say this is a proposed conditions exhibit and lays out what the lot is going to look like when and if we are granted the relief. Mr. Youst said correct. They propose to construct is all public utility related. The largest improvement is a 12'x20' building which will house the standby power generator. In front of the building is a circle which is a manhole approximately 8' in diameter flush to grade. On top is a fiberglass hood that will cover the pumps. There is a fence around the compound about 40' sq. footprint. The building is within the footprint. It will meet all required setbacks and exceed the setback in the front of the property. Because the property is so narrow and there's a billboard already on it, it will be removed eventually, but actually will be able to stay there for a fixed number of years. The design is a U shape where they are constructing a new driveway on the north side of the billboard to allow vehicles to enter the property. A portion of the existing driveway will serve as an egress. There will be utility pipes underground. UGI gas service will operate the emergency standby power system. A power service will be coming into by the electric company. There's a water lateral so they have it for wash down. They will have the force main or pressure line leading from the pump to the gravity system up the hill. Some will be on the lot, some will be adjacent within easements as Mr. Wilt will grant this to LSA. Mr. Backenstoe said he's granted them. Mr. Youst said the LSA has consummated an agreement with Mr. Wilt for those easements and will pay him for the easements and part of the driveway.

Mr. Backenstoe said tell us about the design of this particular facility. Mr. Youst said the facility will house electric panels, the generator, and switchover gear to feed the generator and it will be a concrete building which is factory manufactured. He showed Council a picture of how it will look. It will have the appearance of a more residential structure. It will be the size of a small detached one-car garage and will have an appearance of the residential structures in the neighborhood. He explained the lighting and had a picture to show Council which would look like an historic figure.

Mr. Backenstoe said explain what the system will do now to improve the situation and insure better service. Mr. Youst the system originally designed would have been built on the triangle at 412 and Springtown Hill Road where the interim station is now. If the developers original design would have been constructed, that would have been a pump station slightly over 30' deep and the pumps would have been in a steel chamber 10' down on top of the wet wall which would have been a confined space for the LSA to do their service every week. That would be difficult for the workforce to handle. It had to be that deep so that the Hellertown Park neighborhood could be served and all the properties up to 412 and Polk Valley Road. The developer owned that property and did not research a location

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more conducive to a better operating system. This property is about 8' to 9' lower and is literally 400' closer to the low point to that shop at the intersection of Polk Valley Road so that it would not have to be as much gravity sewer to get from the lowest part of the neighborhood to this location. They can have the wet well at 22' and the pumps on grade and in the covered insulated hood so they can be serviced right at ground level. That's the big advantage to the LSA.

Mr. Backenstoe said he'd ask Mr. President and Mr. Treadwell to recognize the actual application that the LSA filed and make it part of the record and marked as No. 6. Attorney Treadwell said they will accept it. Mr. Backenstoe said as a conditional use this has been determined to be a permitted use by Council, however you have set forth certain criteria where testimony has to be given. There are three sets of standards in your zoning ordinance. First are general standards, then specific standards, then finally you have some specific requirements for a public utility facility. He will start with Section 180-12.1.c which are your general requirements for a conditional use. The first is the use should be in accordance with the Township Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Youst said it does comply. Mr. Backenstoe said did you review the entire Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Youst said he did. Mr. Backenstoe said did you break down 10 goals to be achieved by the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Youst said he did. They are identified in the plan and they've incorporated them into a written narrative along with the application. Council was presented a copy marked as Exhibit A7 dated 12/17/2021.

Mr. Backenstoe said is it fair to say you identified 10 goals in that plan and did those goals have to do with balancing development, managing the impact on the community, coordinating the development of infrastructure and the use would serve the location for which it would be facilitated. Mr. Youst said absolutely. Mr. Backenstoe said have you set forth in explicit detail Exhibit A7 an analysis of each one of those different sections. Mr. Youst said we have. Mr. Backenstoe said do you reaffirm the accuracy of each one of those points you made and the explanation that sets forth with the point. Mr. Youst said yes.

Mr. Backenstoe said could you give the Council a general overview of how this project does comply with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Youst said it's a proposed public utility facility to support the public. The neighborhood is the Hellertown Park with surrounding properties that front on 412. The benefit is for the public. The goal is to have those facilities fit into the neighborhood. The additional roles it serves besides providing permanent solution for waste water transmission from the Creekside Marketplace is to allow at Council's discretion the future growth of the service area. The overall design addresses the 56 dwelling load from the shopping center, 14,000 gallons a day but the station will have capacity for an additional 168 equivalent units of service so this is excess capacity. The LSA is not in the position to sell service beyond their service area.

Mr. Backenstoe said is it your testimony that this facility will be in the best interest of the municipality. Mr. Youst said yes as the Township and DEP approved planning to allow service with capacity for this number of potential units. They haven't provided that capacity until this time. This is the best solution and will be able to provide the service and give back that capacity to Hellertown Borough Authority.

Mr. Backenstoe said do you feel the Creekside Pump Station is suitable for the property in question. Mr. Youst said he does. Mr. Backenstoe said point No. 4 will we be in conformance with the other Township ordinances. Mr. Youst said we will. Mr. Backenstoe said to the extent that we did need some relief from zoning did we appear before the ZHB on February 28 and were we granted all of the relief we requested. Mr. Youst said yes.

Mr. Backenstoe said No. 5 talks about the suitability of traffic, can you tell Council what kind of impact if any there would be on the community on traffic associated with this facility. Mr. Youst said because we already operate a pump station of similar design, we know the routine operation and maintenance of this pump requires three short duration visits during the work week. The LSA goes to the site, cleans some internal components and makes sure everything is in order. The number of trips in a week is less than the number of trips of a single residential development, single home in

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the course of the day. In the summertime there may be an additional visit to address the grass cutting. Mr. Backenstoe said is it safe to say there's no danger associated from a vehicular standpoint with this property. Mr. Youst said both driveway locations meet the requirements of sight distance for safety access to the highway.

Mr. Backenstoe said point No. 6 is are we in accordance with the other Township SALDO and are we otherwise going to comply with the Township SALDO. Mr. Youst said absolutely. One thing not shown on the plan is storm water infiltration, which would be required for addressing the additional cover proposed. There will be an inlet in the low point and we are not changing the grade of the property. It's his opinion the low point has been created by the construction and decades of repaving of Route 412. Mr. Backenstoe said with our abilities and efforts to comply fully with the Township Subdivision Land Ordinance, did we appear before the Planning Commission on February 24 and make this similar presentation to them and they thoroughly vetted the presentation and conclude this was an appropriate project and voted in favor of it and memorialized in a memo dated March 8, 2022 which is No. 9. Mr. Youst said that is all correct.

Mr. Backenstoe said under Section 180-12.1.d. There are two with several sub categories. The first category is do we provide adequate road access without causing any kind of hazardous conditions such as traffic. Mr. Youst said we do, we provide safe ingress and egress. Mr. Backenstoe said is access to the facility limited to this property and/or combined with a property right next to it. Mr. Youst said it is which is depicted in A4 on the screen. Mr. Backenstoe said do we have any type of negative impact on the vertical or horizontal alignment associated with this lot. Mr. Youst said no. Mr. Backenstoe said are we going to affect or remove a bridge or anything like that? Mr. Youst said absolutely none. Mr. Backenstoe said on these specific requirements, do we in any way adversely affect the character of the community by proposing this facility. Mr. Youst said his opinion is we do not.

Mr. Backenstoe said we met with Mr. Wilt on numerous occasions and reviewed all of the exhibits, he approved and endorsed all of them. Mr. Youst said yes, he approved the exhibits. Mr. Backenstoe said the sub categories deal with buffer plantings, can you tell us what is proposed. Mr. Youst said Mr. Wilt specifically asked them not to add plantings outside of the fenced area as they would be on his property. They are not proposing plantings at this time because the billboard is in place on the frontage of the property. When the billboard is removed, then we would put plantings there. The building will house the electric panels and the pumps will be enclosed. Mr. Backenstoe said Sub Section D talks about lighting, will there be any type of candles that will spread off the site and affect the neighbors? Mr. Youst said no.

Mr. Backenstoe said he will move onto specific requirements for public utilities in your ordinance. Under Section 180-123-a the first requirement is all equipment would be enclosed in the building. Mr. Youst said yes. Mr. Backenstoe said Sub Paragraph b. do we have adequate provisions for off-street parking? Mr. Youst said absolutely. Mr. Backenstoe said Sub Paragraph c. talks about complying with the areas of zoning which we already testified to. We applied for relief from the ZHB and that relief was granted. Mr. Youst said we did and it was.

Mr. Backenstoe said at the ZHB, the gentleman across the street was concerned about water, can you testify about the system again such that how it is going to catch the water, what type of system do you have designed for that and how will it play out. Mr. Youst said we do not plan to change the grade in the front two-thirds of the property. The driveway will be at the same grade it is now. There will be a catch basin in the middle of the driveway. The discharge will go into a stone bed under the driveway onto private property almost to the fenced area. They will excavate it, provide a lining, then fill it with softball sized stone, those stones will have voids between the individual stones that create a volume to store water and allow it to gradually percolate into the underlying soil. The water will be able to get into their underground system at all times. Mr. Backenstoe said Mr. Youst will give to Council and the engineer the storm water calculations suitable for recording. Mr. Youst said yes.

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Mr. Backenstoe said everything you testified to tonight, and the exhibit A7, which was your narrative, did you testify all of that with a reasonable degree of engineering certainty. Mr. Youst said yes.

Mr. Banonis said you mentioned a catch basin for the debris, does the LSA have any policies or procedures for the cleanout of that or is it addressed on a weekly basis when you are out doing your weekly visits. Mr. Youst said as part of the plan, they will incorporate a set of operational guidelines that the LSA will receive and incorporate into their routine maintenance schedules. They have already the appropriate equipment to remove the debris and pump it out.

Ms. deLeon said how many units does the current shopping center use. Mr. Youst said by the 1990 designs was projected to generate 14,000 gallons per day of waste water. During the last calendar year, which there were a few vacancies, their average daily flow was between 6,000 and 7,000 gallons per day. Ms. deLeon said we talked about 168 units before, how do you transfer that into units. Mr. Youst said the engineers in the Township will typically use 250 gallons per day as one EDU. For one typical residential unit is essentially considered 250 gallons per day, the actual number this year as it has been for many years averaged in the range of about 170 to 180 gallons per day of real flow. Peak days can have more, so we design with that cushion.

Ms. deLeon said the Act 537 plan already provided for the sewage for the shopping center when it was built. Mr. Youst said correct. Ms. deLeon said you said there's an excess of 168. Mr. Youst said correct. Ms. deLeon said does the Act 537 plan include the Leithsville area. Mr. Youst said no. Ms. deLeon said can you give me a wider range of what it includes. Mr. Youst said the 1999 plan does not extend to Leithsville, Bingen or Apples Church. The Council in Hellertown really felt strongly about the available routes and environmental concerns that the gravity solution was not going to come to fruition. This plan will not specifically address the needs outside of the original 1999 service area.

Mr. Gerald Holum, Meadows Road, was sworn in. He said quite an impressive presentation and much needed. He lives in the bullseye of this development being water runoff. Where on the map is the water going to go and what are you going to do to alleviate it. Mr. Youst said the location is where the "dr" in "Driveway" is. He went up to the sketch board and pointed it out to Mr. Holum. Mr. Holum said the water flow that goes into that area, where does that water come from, the north or the south or the east? Mr. Youst said the water comes from all directions, most from the east. Any that is not collected in the single catch basin near the bus stop runs past that inlet and drains to the low point. Mr. Holum said at the corner on the driveway on the right, it appears to be the lowest spot. Mr. Youst said the words "paved driveway" are the lowest point in the topography on the map. Mr. Holum said where is the water from the south going? Mr. Youst said it drains left, the water from the north drains to the right, some water from the roadway drains east to that low point and water from the east up the hill behind the proposed building drains west. Mr. Holum said it comes across the south driveway. Mr. Youst said yes. Mr. Holum said the driveway is ground level. Mr. Youst said yes. Mr. Holum asked what were the results of your perk testing. Mr. Youst said the rates fell within the allowable range for use of infiltration.

Mr. Banonis said Mr. Holum you said you live in the bullseye of this, where do you live in relation to this property? Mr. Holum said it's directly across the street referred to as the farmhouse. Mr. Banonis said that's not your residence, you live up further. Mr. Holum said right.

Mr. Holum said in essence where we had a scattered infiltration system, it's now going to be concentrated in that drainage infiltration basin. Mr. Youst said they are going to provide an infiltration area within the footprint that's being proposed. It's 3' deep 12' wide, 25' long, so it's not just the surface depth. Mr. Holum said what would be your analysis, the impact he has is water, it's an old farmhouse built without the use of Portland cement, and it's a lime sand mix. He gets water as a result of that ponding effect that we have in that area. Is he going to get more or less

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water? Mr. Youst said his suspicion would be that you could possibly get less water. The gradient of that water will be lower and drop down before it starts traversing on the sub soil of your property.

Mr. Banonis said it's your testimony as to what's being proposed here, with regard to the catch basin, will or may actually improve the conditions with regard to ponding of water, storm water flows and disbursement of water collection that area. Mr. Youst said yes, they believe it may improve those types of conditions.

Mr. Holum said you say may improve, what if it doesn't improve. Mr. Youst said he doesn't have an immediate solution for a non-specific condition. That would have to be addressed in that case. Mr. Holum said wouldn't a possible solution be to run a pipe parallel to Route 412 south to catch the water and take it into the other grading system that runs down to the Saucon Creek. On the contour map does it represent 1' or 2'? Mr. Youst said they are 1' elevation changes. Mr. Holum said to the north end of the property it would be 2'. Mr. Youst said he thinks so. Mr. Holum said why couldn't you put a pipe there to run that water runoff down and get it to the creek. Mr. Youst said storm water ordinances the overall Act 167 plan for the Saucon Creek in Best Management Practices governs how we design storm water facilities today, requires we specifically attempt to infiltrate wherever possible on the local properties rather than trying to pipe the flow and discharge it directly into the waterways. The concern for the environment and ground water preservation has changed under Act 167 regulations and they are trying to do their best to meet those criteria and not seek variances for trying to meet those criteria. Mr. Backenstoe said they are going to fully comply with all current Federal, State, and Township regulations associated with this.

Mr. Holum said what alternatives does he have when he sees water in his basement. Mr. Backenstoe said he's going to object to that with the utmost respect as you are talking about hypothetical conditions which could be caused by a multitude of different issues. Mr. Holum said he's not sure he agrees with that. It would be the pumping station across the street causing the problem. Mr. Banonis said he's going to sustain the objection. In addition, it's also calling for a legal advice to the extent that the witness has any questions or concerns as to what his recourse may be, he may want to obtain his own counsel.

Mr. Holum said who is responsible for the maintenance of the grading system. Mr. Ross said it will be on LSA property and maintained by LSA staff.

Ms. deLeon said is there any way we could put some kind of condition that could be added to this for Mr. Holum's property that would say if there are issues or something like that. Attorney Treadwell said in this instance it would be very difficult to impose a condition that requires the applicant to do something above and beyond what our ordinances require. They testified they are going to meet all the ordinances. Ms. deLeon said she's been here and five years down the road, these people are helpless. Attorney Treadwell said we basically trust the fact that the applicants design engineer testified he will design the storm water system in accordance with our ordinances and regulations. Our Township Engineer will review those calculations and will agree or disagree. Mr. Youst testified he will be preparing the calculations, redesigning the storm water calculations and submit them to Mr. Kocher. Ms. deLeon said we know how the Saucon Creek floods.

Mr. Holum said why weren't those engineering calculations made earlier, why are they made now and Council is going to approve them. Attorney Treadwell said Council's approval of this conditional use will be subject to meeting all the other ordinance requirements one of those being the storm water requirement. If they can't satisfy our Township Engineer, then the conditional use approval goes away. Ms. deLeon said when will Brien look at it. Mr. Youst said he anticipates getting that into the Township within a month.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to close the hearing.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

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**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to direct the Solicitor to issue the opinion and bring it back to Council at the next Council meeting regarding this request for conditional use.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. LAURENA LLC – 1897 MEADOWS ROAD – REQUEST FOR SECURITY REDUCTION**

Mr. Banonis said the applicant is requesting a security reduction for the 1897 Meadows Road residential project. Mr. Kocher said the developer has performed an inspection and is recommending a release in the amount of \$157,245.16. The amount to be retained in security is \$63,783.22.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. deLeon moved for approval of the request for security reduction for Laurena LLC – 1897 Meadows Road.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. LOWER SAUCON FIRE RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION**

Present: Ty Johnson, Scott Krycia, and Jim Rayner. They submitted their annual report to the Township.

Mr. Krycia said some key points, LSFR is the sole provider of fire services in LST. There are about 65 members on staff, they operate 12 vehicles, and ran 731 calls last year. Of those calls, about 437 were in LST proper, the rest with our mutual aid organizations. He went over the Response by Zone and Aid Given and Received. There were 8 calls in Steel City for LSFR. Ms. deLeon said you said Steel City was 8, what zone was that. Mr. Krycia said that was last year and they zoned everything in last year as Steel City. Mr. Ty Johnson said out of the 8 there might be 5 or 6 after the Steel City transition. Mr. Carocci said that LST proper, that includes Hellertown. Mr. Johnson said no. Mr. Krycia said the one on there for 67 calls is Dewey, that's Hellertown. Ms. deLeon said next year it will all be combined. Mr. Krycia said yes.

Mr. Carocci thanked the 10 top responders, Mr. Gearhart, Mr. Rayner, Mr. Mertl, Mr. Billmoria, Mr. Krycia, Mr. Ballek, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Evans and Mr. Medei. Council thanked all of them. He said most were fire alarms. Mr. Johnsons said yes, most get dispatched as such, sometimes they will turn into other incidents. Mr. Carocci said where are most of the incidents on I-78. Mr. Johnson said they don't have it broken down by zone, but they could do that. They keep track of it themselves and there were about 168 calls for the interstate. Mr. Banonis said is there a benefit for breaking that down for a Federal highway for Federal money. Mr. Johnson said they tried it in the past and had no luck with it.

Mr. Rayner said they presented their income and expenses broken down by general categories. You can see the 2020 actuals and budget for 2022. Last year they did pretty well and this year they are not balanced yet. Ms. deLeon said she wanted to give you the \$50,000 that was supposed to go to Steel City but Council didn't approve it. Mr. Carocci said yes we did. He asked if they received the \$50,000. Mr. Rayner said yes. Mr. Carocci said the rest of Council voted for it, Ms. deLeon voted against it. We gave LSFR the \$50,000 that was supposed go to Steel City and we gave you an additional \$50,000 from the American Relief Fund. Mr. Rayner said they appreciate that. They will submit receipts to Cathy. Mr. Carocci said last year \$200,000 was budgeted, this year \$225,000 is budgeted for Fire Services. Your financial documents have been submitted to the Township and you will be eligible for that.

Mr. Marshall said your insurances increased significantly, he was wondering what happened. Mr. Rayner said the amount you see budgeted for insurance around \$80,000 is their annual amount. What they did in late 2020 they paid a little bit ahead so that reduced our insurance cost for 2021, but this year we are back to quarterly payments.

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Mr. Johnson said a couple months ago they came to Council and requested money for upgrading their air packs. They are due in at the end of March. Mrs. Yerger asked about the maintenance of the trucks, is there some specific problem you are addressing. Mr. Johnson said no, the trucks take a lot of maintenance and a lot of calls. To change oil on a fire truck, it takes 15 gallons of oil and miscellaneous repairs crop up.

Mr. Carocci asked for an update on the status of the Steel City firehouse and equipment. Mr. Krycia said we had a bunch of productive meetings with their board about two weeks ago and have their financials for the last five years. All that information was sent to our lawyer, and then she sent it to the Attorney General's office and they will do an audit. Once it's done, and we get a blessing, we will start the official process. We haven't put a truck over there yet. He's been working with Scott Nocek to try to come to a solution to get their engine rescue truck and if it all goes through, they are ready to sign that over to us. We are making progress on everything. Mr. Banonis said do you know when the AIG office will get back to you? Mr. Krycia said no, not yet.

Mrs. Gorman said she reviewed their financials and there are no issues. They complied with the 501(c) policies. The funding of \$225,000 can be released.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for approval to accept the LSFR Annual Report.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**B. REVIEW OF 2021 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)**

Mrs. Gorman provided Council with the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) report. This report provides an overview of the Township's audited transactions and supplements the Auditors' DCED report filing and Financial Report typically received in June each year.

Mrs. Gorman said we are still in very good shape even with anticipated shortfalls. We received 109.77% of revenue and expended 84.87%. Only two departments went over their allotments. Our open space received 108.57% of our revenue and we expended 41.7%. There's a reclassification for the Fire donation made for their equipment which is an auditor adjustment. The Capital Fund we received \$1,496,796.46 in total grants and appropriations Council made from the previous years, and we spent \$274,474.73.

Mrs. Gorman said in relation to the inquiry made earlier, those funds from ARCA the auditor's methods of this is not to present it in a net basis. We record the revenues and revenues and expenses and expenses. When the revenue shows \$567,000 we received, the expenses that Council approved are in the General Fund in those expense line items that was presented by resolution. If you look on the budget sheet for the General Fund, you will see fund number 01-112-001 the Local Recovery Fund and it has \$424,726.74 in it. Although we received the \$567,000 reported in the statement of revenues and expenditures, you can see we expended those funds on the balance sheet.

Mrs. Gorman said we are making several recommendations which are itemized on the agenda. Ms. deLeon said on page 5, data processing was under budget in 2021, however a concerted effort has been made to bolster our software and security. Mrs. Gorman said we will be reviewing this in 2022 as we may need to make additional improvements. The insurance claim discussed with Council will be settled in 2022. Ms. deLeon said expenses and revenue related to that will be recognized this year. Will you refresh her memory on that? Mrs. Gorman said we did have a cyber issue in our server. We worked with our IT consultants and our insurance agents. We received the funding for our claims. Nothing was breached to the point where it required any further investigation. Our deductible was \$5,000.00. We got paid about \$23,000 from insurance. Ms. deLeon said we were never updated on that. Mrs. Gorman said she believes the Solicitor reviewed that several months ago, but maybe not the end results of the insurance claim.

Mr. Banonis said on the statement of revenues and expenditures, item 01-404-310 Legal Services they were budgeted at \$159,000 and the actual is \$131,000, the percentage used was 82.65% so legal

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services were actually 18% below budget. Mrs. Gorman said correct. Mr. Banonis said he only highlights that as there were questions from citizens about the use of our Solicitor and other attorneys we have in the Township.

Ms. deLeon said looking at this report in Word, she was visualizing a spreadsheet with all these topics and making columns so we are just looking at these items. It would give her a better view of what's going on, is that possible? Mrs. Gorman said the only way to do that is to actually print out the trial balance and it might be several hundred pages long. Mr. Banonis said he's satisfied with the format we received. If you want to make a motion to submit it in a different format, you can do that. Ms. deLeon said that's fine.

**1. RECOMMENDATION TO PAY SAUCON VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER FOR DECEMBER SERVICES**

Mrs. Gorman said this was discussed with the previous Manager during COVID and we didn't pay anything to the SVCC last year for Sr. programs so we felt it would be fair to pay them an amount for the month of December that they were open of \$1,156.50.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. deLeon moved for approval to pay the SVCC the amount of \$1,156.50 for the month of December.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-1

**2. RECOMMENDATION TO ASSIGN CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH FIRE HOUSE GRANT TO LSFR AND REIMBURSE LSFR BALANCE**

Mrs. Gorman said we entered into an agreement with Firehouse Grant Application Management Services for \$4,500 to apply for a grant for the fire departments. We made the \$1,000 initial contribution and \$3,500 is due to the vendor. We would like to assign that and make the payment of \$3,500 to LSFR instead of Firehouse and have them pay it. The reason is because this grant was done through FEMA and there are processes required by FEMA and auditing practices. Mr. Johnson said he was okay with this proposal. Scott talked to you about that and it has to do with the reports and the equipment is in our hands and we are okay with handling it.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the payment to LSFR of \$3,500 for the Firehouse grant to reimburse them for that amount.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**3. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROPRIATE UNEXPENDED 2021 REVENUE TO CAPITAL FUND**

Mrs. Gorman said of the revenue over expenditure, we were looking at \$1,918,462.90 which is from the landfill hosting fees. We are recommending to appropriate \$1 million of that to the capital fund to help in paying some of the infrastructures issues we are going to be facing. It will be earmarked as unencumbered to bridges, not a specific bridge, or specific program. That way it gives Council a little leeway when we get the cost for Black River Road. Ms. deLeon said have we looked at all of our bridges with our engineers instead of in-house. Mrs. Gorman said she's not sure where we are at, but we will look at that and get a listing of the bridges, but some are culverts that our Public Works can look at.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to appropriate \$1 million of the \$1,918,462.90 to the Capital Fund and marking it unencumbered for the purposes of Capital expenditures for the bridge replacements.

Mrs. Gorman said this will be brought back to the next Council meeting as a resolution because we are transferring money from one fund to another.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**4. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROPRIATE 2021 REVENUE TO OPERATIONAL RESERVE FUND**

Mrs. Gorman said that is the remaining \$918,462.90 that we would request Council to go into the Reserve Funds and can only be expended by Council resolution.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to appropriate the \$918,462.90 to the Reserve Fund.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Zavacky  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**C. AUTHORIZE COLLECTION OF 2022 REAL ESTATE TAXES**

Mrs. Gorman said Council should authorize Keystone Collections Group to collect the 2022 real Estate Tax in the amount of \$2,340,621.85 of which \$340,530.43 is for the Fire Tax based on an assessment of \$455,373,900 as presented by Northampton County.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to authorize collection of the 2022 Real Estate Taxes in the amount of \$2,340,621.85 of which \$340,530.43 is for the Fire Tax based on an assessment of \$455,373,900 as presented by Northampton County.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**D. AUTHORIZE COLLECTION OF 2021 DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES**

Mrs. Gorman said Council is requesting to direct the Township Manager to authorize the Finance Department to forward the 2021 Delinquent Real Estate List to Northampton County for collection. Mr. Banonis said the amount is \$30,820.03 which is the base amount.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to authorize collection of the 2021 delinquent real estate taxes in the amount of \$30,820.03.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**E. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FERAL CAT PROGRAM**

Mrs. Gorman said we budgeted \$1,500 for the program and we didn't have a baseline when we started the program the year before, so now we are understanding the problem is a little bit greater than what we had anticipated. We are asking Council to appropriate more vouchers to carry it out for the rest of the year. We will put a cap to it at budget discussions. Mr. Banonis said we had looked at the data from other municipalities and the first two years and the costs were greater but the effectiveness of the program set in and the numbers dropped drastically so this may be a temporary increase right now. Ms. deLeon said can we do this before April 1? Mrs. Gorman said it's not going to be an increase in the budget line item, so she thinks we are okay. Mr. Marshall said he's seen many municipalities with cat problems, but you are very creative and the fact that it works is very good.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for authorization of additional funding for the Feral Cat Program in the amount of \$1,400.00  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Zavacky  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**F. AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT FOR POLE BUILDING BID**

Mrs. Gorman said last year we applied for some NORCO funding where we got the police message board signs and we got the funding of \$25,000 for a pole building. In discussion with Zoning and Public Works, they felt the best location for this building would be adjacent to the dog kennel area. The bid specifications have different addendums so that if the price exceeds the amount that we are anticipating we can remove that portion of the bid specification. We are trying to keep it at the \$50,000 we applied for and once we get everything done and it's installed and she can apply for the grant application and get the \$25,000 back.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Carocci moved for authorization and advertisement for pole building bid.  
**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**G. LOWER SAUCON ROAD BRIDGE BID AWARD**

Mr. Brien Kocher said we received 10 bids for the bridge replacement and the last four were very close. DESCCO Design & Construction is the lowest bidder at \$421,564.80. They submitted all their paperwork and we recommend to Council the bid be awarded to them and direct the Township Engineer to send all the appropriate paperwork.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved to award the Lower Saucon Road Bridge Award to DESCCO Design and Construction in the amount of \$421,564.80 and to direct the Township Engineer to send the appropriate paperwork.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Zavacky

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Mr. Banonis said he recalls there are some timing issues because of some spawning issues. Mr. Kocher said all of the work in the stream has to be done by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**H. LAWN MOWING BID AWARD**

Mrs. Gorman said we re-advertised for our lawn mowing bid and we only received one bid which was Stem Lawn Care in the amount of \$74,955.00 and they did have their appropriate paperwork. Mr. Banonis said how does it relate to last year? Mrs. Gorman said it's about \$10,000 more but we accounted for that. Based on the bid specification, its weather related.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the lawn mowing bid to Stem Lawn Care in the amount of \$74,955.00.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**I. BLACK RIVER ROAD DETOUR**

Attorney Treadwell said because of the issues on Black River Road culvert, there have been complaints from property owners that live back there trying to get back there and an alternative route including oil truck deliveries. We looked at it with Brien and Roger and he is suggesting Council authorizing temporarily removing weight restrictions on Walter Avenue that comes off of 378 and then the portion of Old Philadelphia Pike that gets you to Stonestrow Road

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval to temporarily remove the weight restriction on a portion of Walter Avenue and Old Philadelphia Pike.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Carocci

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**J. AUTHORIZE PAYMENT FOR LEGAL FEES FOR OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE EASEMENT**

Attorney Treadwell said when we did the project on Old Philadelphia Pike to fix that bridge and culvert, we needed a temporary construction easement from a property owner on one side. She did not request to be compensated but asked that we pay her Counsel fees to review the legal issue and the easement documents, for an amount of \$900.00

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for authorization of payment for legal fees for Old Philadelphia Pike to Chris Weaver of \$900.00 for the temporary construction easement.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**K. RESOLUTION #37-2022 – AUTHORIZE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR STATEWIDE LOCAL SHARE ASSESSMENT GRANT**

Mrs. Gorman said this grant was brought to our attention by Rep. McKenzie. Our Public Works Director talked about renovating Town Hall Park. We were notified by our consultant that part of the system we have are outdated and pieces were needed, and we wouldn't be able to get them anywhere. The Director of Public Works advocated for a different type of playground equipment and thought we could attract children in the 6 – 12 year age bracket also. It's similar to Dimmick Park and they've had much success with theirs and no match is required. The application was for \$264,030 and we are asking for your support. Ms. deLeon said you are eliminating the lower age group. Mrs. Gorman said no, there are two playground sets. We are envisioning taking some of

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the equipment from the one side and putting it together and putting this playground in the other Section. Ms. deLeon asked about the flooring for the playground. Mrs. Gorman said the latest and greatest in park equipment is that matted flooring, but it is \$125,000 extra to use that. We feel economically speaking the rubber mulch works best for us. Ms. deLeon asked what lasts longer. Mrs. Gorman said we've been using the rubber mulch for years and did not have to replace any of it.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of Resolution #37-2022 – Authorization of the grant application for statewide local share assessment grant for the Township Hall Park equipment.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

### VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

#### A. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022 COUNCIL MINUTES

Mr. Banonis said the February 16, 2022 Council minutes are ready for Council's review and approval. Ms. deLeon said on page 24 of 34, line 6, it's supposed to be point of order, not court of order. Mrs. Zavacky said page 19, line 37, the correct last name of the library attorney, it's not Huron, it's Aurand. Correction of another name on page 21, line 37, Eames, not Earnes and anywhere else on the document where his name appears.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Banonis moved for approval of the February 16, 2022 Council minutes, with corrections stated above.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. deLeon

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

#### B. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Banonis said the February 2022 Financial Reports are ready for Council's review and approval.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the February 2022 Financial Reports.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

### VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

#### A. INTERIM TOWNSHIP MANAGER – MR. PETER MARSHALL

- He was very impressed with the staff and solicitor and Council members he's talked to. There's a real team effort here. They are really dedicated to the advancement of the Township
- He announced the promotion of Carol Schneider from the position of Receptionist to the position of Administrative Assistant.
- For the past three days he attended the National League of Cities Legislative Conferences in Washington, DC. It was made clear that infrastructure funding would be made available very shortly that could be applied for. He's provided you with a copy of the funding that is available and would ask staff and Council to review the list.
- He's identified a couple of areas that need to be addressed. The first is file management, as there are boxes and lose files located in the work areas. There are old records that need to be shredded. Doing this work will take a lot of time and the current staff doesn't have time to do it. He'd like to explore the possibility of employing a student intern to help us in this effort. He received an email from Lafayette College regarding this but he wanted to share this with Council first. He's not asking Council for anything at this time, but he wanted to know if there were any objections to this. Mrs. Zavacky said digital or hard copy. Mr. Marshall said hard copy right now. Mr. Banonis said we get our hard copies in order, then the next step would be digital. Mr. Marshall said yes. He will explore this with surrounding colleges.
- We need some updated chairs, there are some with patched up with duct tape and we should do this and move forward.
- You are doing verbatim minutes and he looked over the last meeting and you had 29 motions that were passed. 28 of them were unanimous and one wasn't. It took 17 hours of labor to do these verbatim minutes and it cost over \$400. He doesn't think there's anything to be gained doing verbatim minutes when you get unanimous votes and we do have tapes and if anyone

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wants to hear what's going on, we have them. Ms. deLeon said the tapes have a life on them. Mr. Carocci said you can have digital files that last ten years. If it ever needs to be transcribed, it can be pulled and transcribed. Mr. Marshall said he doesn't know the last time anyone looked at the unanimous motion. The minutes would be done and if someone would object that person's name would be inserted. Mr. Carocci said he agrees. We should come up with a policy and keep the tapes for at least five years. Mr. Marshall said you will have the minutes. If there's an item that's a major discussion what people say it would be there. The idea of taking a roll call for every vote looking at the same thing. Ms. deLeon said it's in our Administrative Code that it has to be roll call. Attorney Treadwell said he doesn't recall what the Administrative Code says, but we can look at that.

**B. COUNCIL/JR. COUNCIL**

**Jr. Council – Absent**

**Mrs. Zavacky**

- She attended the Parks & Rec. Board meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They are looking to resurface the snack stand discussion at Polk Valley Park and consider some of the DCNR grants.
- There's been growing interest of Pickleball for people of all ages, so there's a lot of grants for this and this will be brought up again at the P&R meeting. Mr. Marshall said in State College there were 10 courts that were built and they are busy.

**Mrs. Yerger – No report**

**Mr. Carocci**

- In the HAL December 28, 2021 minutes, Mr. Hughes proposed a budget for the library including large increases and bonuses for employees. He's sure they received these bonuses and increases. It's not that they did this, but odd that they described them as large but they don't give any numbers. Jen was not on the board at that time and he's sure they were deserved. Jane Styer voted against. It's more the misrepresentation made by the Library Board members and Library employees. He has a 2022 Budget Forecast prepared by Mr. Hughes dated August 2021 and this is before the large increases in salaries. It says Hellertown's budget is precarious and very lean. On August 26, 2021, Noel Kramer emailed Leslie asking to increase the amount of funding as costs are increasing daily. What they were telling the public in the Saucon Source, January 4<sup>th</sup>, HAL Needs Your Help Now, you can read this by clicking on the following link: [Letter: The Hellertown Area Library Needs Your Help \(sauconsourc.com\)](#). February 19 in the Saucon Source, We worked hard to keep our library running on a shoestring budget. He's sure that's true. They were telling the public and this is why we need a threat of legal action when a resident called the Township and said he stated the wife was at the library and was told the library will be shut down next year. Then there was another email the library is in dire need of funding due to the impact of COVID. This was January 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 2022 budget. He feels they misrepresented their financial condition to the public. They have approximately \$381,000 in the bank. That's projected to increase to over \$500,000. Attorney Treadwell said the number was \$381,000 and that was a reason he wanted to see the 2020 990. Ms. deLeon said the December 3<sup>rd</sup> email, we had our Council meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we weren't supporting the library so what were they supposed to assume. Mr. Carocci said there was an agreement they would continue until the end of January, so December 1<sup>st</sup> there was a 30 day extension and this person said the library was going to shut down next year. Ms. deLeon said when that person went in there as a LST resident, that's what they may have told her.

**Ms. deLeon**

- She did call Cathy before the Pension meeting to see if Russia was involved with the international so she's glad that Jason reported on that.
- Last night she attended the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber (HLSC) meeting and there was a handout prepared by the Mayor and she asked it to be put on our bulletin board for residents. Years back the Chamber offered a scholarship program, it fell to the wayside, they decided we are going to reintroduce it and there is a copy of the application in draft form and kids can apply. Mrs. Zavacky said she'd like to make a recommendation that SVSD has all the scholarships on their website where the kids can look through, she would encourage the

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Chamber to get in touch with the school. Ms. deLeon said they are already in touch with the school.

- Winter Restaurant Week was very successful. March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Unrivaled Nutrition and Training held a ribbon cutting. Rita's is under new management and there was a grand reopening and ribbon cutting. March 23<sup>rd</sup> is trivia and networking with the Southern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce. May 11<sup>th</sup> is a Small Business Roundtable and they will have a year in review. June 4<sup>th</sup> is Dine in Dimmick. May, June, July and August is Music in the Park. There will be a movie at Dimmick Park and one here, dates to be announced. March 31<sup>st</sup> is 2022 Mayor and Municipal Reception. April 14<sup>th</sup> Lehigh Valley Real Estate Outlook. April 27<sup>th</sup> is a Talk Derby Mixer. The Chamber will be very busy
- She sent an email that she smelled landfill gas on her property. She calls DEP and lets the Township Manager know.
- On February 26<sup>th</sup> she was asked to be a panelist at Boot Camp, which was fun. Stacy was there and it was very educational.
- She read a letter that Council received from the HAL dated March 14, 2022. You can find this letter in the Josh Popichak's Saucon Source newsletter by clicking on the following link: [Hellertown Area Library Sends Proposal to Lower Saucon Council \(sauconsource.com\)](https://www.sauconsource.com). She wanted this to be on the agenda but it was received too late, but in the past other things have been on a revised agenda. She'd like to ask, and Jen is the Library Representative, are we going to be meeting with the HAL to discuss this proposal. Mrs. Zavacky doesn't have an update for a meeting. Ms. deLeon said this isn't an update. Mr. Carocci said it was in the Saucon Source, it's not an update. Attorney Treadwell said he's been part of the discussion and since February 4<sup>th</sup> he hasn't heard a word until that came in on Monday. Ms. deLeon said she's looking at the deadline. We are freeloaders in this library. Mr. Carocci said we offered them \$50,000 and they rejected that. They just have to turn over the financial documents. Ms. deLeon said what financial documents you are interested in. Attorney Treadwell said he asked for the 2020 990 and he asked for it six months ago. Ms. deLeon said she thinks there should be a meeting. Maybe she can ask the library to respond to the \$50,000. Mr. Banonis said they should provide the municipalities with statements regarding their finances and it's by law and we never received any of them.
- She'd like an update on the Meadows Road Bridge.

**Mr. Banonis**

- He attended the Pension Committee meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2021 we were fortunate to have record highs of 28.74% returns. The bad news is the economy has peaked and it's now slowing. The Feds are increasing rates. Inflation is a huge issue. Consumer confidence has a significant decline and impacts demand and a drawdown on a lot of our investments. The consultant talked about it being an extremely challenging environment going forward. We do not have any Russian exposure on the portfolio. The international component is 14.88% of the overall investment. The MRT's goal is to have constant returns and reduce volatility and have some downside protection for us. They are trying to invest more in real estate. In 2021, our non-uniform contribution was \$159,000 and the uniform contributions were \$535,000. In 2022, so far we've contributed \$34,000 for non-uniform and \$82,000 for uniform. We had two uniform beneficiaries who passed away, one was Jerry Young. Notifications were sent out to stop the payments. The next Pension meeting will be on June 8, 2022.
- Regarding the remodel for the Easton Road Ballfields, he met with SV Diamond Sports as the Township Engineer had requested some data to finalize his plans for submission. He got that data from them and the final plan should be done at our next Council meeting and we can continue to move forward with the project.
- There's a Compost meeting tomorrow to discuss the date of opening. He will provide that to Peter to post on the website.
- With regard to the landfill, we received the HMI report from March 3, 2022. There were no litter issues. The landfill hired a tree company to come out in the spring and remove

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litter that may have blown into any trees. During the inspection he noted no odor complaints on Applebutter, Skyline, and Steel City and Riverside.

- We received minutes from HAL from a meeting in December 2021 which lasted two hours. We didn't get a report of that meeting. He noted that they discussed their budget and Andrew Hughes who is a Hellertown Council person submitted a budget that included large raises and bonuses. He doesn't think that language was communicated to us or Leslie or Cathy. The budget did pass with one person voting against it.
- Last Council meeting we had the SV Wrestling team here as they were recognized in winning a State championship. At the PA Individual State Tournament, Ryan Crookam came in first, Jake Jones came in second, Cole Hubert came in fourth, Dante Mahaffey, Cael Markle, and Ty Csencsits all came in 8<sup>th</sup> place. He'd like to congratulate them.

C. **SOLICITOR** – No report

D. **ENGINEER** – No report

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS – RESIDENTS/TAXPAYERS ONLY – 3-MINUTE TIME LIMIT**

- Donna Louder, Steel City, said they had multiple tractor trailers coming into Steel City again. She helped direct traffic as one was stuck and he got out. They had a tractor trailer also with a delivery. Back in 2018, 2019, she spoke with PennDOT and they assured her Riverside Drive has adequate signage. She reached out to the truck companies, the drivers stopped coming in. Now the basic tractor trailers are coming thru and they are doing damage to the properties in Steel City. She's asking to put a weight limit Jefferson, Saucon Avenue, Ivy wood, Matthew, Fritz and Adams. This way they either have to go through the Narrows or they have to figure a way to back all the way out. She has been dealing for this for 10 years. The last resort is we purchase a sign and put it on someone's property and say "No Tractor Trailers" or we put weight limits on the street. Attorney Treadwell said the weight limit issue we need an engineer study to justify why the weight limit is on the road. Ms. Louder said the roads are too narrow for tractor trailers. She said the Steel City Park sign is laying flat. Mr. Carocci asked that Roger look into the sign.
- Mr. Dave Willard, 1809 Meadow Ridge Court, said he has a concern about the library issues. He thinks the three parties should negotiate in good faith and come up with a reasonable resolution. He uses the library and is happy to pay the library for its service. This is not a good look for this Council. He heard about all the successes of this Township and don't let this be your legacy. The money is in the budget. Also, No. 3 on your agenda policy, all of you are elected officials and everyone should have a right to bring an item to the agenda, you don't need two people's consent.
- Alan Cunningham, 1671 Cambridge Court, said he thinks what is important with the library issue is return on investment for the community. It's something we should look at and he would ask is there a list we can give to the library and get some closure. They have a proposal, perhaps we can help and close in on this.
- George Gress, 3703 Old Philadelphia Pike, said with he was coming up Hickory Hill and there was a tractor trailer coming on Seidersville Road and he didn't know where he ended up. This is not only in Steel City, it's in all of Lower Saucon. The City of Bethlehem has a motor vehicle enforcement and they stop tractor trailers where they aren't supposed to be and they scale them and the overweight fines are probably tremendous. Maybe Chief Barndt could look into that with the amount of tractor trailers we have in LST.
- Robin Socho, 3521 Drifting Drive, thanked the Morning Call for putting the library issue on the front page, thanks to the Saucon Source for giving the residents updates, thank Saucon Shenanigans for video, thank you Pricilla for backing this up. She's concerned why this is still an issue. The first meeting you dismissed us and made us think the library issue was all over. We left and no money for HAL but you gave our money to another Township. You need to work this out. You want a Pickleball Court but we can't have a library? Mr. Banonis said we did not say at that meeting we were done. Mr. Carocci also said when we send money to HB we are sending it to another municipality.
- JoEllen Thomson, 1819 Viola Lane, said she can't believe it's taking this long to resolve the situation with the HAL. She's listened to officials from both sides and from the information she can obtain

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it appears that HAL has been the most transparent and timely in making their comments public. They also presented a timeline to work with the Township. Our Township has been secretive and does not inform the residents of what exactly their concerns are and how they plan to resolve these concerns. She's heard conflicting issues on the goals for library service, the length of agreement, the composition of the HAL board, fundraising, what services need to be expanded and pros and cons of regionalization. These should be discussed and negotiated in a timely fashion. In November you approved the 2022 budget which included funding HAL for \$107,000. For January, you did authorize a payment of \$8,000 plus, why then do you not feel it would be the most sensible thing to do to fund HAL the monthly payment. It's extremely embarrassing to be a LST resident using the HAL and not pay for these services.

- Laura Ray, 3357 Lower Saucon Road, said she finds it disturbing that LST Council has been a source of a lot of false and misleading information about the library situation. The 990 from 2020, she knows she saw a screen shot that it was emailed in August 2021 by Diane Palik to every member of Council. That wasn't on your spreadsheet. Mrs. Zavacky said she didn't think it was the 990. Ms. Ray said it said 2020 990. At the January meeting, HAL having a very high reliance on municipal and state funding, that's how public libraries operate which is normal. Looking at Southern Lehigh, their funding shows fundraising in 2016 was negative \$1,008. 2017 they raised \$2,577; 2019 it was \$7,719 and in 2020 it was \$4,248. Those are low numbers and they count on municipal and state funding. That's normal so stop picking on HAL for their amount of fundraising they do. You said they made less than \$3,000 in 2021 and that was the pandemic and that's in line with what the other library does. You also implied no one from Council looked at the financials over the past 8 years which is ridiculous. You always had board members, liaisons, monthly HAL meetings where they provide a financial statement, so you always had that information and they've had audits. It was stated HAL had a profit of over \$500,000 from 2016 to 2019. Their revenue for those expenses total \$267,411...Mr. Banonis said your three minutes are up.
- Andrea Wittchen, 1885 Dartford Road, said she was informed today that more than 10,000 views have been viewed on her blog since she started writing, so you might want to keep that in mind. On the statement, that Carocci doesn't know that the \$50,000 was declined. There was a library board meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at which they declined the money. I'm sure there are minutes of that. They don't have to call you and tell you they declined the money. They did it at a public meeting and they didn't cash your check. It's not an open issue, it's a closed issue. Mr. Carocci loves to claim it's still on hold with the SLPL. It's not on hold, they clearly stated we have no interest in shopping our services to other municipalities or organizations. He claims they said it was on hold. What Mr. Eames said was they never received anything from LST and we assume it's on hold. There's a lot of baloney being put out there. While it's been getting colder and colder in this room, the ladies room temperature is at least 80 degrees and if you are so worried about saving money you ought to go in there and fix it and pick up the dead cockroach.
- Victoria Ophthof-Cordero, 1682 Woodfield Drive, said she didn't get to put her children to bed tonight. She still doesn't have any update with what we are doing with our library services. It doesn't sound like we'll have any library services. She hasn't heard any information about SLPL and they said they didn't want to be in the mess over here. She's heard comments in the Morning Call and how disgraceful it is. She hopes this Council can figure something out. The 2020 990 you indicated you don't have, Saucon Source has it so they must have received it from you or the HB Council meetings. Let's get our library services in order then maybe we can get a pickleball court.
- Jessica King, 2456 Alpine Drive, said Noelle Kramer started in March 2020 as Library Director. We all know what happened that month, but our Librarians worked very hard to keep the access open to everyone. Tom has suggested several times that HAL can improve its fundraising. That conversation should have occurred prior to this year. In November before elections, Mr. Banonis made a motion to set the library budget line item at \$107,168.04. The final month of the year where budget approvals should be approved, suggestions to find funding elsewhere were not being made. The library was counting on funds from LST. Any discussion of funding done late in 2021 was done in good faith that LST would be funding the services at HAL. To be able to find grants, they have a tiny staff and she's trying really hard right now to find grants and other sources. Mr. Carocci is asking for better services but you aren't paying for those better services. Your constituents support

**General Business & Developer Meeting**

**March 16, 2022**

HAL so please put the library on the April 20<sup>th</sup> agenda and April 6<sup>th</sup> is the next Friends of the Hellertown Area Library meeting and we welcome you.

- Erica Shore, 2173 Rose Lane said Proverbs 11.2 says with pride comes disgrace but with humility comes wisdom. You have brought disgrace upon yourselves. We continue to show up to urge you towards humility and wisdom because this still matters to us. Your constituents, our kids are watching, and no one understands. Thankfully the kids know which examples to follow and look to Civil Rights leaders like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who taught them to use their limited spirit influence for maximum impact towards positive change in the community. To suspend the decision and cut your per capita support, LST residents took it upon themselves to pick up your slack. They had a bake sale with the goal of giving all the proceeds to HAL and in over two hours they raised over \$1,000 which they delivered to the library. Those two hours, LST residents showed up to show their support. The children also sent a big valentine to HAL where the children wrote messages on it. Why should HAL continue to provide services to LST without contributing funds? Please sign the new contract and raise the stakes and offer them more than they have requested.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for adjournment. The time was 10:18 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Banonis

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Submitted by:

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Peter Marshall  
Interim Township Manager

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Jason Banonis  
Council President