

**The Township Building remains closed to the public.
This meeting will be held through a Zoom teleconferencing link.
Information to join the meeting will be provided on our website.**

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 – TOWNSHIP RESIDENT ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

- A. John & Susan Blair – John's Place – 3725 Old Philadelphia Pike – Conditional Use Decision for Driveway & Utilities Crossing of Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to Black River
- B. BT Stonewood Longridge Major Subdivision – Bergstresser Drive/Longridge Drive/Imperial Crest Lane/Royal Valley Lane – Update to Council

V. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Aaron & Morgan Detwiler – 2226 Apple Street – Request Variance for Side Yard and Front Yard Setback for Garage Addition
- B. Final Adoption of the 2021 Budget – Resolution #75-2020
- C. Resolution #76-2020 – Fixing the General Purpose Tax Levy for 2021
- D. Resolution #77-2020 – Fixing EIT, Real Estate Transfer Tax & Local Services Tax for General Purpose
- E. Resolution #78-2020 – Authorizing a Budget Adjustment Transfer of Funds
- F. WalkWorks Grant
 - 1. Review of Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) to Hire Consultant
 - 2. Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee Discussion
- G. Review of Cost Estimates for Attic Insulation in Seidersville Hall
- H. Authorization for Payment Release No. 1 to Boyle Construction Inc. for Bathroom Renovations in Seidersville Hall

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Approval of December 2, 2020 Council Minutes
- B. Approval of November 2020 Financial Reports

VII. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Commission: December 17, 2020
Zoning Hearing Board: December 28, 2020
Township Council: January 4, 2021
Environmental Advisory Council: January 12, 2021
Saucon Valley Partnership: January 13, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ SVSD
Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission: January 25, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. @ LST
Parks & Recreation: February 1, 2021

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY

IX. ADJOURNMENT

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The General Business & Developer meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order with the Zoom teleconferencing link on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at Lower Saucon Township, 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA with Mrs. Sandra Yerger, presiding.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Sandra Yerger, President; Jason Banonis, Vice President; Priscilla deLeon, Thomas Carocci, Kristen Stauffer, Council Members; Leslie Huhn, Township Manager; Zoning Officer, Jim Young; Director of Finance, Cathy Gorman; Linc Treadwell, Solicitor; Brien Kocher, Township Engineer; and Avia Weber, Jr. Council member.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE) – Mrs. Yerger said Council did not meet in Executive Session this evening.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – TOWNSHIP RESIDENT ONLY – 3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Mrs. Yerger said we do welcome input from everybody but we ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per item. If you want to speak, please raise your hand.

III. PRESENTATIONS/HEARINGS – None

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. JOHN & SUSAN BLAIR – JOHN’S PLACE – 3725 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE – CONDITIONAL USE DECISION FOR DRIVEWAY & UTILITIES CROSSING OF UNNAMED TRIBUTARY (UNT) TO BLACK RIVER

Mrs. Yerger said a Public Hearing was held on December 2, 2020 regarding a request for Conditional Use approval for driveway & utilities crossing of unnamed tributary (UNT) to Black River. The Solicitor has prepared the decision which is before Council tonight for approval.

Attorney Treadwell said this was the conditional use hearing we had at the last meeting. We don’t need the applicant for anything unless you have any additional questions. He prepared the decision and all we need is a motion to approve that decision and send it to the applicant.

Mrs. Yerger said should she read it into the minutes. Attorney Treadwell said yes. Mrs. Yerger said the order is: And now this 16th day of December 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the LST Zoning Ordinance relative to conditional use applications the Council of LST hereby approves the Application for Conditional Use Approval submitted by John and Susan Blair for the John’s Place Land Development Project, subject to the conditions enumerated herein. The following members of the LST voted as follows.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved to approve the Conditional Use Decision prepared by the Township Solicitor based upon the hearing held December 2, 2020.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mr. Blair thanked Council for their consideration for this new project in LST. He’s very appreciative and he thinks we have a nice thing going. Council wished him good luck.

B. BT STONEWOOD LONGRIDGE MAJOR SUBDIVISION – BERGSTRESSER DRIVE/LONGRIDGE DRIVE/IMPERIAL CREST LANE/ROYAL VALLEY LANE – UPDATE TO COUNCIL

Mrs. Yerger said the applicant has requested to be on the Council agenda in order to provide an update on their project. Mrs. Huhn said they asked to be on tonight to give an update. No one was present representing the applicant.

V. **TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. **AARON & MORGAN DETWILER – 2226 APPLE STREET – REQUEST VARIANCE FOR SIDE YARD AND FRONT YARD SETBACK FOR GARAGE ADDITION**

Mrs. Yerger said the applicant is proposing to construct a 30'x30' detached garage requiring a side yard and front yard setback. The required side yard setback is 40'; they are requesting 30'. The required front yard setback is 50'; they are requesting 25'.

Mr. Detweiler was present. He said they would like to build a detached two car garage on their property at Apple Street and the property is a little bit unique as it's kind of cut into the slope on one of the pretty steep hills in LST. The house was built in 1990 and the layout of the existing features combined with the topography of the lot, he's really shoehorned and can't build it on the current setbacks at all or easily. At the time the house was built, the setbacks were significantly less. They were 25' and 30' on his as-built plan. He can build on that but on the 40' and 50' he runs into a major issue as the hill slopes up very steeply at the edge of their driveway. He showed their existing improvements on the lot and where they are requesting to build, and where the house, driveway and existing drain field are. He said it really limits any available building space on the revised building setbacks compared to when the house and driveway were built and that's the reason they are requesting the variance. The lot to the northeast of them is landlocked and really cannot be developed. If they were given the approval to build the garage where they would like to build it, there's still about 175' between that building spot and their neighbor's house and garage so the clear distance between the building greatly exceeds the intended 80'-100' distance between buildings. That pretty much sums it up. The photos in the packet convey the issue they have pretty clearly as well. Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any questions from the audience. Mrs. Huhn said she sees no hands.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved to take no action for the ZHB meeting.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

B. **FINAL ADOPTION OF THE 2021 BUDGET – RESOLUTION #75-2020**

Mrs. Yerger said the 2021 Final Budget has been prepared and advertised for adoption. Resolution #75-2020 has been prepared to adopt the budget document. This budget reflects a 1 mill reduction in real estate tax millage.

Mrs. deLeon said the language regarding the fire company and allocation for the money for next year is still in this budget, correct? Mrs. Gorman said yes. Mrs. deLeon said as she mentioned in a previous meeting, she just feels that it's holding the fire companies hostage and she wishes it wasn't in there and she would approve the budget if it wasn't. She can't support it with that language in there. Mrs. Gorman said she did not receive any questions from residents either by phone or email.

Mrs. Huhn said did you want to mention about the insurance savings. Mrs. Gorman said she sent in a memo to Council regarding our W/C insurance and basically our agent is suggesting we move with a different insurance company which will provide us with \$5,000 savings for next year. We were going to take action on that tomorrow and sign the agreements to carry that forward starting January 1, 2021. Mr. Banonis said that's great news. Mrs. deLeon said do you need action on that. Mrs. Gorman said it's more administrative issue but she wanted to bring it to Council's attention.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve Resolution #75-2020 adopting the final 2021 budget.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Ms. Andrea Wittchen, resident, said she would like to second what Priscilla said about the footnote in the budget regarding the distribution of funds to fire companies and its contingency on the merger of the two companies. She thinks it's ill-advised and it's bullying and it's asking them to complete something with an arbitrary deadline to which she doesn't believe they had sufficient input. She doesn't believe it's based on the experience of anyone on the Council in trying to make

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something like this happen in the middle of the pandemic and with the difficulties of trying to get things through the State, so she has to say she's extremely disappointed in using these kinds of tactics in order to accomplish these ends. Thank you.

Mrs. deLeon said does someone want to put in for the record about the amounts of money that's in each of the budgets and explain to the residents about the millage decrease. Mrs. Gorman said the General Fund is balanced at \$8,105,936 with the spending plan of \$7,264,904, the Special Fund is balanced at \$2,259,800 and the Capital Fund at \$934,490 totaling \$11,810,266. That's inclusive of a one mill decrease in real estate taxes and a .25 decrease in the fire assessment tax. Mrs. deLeon said maybe next year you could insert those numbers in the motion. Mrs. Stauffer said she can't support the budget this year as well because of the arbitrary timeline that she is being forced on the fire companies. It's disheartening that this language has made it into the budget in her mind and she hopes they are not called out tonight for any emergencies.

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Mrs. deLeon and Mrs. Stauffer – No)

C. RESOLUTION #76-2020 – FIXING THE GENERAL PURPOSE TAX LEVY FOR 2021

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #76-2020 has been prepared fixing the real estate tax levy for 2021 at 5.14 mills; this includes the tax rate for fire equipment at .75 mills and the general purpose tax rate at 4.39 mills.

Mrs. Stauffer said for this particular resolution, would it make sense to have separate motions? We could say yes to one and no to another, in theory. Attorney Treadwell said in theory he thinks in the past, all the tax levies have been in one resolution which is how you see it tonight. You could do it in separate ones if that's what Council wanted to do.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve Resolution #76-2020 fixing the General Purpose Tax Levy for 2021.

Mr. Carocci said he wants to make a motion to amend it first, so he's asking Jason to withdraw it. He'd like to read that the tax rate for fire equipment purposes be amended to a tax rate for fire equipment purposes and fire services purposes and he wants to do that to give the Township and this Council and future Councils some leeway to spend money on other things besides fire equipment. Mr. Banonis withdrew his motion.

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved to approve Resolution #76-2020 with the amendment that the tax rate for fire equipment shall be amended to say fire equipment and fire services at .75 mills.

SECOND BY: Mr. Carocci

Mrs. deLeon said can we just do that without changing something else somewhere. Attorney Treadwell said the Second Class Township Code allows you to levy a fire tax for a bunch of different reasons, not just fire equipment, you can change it. He's not sure whether Council specifically limited it to fire equipment or if that's just a general term that's carried over for the years from before, but you can certainly use it for other fire services purposes. Mrs. deLeon said we had some kind of a resolution that set this when we first started the fire tax. Mrs. Huhn said it's a policy. Attorney Treadwell said you have a policy, then if the Resolution changes, the policy would then have to change. Mrs. deLeon said that's what she's saying, something else may have to be amended if we vote this in. Attorney Treadwell said that's correct. Mrs. deLeon said she doesn't want to vote for something and then say oh we couldn't do that because you didn't change this first. Attorney Treadwell said if you changed this first, then the policy gets changed. Mrs. deLeon said she's just throwing that out there. Mrs. Huhn said if it passes, she can pull the policy and bring that back to Council then. Mr. Carocci said it's just too limited. He's looking at Section 3205 of the Second Class Code and it's talking about the fire tax set forth, it says the annual fire tax to purchase and maintain fire apparatus and a place to house the fire apparatus, to make appropriations to fire companies located inside and outside of the Township which make the appropriations for training of fire company personnel and for fire training schools and centers and to contact with adjacent municipal corporations or volunteer fire companies for fire protection. The way it reads now we just talk about fire equipment limiting ourselves to the fire apparatus

section of this 3205(4) and he just thinks the Township needs more flexibility if needed to spend that money. Obviously any money spent not on fire equipment would still have to be approved by future Councils. He'd ask for Priscilla's support on this. Mrs. deLeon said she hears what he's saying and never thought about it and never thought beyond fire equipment. Mr. Carocci said he didn't either until he saw that part of the code and he knew about our policy and he doesn't think we should be limited. There's been a motion and been second. Mrs. Stauffer said she's still uneasy about these two things being lumped together as a motion. Mrs. Yerger said are there any DCED requirements. Mrs. Gorman said in the code if you modify any line item or category by 10% or 25%, you are going to have to re-advertise so even if you were to say approve one resolution for the tax millage and say no to the other one and that passes as a no, she has to modify the budget then and have that budget re-advertised because if the millage amount exceeded the 10% to 25%.

Mr. Banonis said can we open this up to public comment and if there is none, we have to vote on it and if the vote passes, that's not an issue. Mr. Carocci said if the vote fails then it is an issue for all of that and you'd have to re-advertise all. Mrs. deLeon said we have to have a budget passed by the end of the year and that's a law. Mrs. Stauffer said we'd have to have another meeting.

Mr. David Spirk, resident, said he would like to throw this out, he saw it in the paper and tried to follow our local government as much as possible, but he wants to commend everyone for lowering our taxes and to even lower our taxes takes a lot of work. It took about just 15 minutes for this vote, so he wants to commend the Council for their hard work and doing everything on behalf of the citizens of LST and the fact that citizens money, the tax income, as we voted you in to keep a good watch on. He wants to commend the five Council members, the administration, and most importantly Cathy for all of her hard work in keeping our finances straight. He tried to raise his hand in the public comment section as well, so if he can say this, he read that Boucher & James has been indicted for some wrongdoing and he wants to commend the Council for taking quick and decisive action for your removing them from LST. He believes and hopes there has been no wrongdoing when it comes to LST, and he doesn't believe there is any evidence to that end but again, they served us for many years well and he wants to thank everyone for the hard work they put in. Mrs. deLeon said we need to correct that record. Leslie, do you want to explain we didn't know about that when Judy resigned, and maybe that's not the right word? Mrs. Yerger said she went to a different company. Mr. Spirk said he knows that the Attorney General, from at least what he's read in the press releases, has not found any evidence that any citizens or the LST coffers were affected by any of the wrongdoing from Boucher and James nor was Judy involved in any wrongdoings. Mrs. deLeon said we did not fire her or ask her to leave, it was her decision. Mr. Spirk said he knows, but you removed Boucher & James as a Township Consultant, not Judy, Boucher & James. Mr. Banonis said to Mr. Spirk's point, one thing and he doesn't know if it's appropriate to discuss now but since we're on the topic, he wants to explore whether or not the Attorney General's investigation was thorough enough to exclude LST from being harmed by this. When these things happen and there are governmental investigations like that, they may not pursue every potential lead as they have enough evidence to prosecute their case and they stop at that point. It's important for us to look into that and maybe Linc can talk about that as well as to what our potential recourse is. He doesn't know if we have to have an answer right now, but he thinks we owe it to the citizens to look into that potential and he says that because LST had hired Boucher & James as a consultant and they've been a consultant for quite a while and there are a lot of Township residents and people who have been required to use their services at a great expense to them to the extent if there is any irregularity and there should be monies coming back to the Township or the residents or individuals who have been required to use Boucher & James, he thinks we need to do that. Attorney Treadwell said he would prefer that we hold off on any further discussions on this. He thinks there is some more information out there than what is in the press release so he would prefer we gather all the information before we start talking about it and/or making decisions. Mr. Banonis said he's just suggesting that at some point we need to take a look. Mr. Spirk said he just wants to be clear that he found Judy to always be very competent.

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As a developer he never liked paying any bills, so that part he always has a problem, but she was a competent consultant for many, many years and he wishes her well in the future. Again, thanks for everyone's hard work. Mr. Banonis said we can probably go back to the motion he made and the amendment.

ROLL CALL: 4-1 (Mrs. Stauffer – No. She said she's against cutting funding for the fire services in total and she's against increasing reliance on the Landfill to increase central services)

D. RESOLUTION #77-2020 – FIXING EIT, REAL ESTATE TRANSFER & LOCAL SERVICES TAX FOR GENERAL PURPOSE

Mrs. Yerger said Resolution #77-2020 has been prepared fixing the EIT, Real Estate Transfer Tax and Local Services Tax for 2021. Attorney Treadwell said there are no changes on those from last year. Mrs. Gorman said correct.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve Resolution #77-2020 fixing EIT, Real Estate Transfer & Local Services Tax for General Purpose.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

E. RESOLUTION #78-2020 – AUTHORIZING A BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mrs. Yerger said Lower Saucon was awarded the PCCD grant for new radios for Lower Saucon and Hellertown Borough's Police Departments. The grant amount is \$148,868.00. The radios are available sooner than expected and a purchase order and 50% deposit is needed before the end of the year. Final payment will not be released until equipment is received and inspected. The grant funding is not available until 2021. Reimbursement will be applied for at that time.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve Resolution #78-2020 authorizing a budget adjustment transfer of funds.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

F. WALKWORKS GRANT

1. REVIEW OF DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) TO HIRE CONSULTANT

Mrs. Yerger said in September we were awarded a \$20,000 grant from WalkWorks to cover hiring a consultant to develop an Active Transportation Plan for pedestrian and bicycle travel within the Township. The next step is to solicit a consultant to develop the plan for this project. A draft RFP has been prepared for Council's review. Mrs. Huhn said you do have a draft RFP in your packet that is similar to another County that used this same grant funding, so it's fashioned very similar to that one and the consultant WalkWorks woman we are working with also gave us about six suggested planners who have worked on these types of projects and we've included that in the packet. We will also put it on our Facebook and website and make it available for anyone who would request it.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Stauffer moved to approve the RFP and to send to consulting firms requesting the proposals.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0

2. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Mrs. Yerger said a component of the WalkWorks Grant is to create a steering committee that will work with the consultant in developing the Active Transportation Plan. We are requesting approval to create the steering committee based on a list of participants in line with the areas of expertise outlined in the grant requirements. The Manager will review the list with Council.

Mrs. Huhn said we did formulate a Steering Committee recommendation. The grant consultant who is working with us recommended someone from the health field, the field of education, economic and business development, planning, DCNR, transportation and/or PennDOT bike or pedestrian coordinator, any advocacy groups within the community at large. Jason has already volunteered to be the Council liaison and representative to this committee and he would participate and the staff liaisons would be Cathy Gorman and Brenda Detweiler. We have reached out to some of our local residents and we have gotten confirmation that Dr. Philip Salen from St. Luke's would like to participate and he would be the participant in the health field. Shamim Pakzad who is with Lehigh University and also the SV School Board would represent our education facet. Andrew Warner who is a business owner in the Township with Black River Farms would be our economic development and we've also reached out to the Chamber to see if they would like to participate and have not heard back from them. John Noble from our Planning Commission would be our planning representative. We've reached out to Lorne Possinger from the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and have not heard back from him yet. Charles Richards would be the PennDOT coordinator and would be the bike and pedestrian representative. We're trying to reach out to someone from the SRT Committee to see if they'd like to participate as they would bring a lot to the table. Community at large we'd like to see if one of our bike patrol officers would like to participate from that representative facet of our officers and also he rides the bike on the SRT. That pretty much covers every facet and if Council is agreeable to that, we will put this committee together unless you have any other thoughts or suggestions on it. Mrs. Stauffer said it sounds very well rounded. Mrs. Huhn said if you could please do a motion, we can put a Steering Committee together. Once we receive the RFP and bring it back to Council, this group is going to move pretty quickly as it's about a nine-month turnaround to come up with the transportation plan.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved to create the Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee with the participants as presented by the Manager.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

Mr. Banonis suggested we have a growing older community and would it make sense to add a senior member since they may be directly impacted and may have interest in this. Mrs. Yerger said do we know if any of the people on this list who are already seniors. Mrs. Huhn said she didn't ask them for their age. It's a good idea and she can speak to the people who are on it. Maybe we want to reach out to people living in Four Seasons and the communities that are close to the SRT. Mrs. deLeon said there could be someone from the senior program at Seidersville Hall. Mrs. Huhn said that's a good idea or through the community center. We'll see if we can get someone added on. The motion would be contingent to add one more representative.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci amended his previous motion and moved to create the Active Transportation Plan Steering Committee with the participants as presented by the Manager and add one senior representative.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger amended her second

ROLL CALL: 5-0

G. REVIEW OF COST ESTIMATES FOR ATTIC INSULATION AT SEIDERSVILLE HALL

Mrs. Yerger said the Manager will review with Council cost estimates that were obtained for attic insulation in Seidersville Hall. This is part of the expense related to the grant award from the Northampton – Lehigh County Gaming funds in the amount of \$47,239.00.

Mrs. Huhn said there are three cost estimates that we received including the insulation at Seidersville Hall in the attic. It is one of the components that needed to be completed and USA Installation was the lowest bid and the quote was \$6,956.00 and the lowest out of the three quotes. Roger has spoken to them and they formulated their bid on what was required on their MRB values.

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MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve the attic insulation installation quote in Seidersville Hall in the amount of \$6,956.00 to USA Insulation.
SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon
ROLL CALL: 5-0

H. AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT RELEASE NO. 1 TO BOYLE CONSTRUCTION INC. FOR BATHROOM RENOVATIONS IN SEIDERSVILLE HALL

Mrs. Huhn said we received a payment voucher for work done to date from Boyle Construction, Inc. Roger has inspected the work and said everything is done, who we are recommending payment release No. 1 for \$35,872.89 for bathroom renovations in Seidersville Hall.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved to authorize the release of Payment No. 1 to Boyle Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$35,872.89 for bathroom renovations in Seidersville Hall.
SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger
ROLL CALL: 5-0

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2020 COUNCIL MINUTES

Mrs. Yerger said the December 2, 2020 Council minutes are ready for Council's review and approval. Mr. Carocci said he read the minutes and he has a problem with page 10, line 7 where it says Mrs. Stauffer yelled and said okay, okay enough. The yell was accurate, the said is not accurate and there was more than two okay's. He thinks that needs to be accurate of what happened at that meeting. Mrs. Stauffer said what happened at that meeting was she said enough. Mr. Carocci had a recording of the meeting and played it as follows: "Mrs. Stauffer said okay! okay! okay! Mrs. deLeon said you're really loud whoever is yelling, whoa." Mrs. Stauffer said she said enough, that is enough. Mr. Carocci had the recording and played it again: "It's me, it's Kristen, I'm okay". Mr. Carocci said that's what happened there and that record does not reflect that. There's no exclamation points, nothing was "said". Mrs. Stauffer said she's sure on many occasions Sandy has also yelled when things have gotten heated and called everything into order, isn't that right Sandy? Mrs. Yerger said she has raised her voice, but hasn't gotten quite.... Mr. Banonis said whatever Sandy has ever done or whatever may have been done by any other Council member, is not what's before us right now. What's before us is the meeting minutes and these are not accurate, at least based on what he recalls and that recording he just listened to again. Mrs. Stauffer said so what are you saying the recording said? Mr. Banonis said he's saying exactly what Tom said and exactly what he heard. Mrs. Stauffer said and what was that? Mr. Carocci said nothing was said, "said" is a mischaracterization, there were many more okay's, at least five or six. Is there some prohibition in the Township code for the use of exclamation points? Mrs. Huhn said no. Mr. Carocci said okay, so then let's see. Mrs. Stauffer said this is highly inappropriate. Mr. Carocci played the recording again: "Mrs. Stauffer said okay! okay! okay! okay! Mrs. deLeon said you're really loud whoever is yelling, whoa.". Mr. Carocci said that's what he wants to see in the record. Mr. Banonis said what he recalls is it's okay, okay, okay, okay, enough, no it's me, it's Kristen, and he thinks all those should be with exclamation points and then it says "I'm okay", another exclamation point, "everyone chill", another exclamation point, and then there's a comment "I'm sorry, I shouldn't be yelling". Mrs. Stauffer said right, it addresses that she is yelling in that statement but she also thinks that if that's what you want the record to say, then that's fine. Those are verbatim the words that were said; however, in past, most of our meeting minutes have had typos and they've also been a summary action of what was said, not everything is verbatim. If that's the case, then it would make sense to make a motion to make the minutes be done for everything to be said at that meeting verbatim. If we had a transcript, then it would be more of a meeting minute summary.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Stauffer moved to make the minutes be done verbatim for the December 2, 2020 minutes.

Mr. Banonis said that's not what's before us. What's before us are the meeting minutes from the meeting on December 2nd. Mrs. Stauffer said right. You are asking for a motion and she's making the motion that if we amend the minutes, then it should be an exact transcript of the December 2nd minutes and listed out, an exact transcript. If you are going to do line item of the exact reading, it

would make sense to make the rest of the minutes be the exact line reading as to everyone else. It seems a little one sided. It seems you have a certain agenda, Jason. Mr. Carocci said hold it, hold it. Mrs. Stauffer said that sounds little hysterical to her, Jason. Mr. Banonis said he didn't raise it. Mr. Carocci said he made a motion to amend the minutes to reflect the audio for that section. He'd like that motion voted on and if it's seconded, and if Kristen wants to make an additional motion about getting the entire transcript done from the audio, then she can make that motion and we can vote on that motion, it's not one or the other. Mrs. Stauffer said can she ask why you are making this motion? Mr. Carocci said he wants the record to accurately reflect what happened at that meeting, so he'd like a second. Mrs. Stauffer said but why do you want that to be that explicitly written in there? Mr. Carocci said that needs to be accurate as to what happened. He doesn't think what's written there in the record is accurate. Anybody reading it would not understand what was happening there and it should. It's just an accuracy of records argument, it's nothing personal. Mrs. Stauffer said are you sure about that? Mr. Carocci said yes. Mrs. Stauffer said she's just checking as it seems this Council has a history of personal actions against certain Council members and has reflected poorly on them. Mr. Carocci said is there a second for our motion and then we can vote on your motion, and he wants your motion voted on as well, but his was first, so let's go.

MOTION BY: Mr. Carocci moved to have the minutes of December 2, 2020 accurately reflect what happened at that meeting.

SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis

ROLL CALL: 2-3 (Mrs. Stauffer, Mrs. Yerger, Mrs. deLeon – No) – Motion fails

Mrs. Stauffer said she would withdraw her motion to have an exact transcript of the December 2, 2020 Council meeting minutes. It's a waste of staff's time and there is some software that would help if staff is interested in that, she might be able to help them as that's her industry, but it's not worth staff's time.

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved for approval of the December 2, 2020 minutes.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Stauffer

ROLL CALL: 3-2 (Mr. Carocci & Mr. Banonis – No)

B. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of the November 2020 Financial reports.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Mrs. Gorman said she wanted Council to be made aware and she'll be bringing this up when she does the CAFR report, we pretty much paid the bills until the end of the year and revenue-wise we're good and there's some areas we exceeded our expectations. As for expenses, all the departments except for two were in line. One was in IT and that was specifically because of the computers that we are using right now and we got a grant for, so the expense of it exceeded that department and you'll see that and engineering, that exceeded for the end of the year that was budgeted by about a little over \$13,000 and we'll be addressing that SEO issue come January at reorganization, so we'll keep that department in line for next year. The other item was for health, but that was the health services, not for any particular department, so that's kind of an in and out category. She just wanted Council to be aware of that for audit purposes and why those departments went over budget. Mrs. Yerger said she appreciates her update.

VII. COUNCIL, JR. COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS

A. MANAGER - Leslie Huhn

➤ She said she has the ratification of the snow emergency that we enacted today. This is the extension for allowable hours for our Public Works Department to plow and be out on the roads so if Council could ratify it as it has been set from today at noon until Friday at noon.

General Business & Developer Meeting
December 16, 2020

MOTION BY: Mrs. deLeon moved to approve the ratification of snow emergency as stated by the Manager.
SECOND BY: Mr. Banonis
ROLL CALL: 5-0

- She wanted to let Council know with the impending weather if staff is not able to get into the office, we are all equipped with laptops that can hook into our Township PC and we have the availability for all Township phone calls to be forwarded to our cell phones, so we will be available for residents if they need anything if the office is not open. We are not open as it is with COVID, but the calls will be answered and emails and work will be done.
- She did have a resident who was unable to raise their hand during resident comment period, so if you want to take that resident now, or wait until the public comment. Mrs. Yerger said let them speak. Mrs. Huhn said it's Mr. Covelle from Fieldstone Drive. Mr. Covelle said he's here to bring to the Council's attention an issue they are having in Woodfield's development with some drainage off of I-78. This is the pipe that is broken off of I-78 now dumping the water in an undirected fashion into the neighborhood. It was something they couldn't engineer for at the time as that pipe was in good shape when the neighborhood was built so we are being overrun by water in the Township in our neighborhood just pouring, pouring off of the highway overrunning, just devastating amounts of water. You can see it just pouring off the highway. You can see 4" pipes getting overrun. These are downspouts, they've installed French drains at their homes, they've installed anything they can and as homeowners as far as to get things done to move the water. The pipe as he understand it ruptured around 2017 and what's happening is it's eroding and you can see the discoloration of the water eroding the bank and bringing sand and silt. He's actually several football fields away from that pipe break and it's bringing it down almost one house at a time. People who have lived here for 15 years having water in their basement where they've never had water before. People who have lived 15 years have trees uprooted as they have are overrun with water. They brought it to the attention of PennDOT and he brought it to the attention of Mr. Young and he hasn't heard back from Mr. Young in 14 days. He knows other residents have brought it up to zoning as well. We're just looking for help and advocacy. They say they are working on I-78 and it's a project that's underway and they claim they have added us to the most recent RFP for the I-78 project that's starting in Berks County and they don't anticipate getting to Northampton County until 2022. By 2022, his basement that never had water in it, will probably have water in it. He's sure his foundation will crack and the insurance won't cover outside water, so he'll be left looking for some way to cover that and/or eating the cost. It's devastating to a number of residents here and that's why he's coming to the Township as it's starting to affect numerous people and he's hoping Council can help with your advocacy and your assistance. Every storm has the potential to be absolutely devastating and the last storm they had it was just heavy rains over two days. He shared a lot of this with Mr. Young so he has access to those photos. Mr. Banonis said he feels for him, and it's an unfortunate situation. I-78 is a state road and you know as you reached out to them. He asked if he checked with Senator Boscola's office to see if there is anything she could do and he would also recommend after the new year, Milou Mackenzie who is a LST resident will be our state representative and maybe they can exert some influence on behalf of the residents. Mr. Covelle said they are anxious to speak with Ms. Mackenzie. They have reached out to all of the representatives. They are now speaking to the PennDOT representatives. They made it to that point of their exercise. What's difficult is there's a municipal drain designed to accept that water, but they are not routing it the way they said they were going to anymore. They tried to come in and trench some things out and when they did they actually had a more deleterious effect and driving water further east and that's where he is of that pipe break, about four houses east of that and it's driving water down, down, down. It's their job to maintain any of the work that they do and they are not able to do it. He's trying to do the best he can for his house and his family and his neighbors as well. In September with the storm, they

got five hay bales from PennDOT to help with the problem. They got a cone once, just to indicate that's where the problem was. He can build up a wall and route that water somewhere else, just to the negative effect to the neighbors and he's not willing to do that because that's not how we operate here. We have a nice neighborhood and are trying to take care of it. He's at the point where what he needs things he can't even buy and he needs municipal help to move the water, the volume that they are getting. Mr. deLeon said she ditto's what Jason said and was going to suggest that as it's a State road, so she wishes him luck. Mrs. Huhn said she has been working with Jim Young on this. He did meet and she doesn't know if Mr. Covelle was out in the field when they met with PennDOT representatives and some of the neighbors, and our engineer went out there. They are going to support what he's trying to do through the representatives and Senator Boscola. They will advocate for Mr. Covelle. She's going to write a letter to PennDOT officials and say they really need to look into this prior to 2022. It is their pipe and we cannot go in and fix their pipe but they need to maintain and it appears they haven't maintained it since it actually fell off so the water is shooting out and coming down. They will continue to work with him and do what we can from our perspective. Mr. Banonis said is it you contacting the representatives or the neighborhood. He asks that because there's strength in numbers. You can rally your neighbors and have them jointly sign on correspondence and you may get greater attention because of the number of people affected by this. Mr. Covelle said that's why he's here now. It's because they are now recognizing it's not a one or two person issue, it's becoming the neighborhood. This is part of that working together as a group and he's sure Mr. Young got several emails last two weeks after the big storm and that's because it's affecting more and more people. Mr. Banonis said maybe we can get a list of neighborhood names and email addresses and get an email chain going and keep communication open. Mr. Covelle said Mr. Young has his email. Mr. Carocci said a copy of the letter to PennDOT should be sent to the neighbors and the representatives from the Township. Mrs. Huhn said we can do that. Mr. Covelle said thank you.

- Mrs. deLeon said before you go on she noticed there was a chat from Louis Gomboz and it goes back to the budget, and if Cathy can answer the question. Does the 2021 budget call for a tax reduction of one mill, how much is that, and what does it amount to for the average homeowner? Mrs. Gorman said the actual reduction is 1.25 mills and that equates if your house is valued at \$100,000, in accordance with Northampton County, that would save \$125 off of your tax bill.

B. COUNCIL/JR. COUNCIL
Avia Weber, Jr. Council

- She said they are very pumped for the snow day tomorrow. School is going pretty good, they just got back from their Thanksgiving break to go right into the holiday break and she can speak for everybody that they hope 2021 will be much better than 2020. They had their holiday spirit week and everybody showed up and participation was high. They had warm blankets and it was very comfortable. She hopes everyone has a very happy holiday.

Mrs. Stauffer

- She said there was no library meeting this month. She does have a statement. She is troubled by Council members altering accurate minutes prepared by staff to seek their own purposes. It also troubles her that the year 2020, some Council members have routinely sought opportunities to attack other Council members when we all live in a small community and these attacks seem to happen for no other reason than to attempt to hurt feelings or undermine those Council members which is silly, so she hopes that 2021 brings renewed attitudes, mature behavior, civil behavior and hopefully no more attempts to rewrite history as accurately prepared by staff and to try and make fellow Council members look bad for unfortunate or inaccurate reasons that have nothing to do with

actually trying to serve the people of this Township who deserve their time to be focused on that.

Mr. Carocci

- He said he also wants to thank the Township staff and Linc and everybody for all their hard work, the PD and PW and everybody. He also wants to thank previous Council's and he knows Priscilla has been on Council a long time as so was Sandy, and others like Donna Louder, Ron Horiszny, Glenn Kern, Tom Maxfield. One reason we're able to do a tax cut is that the Township doesn't have any debt and that says something about the previous Council's that we're fiscally responsible and he wants to thank them for their services that made a tax cut this year possible. We couldn't have done it if we had debt and he thanks everyone, especially Cathy for her hard work. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, be safe with the weather and he looks forward to seeing everyone in January.

Mr. Banonis

- He said it's appropriate for us, as it's our last meeting of 2020, and it's been quite a good time to look back and reflect at all we've done this year and appropriate to highlight some of the things we accomplished as a majority of Council and Council staff. First is we've reduced taxes for residents by 1.25 mills during a pandemic, it just shows the level of fiscal responsibility and us not taking on any new debt. We've kept the Township open during the pandemic. There were no services that were cut at any time. Township staff has worked extremely hard and has earned a well-deserved pay increase for all of their hard work during this pandemic. We've streamlined the Township engineering firms from two down to one so we're more efficient with taxpayer resources. We finalized the Steel Club and John's Place developments. We've replaced the Landfill Host Municipal Inspector to provide Council with unbiased information. We've authorized the Landfill realignment. We pursued open space properties so the nature of the Township is insured for the years to come. We've fully funded the volunteer fire companies. We've overseen the legal completion of the merger between Southeastern, Se-Wy-Co and Leithsville Fire Companies into LSFR. We've incentivized the future merger between Steel City and LSFR. We've amended the fire tax funds limitations to expand from equipment to fire services and that gives the Township and Council more flexibility in spending. We've constructed a plan for the remaining payments of the ladder truck that's going to be going to the LSFR and we thank the volunteers for this year's efforts and previous years. We've revamped the structure of Council meetings to make them more efficient and more user-friendly, particularly for Township residents. We've continued the renovations at the Township hall. We've filled zoning vacancies with capable and intelligent candidates. We've revamped the policies and funded the community signs as the autistic signs as well as the park signs. We've replaced the windows at the Heller Homestead Widow's house. We've provided relief to the SV Conservancy with their need for financial assistance to pay the bills for the lease over the winter months. We've acquired a new K-9 dog and new police uniforms to keep our police force more vibrant in keeping our community safe. We've implemented the Comprehensive Plan for the SVP with the Borough of Hellertown and the School District. We've purchased a skid steer for our PW department to continue to be able to do their hard work. We've advanced a plan to have the County address the Meadows Road Bridge. We've launched the WalkWorks program and we also initiated the Route 378 Economic Development Task Force. He's sure there are other things he's overlooked, but those are some of the main ones significant. For those on the meeting tonight who may not have been at our meetings throughout this year, and most have been virtual, we've accomplished a lot and he wants to thank everyone for their diligence, for their understanding and hard work on this because it's a team effort and collectively we've done a lot and he thinks congratulations are well in order for a lot of people, particularly Leslie. Mrs. Huhn said thank you, it's been a year. Mr. Banonis said and Cathy as well.

Mrs. Yerger

- She said she does appreciate staff and knows how hard they work, and she hopes everyone has a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year and hopefully 2021 will evolve much better.

Mrs. deLeon

- On Monday, January 11th, Yianni's is going to have a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. and we are invited. Later on in January we have restaurant week, so hopefully we can support our restaurants by curbside pickup as they need our help and we need to support them. She thanks the staff, employees, consultants for all the extra stuff you did especially this year during COVID. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be safe with the snow, with COVID and make best of the holiday season. Mrs. Yerger has a suggestion that you may want to add as far as our local restaurants as they are mostly family run or locally owned, what some of the people are doing are buying gift certificates even if people don't get to use them now, they can use them in 2021 as it gives the restaurants the money up front.

C. SOLICITOR

- He asked if anyone from Longridge ever showed up. Mrs. Huhn said she got an email after the meeting started that they are pulling off. Mrs. deLeon said she knows what they wanted to update us on, but she doesn't know how many pages the HEA letter was, but there had to be over 35 comments, and maybe for next year, the precedent we'd like to set is that developers need to cut down on these conditions. You have the regs, you got the book, you know what to do, you know how to fill in the blanks, so we don't have all these pages and pages. Mrs. Huhn said he did mention that in his email that they realize that and are working with HEA. Attorney Treadwell said usually from the Planning Commission perspective, when they recommend approval, we usually say to the applicant to please clean up their plans before they ask to be on the agenda. Sometimes people ask to be on the agenda before they have done that, but he understands what she is saying. Mrs. deLeon said maybe you can reiterate Council's policy that you have to clean up your act.

D. ENGINEER – None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NON-RESIDENTS ONLY – No comments

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Banonis moved for adjournment. The time was 8:39 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mrs. deLeon

ROLL CALL: 5-0

Submitted by:

Leslie Huhn
Township Manager

Sandra B. Yerger
Council President