

Borough of Alburtis
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023

APPROVED

The December 13, 2023, meeting of Borough Council was called to order by Council President Ron DeLaco at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 260 Franklin Street, Alburtis, PA.

Council members in attendance:

Ron DeLaco

Steve Hill

Chad Atkins

Hector Moss

John Aleszczyk

Ashlynn Rivera

Mehmet Birtok

Associates of Alburtis in attendance:

Dave Knerr, Solicitor; Kathleen Palmer, Mayor; Stephen Nemeth, Manager; Chief Tony Alsleben

Visitors in attendance: Gary DeRoner, Leon- Norfolk Southern, Denise Holland

Visitors by zoom: Brooke, Tom

PUBLIC COMMENT – Leon from Norfolk Southern Railroad, appreciates the opportunity for allowing him back, and that the railroad isn't going away. Was in area for an operation lifesaver board meeting. He is also here because the Borough Manager asked him for railroad education information for the children of the community. Last time here gave a presentation that is normally for adults, but emphasized that with operation lifesaver, they have age-appropriate material as well. One thing that he likes to mention at conventions is that every once in awhile we can put the seed in the kids mind about railroad safety in hopes that it relays to the parents. Wanted to leave a few handouts for the kids, has a warehouse full of these handouts. Giving a Clifford book about railroad safety, brochures about pedestrian safety near railroads. Currently have an ongoing initiative about trespassing on railroads. Brochure about professional photography on railroads. Mentioned that since the last time he was here, that the offer still stands. Gary DeRoner asked what offer still stands? Leon mentioned that the offer still stands to work with the municipality and the PUC to address the crossings in the area. Only so much that can be done about driver behavior. Compiled numbers two out of seven incidents occurred when driver drives around the gates and that is something the railroad is trying to crack down on. Wants to reduce the number of train engineers that walk off the job because of the trauma from incidents. When an incident takes place and it affects both sides, we want to reduce the overall risks. We want to do as many presentations as possible to help bring this railroad safety awareness to everyone, even if it's just kids. We would like to prevent kids from doing things that they see in the movies. It is important to just spread the word about railroad safety. Mehmet asked if he had heard anything about the Church Street crossing. Leon mentioned that nobody has continued that discussion amongst his department but can't claim that they may have spoken to another government agency. Mehmet asked if the deal had been reached that was offered last time to Lower Macungie township. Leon mentioned that he didn't know about that deal. John Aleszczyk mentioned that last time there was two offers on the table for closing church street and west Penn Ave. Mentioned that it was the other railroad agency that discussed those offers. Questioned about the truck incident in November at the west Penn Ave crossing. Leon mentioned that a train hit a truck, police ended up catching a guy a few counties over. Leon mentioned that Norfolk Southern hasn't been popular of late, but another thing that causes derailments is stuck vehicles on the railroad. Chad asked if any thought on adding cameras at the crossings. Leon mentioned that they have been discussed, but cameras would be monitoring driver behavior, which falls in line with PennDOT. Railroad doesn't decide on signage, lights and possibly cameras at crossings; that comes from department that monitors driver behavior which would be PennDOT. They install the vehicle devices, and we just maintain them. Mehmet asked if the crossings became closed, would trains stop honking at those crossings. Leon mentioned that is a very good question, if the crossing isn't there, we have no need to sound the horn. That is not the case for temporarily closed crossings. Engineers look at a whistle board, if they see it on the board they must comply if a crossing is removed the whistle board would be removed assuming that there isn't another crossing in the vicinity. We get a lot of questions about quiet zones but those are very expensive. We

don't this of quiet zones being a safety issue but more of a quality-of-life project, the only way to make quiet zones cheaper is to reduce the number of crossings that need to be in the quiet zones.

Denise Holland from 213 Park Lane. Here to request parking lines on park lane near Roberts Street. Have photos of people who are on our street, we have if you park decent you can get five cars on Park Lane. Most of the time only getting about three cars. Has a child that will be driving shortly and needs a place to park. Chad mentioned that one thing he noticed when lines were installed on his street, could fit more that you can now with the lines. Denise mentioned that previously requested car lines to be painted when we had gotten the county grant that replaced the sidewalks on park lane. They painted the corners. Grateful that they don't have cars parking immediately on the corners but now they don't ever pull up to the yellow line. So, it restricts parking even more. Kathy Palmer asked if they all have driveways. Denise mentioned that multiple houses near her have four cars. Have a lot of rentals coming in but not enough spaces. Ron mentioned how about we have the highway committee just take a look at it. Go down, look at the road and make a recommendation if we feel that we should paint lines or not. Chad mentioned that he believes ordinance mentions 22 ft standard for parking spaces. John mentioned that he believes it would make it consistent with the rest of 2nd Street. Ron asked Chad to make a recommendation at the next meeting. Chad agreed. Denise thanked everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- 7:25 PM-Ron mentioned that we will be going into an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. When we return, we will continue with the rest of the agenda.

Returned from executive session at 7:35 PM.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report.

POLICE REPORT- John asked Chief Alsleben about trucks, is there a way we can increase truck enforcement? There has to be more than two trucks a day. How long does it take to pull over a truck? What is the average time to pull over a truck? Chief Alsleben mentioned that it all depends on what the truck is. Some are longer than others. We try to get them out of the roadway, so they are not blocking traffic. We try to take them out of town and then we stop them out there like down the road. Otherwise, if stopped here it would create a mess with traffic. John said it almost seems as if it is the same trucks at the same times. See them go through while at the gym and while walking dogs. Chief Alsleben mentioned that there are only so many of us to go around. We get calls and deal with other issues; for a while we could dedicate a person just to trucks. That's why numbers were up. Since then, we lost the cars and went down to just one car, understands it is frustrating. Was out the other day pulling trucks over, try to do as much as we can.

Chief Alsleben mentioned that he wanted to give an update on the new cruiser, it will be here in the end of January, so I just checked on the status today. Also, the radio project with the radio grant. We have equipment ready to order but we've been put on hold because the county is supposedly going to be putting out their bid in the next couple of months. So, we want to wait and make sure that we are in line with them, just to be safe. John asked Steve if the entire police car was coming out of the ARPA funds. Steve said correct. John asked what the balance is, I know we keep allocating that, which the way is done we don't take money out until its paid; was misleading because the pumps we had it there; then took it out. What's the remaining, I know we allocated something else, its about 27,000. But that was allocated towards I forget but was it the rest of the pumps, it was something. Hector Moss mentioned believes it was for the winch at the pump station. John mentioned originally it was part of the truck, but then it wasn't. Ron asked if there were any more questions for the chief. Chief Alsleben mentioned that he wanted to stay for a few of the agenda items.

Chad Atkins made a motion to accept the police report, Ashlynn Rivera 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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MEETING MINUTES OF November 29th, 2023

Mehmet Birttek made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2023, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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BILLS FOR PAYMENT -- December 13th, 2023

John Aleszczyk asked for a breakdown of the amount owed to Lower Macungie Fire Department. John said pretty much that is what's left in the budget for them. There was no equipment detail. Would like to know what we are paying for. John said two different things what's on here is 21,000. Which is just the balance of what's left in our equipment contribution line item. I would like to know what that one was. Just like the fire equipment they have to supply invoices. Hector said they can either give us a copy of all of the receipts or one lump sum invoice. Ron asked Steve if he could ask the fire department to send a more detailed invoice.

Mehmet Birttek made a motion to pay the bills of December 13th, 2023, Hector Moss 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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TREASURER'S REPORT

John Aleszczyk mentioned about 410,000 in the general fund, going into month, you are budgeting for a loss of 5,000 per year. You're currently at 323,320, above that with a month to go. I don't see that changing. Steve Hill asked about the grant reimbursement, Steve Nemeth mentioned about 200,000 for stormwater, 50,000 for franklin Street, school Street 42,000. Mehmet mentioned that he knows a lot of items that we budgeted last year. Consultant perhaps something we can revisit during the year similar to his past experiences in finance. We build budget in the middle of year or even reverse the budget, by June we take a look at the budget and realign it on comparison to where we are and cut items that we can. John mentioned the biggest problem is you can't just come up with income. Expense items that are out of control, you have salaries, which are pretty much fixed, you get that most of this stuff is fixed. What is not fixed are these projects. Mehmet stated that is a valid point. Example the only item that makes us look good is the sewer, which we haven't done much this year. Referenced by the engineering summary report have, if you look at total 248,000 versus 218 you think oh were not that far off, wrong in planning over by 12,000 and highway by 86,000, stormwater over by 15,000 as mentioned we're saving it all is the sewer fund. So, saving 90,000 so you're over 32,000. You're over 86,000 in the highway. Hector mentioned when looking at engineering punch list, they still have many other projects to complete which are going to incur more costs. Steve Nemeth mentioned that when looking at pre 2020 balances we are sitting where pre 2020 numbers were. Ron said for three years we did pretty much nothing because of the pandemic. John said according to the consultant's report we lost money in the last 5 years so it's 145,000 over the last five years. So just be aware of.

John Aleszczyk made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Mehmet Birttek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birttek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ENGINEER'S REPORT

Hector Moss asked how preconstruction meeting went. Steve said it went very well. We would like to hold another resident meeting with the construction masters LLC, to keep the residents informed. Ron asked for any further comments. Hector mentioned that some of the items still say outstanding but can't do anything else due to PennDOT. Steve Nemeth mentioned that item is on the agenda for discussion, PennDOT officially approved the closeout of that project. John Aleszczyk mentioned that he noticed that the school street is not listed. Steve

Nemeth mentioned that is because the engineers are no longer involved in that project since it is an in-house project. John asked but can we apply for reimbursement. Steve said that is the plan. Steve Hill asked what the estimate grant reimbursement total is, Steve Nemeth mentioned close to 300,000/ Mehmet asked about item number one. They put small poles in the ground. Steve mentioned that they had to survey the area in order to complete a punch list and release the remaining escrow. Mehmet also asked if we could call Jaindl about a netting, they left it on the grass that looks ugly. Steve Nemeth mentioned that is how the grass is aided in growing. They used similar on franklin street. Hector mentioned item 8; all we are waiting for is street signs then can close out? Steve Nemeth mentioned yes, our crew is installing the signs, should be two no parking signs and 1 Do Not Enter sign. We were installing today but drill broke on them. Hopefully by the end of year this one will be closed out also. Steve Nemeth also mentioned that some of these projects are yearly items like MS4. Hector asked us to say next year that we can stop the sewer lateral project, Steve said main focus next year is the Bicentennial 1 Village project. Ron mentioned that we have done most of the lateral work. Steve Nemeth agreed but said I&I work will always be there.

Mehmet Birtek made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report, Chad Atkins 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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MACUNGIE AMBULANCE CORPS – Ron mentioned report stated 410 calls for Macungie Ambulance in November, with 12 being in the borough. No further comment was made on the Ambulance report.

Chad Atkins made motion to accept the Ambulance Report, Mehmet Birtek 2nd and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk-yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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ADMINISTRATION

2024 Budget- motion to advertise - Steve Hill mentioned that there were items discussed at the last budget meeting, if we want to take action thinks that if something was happening you have to do it now. Ron asked Dave Knerr if we want to discuss tax increase should it be now. Dave Knerr said yes. Ron said he had asked everyone to think about it, what thoughts were mill versus half mill, now is the time for council to discuss thoughts. Hector said he would like to start off, based on the last meeting and multiple items that I have brought to council throughout the year. You know, we spoke about we continue to speak about accountability and at our last meeting, you are very certain that you would assure you. They would stick to the 180,000, cool. During that workshop you know I made a recommendation to increase it from 180,000 to 250,000. I would like to keep that at 180,000, given the fact that you are giving us your word and ensuring that they will not pass that. The second item is you know there is nothing new as far as us losing money over the past few years. Again, it comes down to accountability and unfortunately it puts us in a very rough situation at this time. There was also mention about increasing taxes to help offset the initial expenditure that we may be forced of next year. Along with starting the year all but because we just don't simply have enough money. Our funds to cover expenditures that are going to come up. What I am not okay with is issuing or moving forward with any sort of tax increase, for our residents due to lack of accountability, because I feel that we are in a position right now that could have been avoided, have there been better parameters in place to monitor. Hector Moss also mentioned that he is not in favor of issuing a tax increase and giving pay increases across the board. Especially when there are no metrics in place, have been requesting that information and assistance from this council for a very long time. That we should have some sort of metric in place to gauge or know a person's performance. I am all for rewarding hard work, but I don't believe that just because you punch in at a clock you should be entitled to an automatic raise, this is not a private organization. These funds belong to our residents who work hard every day just like you and me. Unfortunately, the state of the economy right now. whether it's a half mill or now or

whatever the case may be, may not affect others but they have a significant impact on a larger impact of our community. Which we probably have only 2600 residents. So that's my sense of the budget and how I feel. I would not feel comfortable voting to approve this budget, because as we mentioned in the last workshop there's room for improvement. I know that we also had talked about there is a possibility you know even if they make a motion to approve the budget now, we have time to change it. My fear is again based on history where we had the opportunity to make a change, and we didn't. I wouldn't feel comfortable making a motion to approve a budget and have a chance in the next 3-45 days that again nothing gets done, so that's my stance on it, I just wanted to put it out there. Steve Hill asked Hector where you not see the accountability, all year long borough council has been voting and everybody votes based on what they believe is right. Hector Moss mentioned that accountability comes down to the fact that there are multiple projects and as you can see for example from our engineer report multiple projects have been going on for years. Understand that there are going to be delays due to circumstance. I understand the whole pandemic thing as well but when you are working with money that you have allocated towards a budget and you are putting your trust in someone to ensure that monitoring is in place so that project gets completed according to that schedule and then they come back to us once in later and say oh this happened. I didn't see this, so we got to pay for this perfect example. The driveway or the one resident that went how long with his driveway like that and that just got addressed. Ron stated actually that has been addressed after working on addressing that has been last two months. Chad mentioned that they were incurring the cost at least. So, well that comes with accountability. John Aleszczyk mentioned accountability last December. I've talked about these projects a year later and saying that he is doing the same thing over and over except for their different results. Well, here we have another year where if we keep everything the same. Okay, I'll lose money again. At least once again we've spent over 300,000 up there on the drain. That is money that could have been avoided. Yes, we got back the grant of 180,000 and the borough ate the rest. Franklin street is another project that is over, and everything is over but to hold 7 people, our employees, accountable for our mistakes, I don't agree with. John said and yet the police would get raises since guaranteed in contract. Hector mentioned that Chad asked him this question. I have no problem issuing a raise or bonus to any individual who works hard and proves himself. The fact is that we do not have any sort of metrics system in place to gauge any employee performance. There are some that deserve more than others and some that deserve less than others. I believe in fair compensation and in giving a raise to those who work hard. That's not the issue, I am for raises but what I'm not for issuing rates we're talking about is that right now we're sitting at a negative 300,000 to almost 400,000. We have the potential of getting almost 300,000 back. We are still going to start the year off at a deficit. We are trying to make costs. In my mind it does not make sense to say if we are trying to save money, we are trying to cut back. You think that is fair to impose even a minimal tax on our residents and then we want to issue some one a \$5,000 bump on their salary or you want to issue another person, No. Times are tough, you made the decisions and we've been very fortunate and we've treated all of our employees very well even through the entire pandemic. One of the few boroughs that didn't lay off one person. We kept them all employed. We paid all of their benefits; we did that. So, I think that asking them to assist us at one time so that we can try to get things back in line for next year. I'm sure that they will understand because we've been very generous to all of our staff. John Aleszczyk asked you to agree that we, there were areas where we are overspending costs. Hector said absolutely. John Aleszczyk said OKAY that amount of overspent versus the morale and the employees would be catastrophic. Hector Moss mentioned no, no one likes to hear, it's one of those catch 22's but my main concern is that again if there was a private organization and we had extra money to do so without I wouldn't have an issue but ultimately at the end of the day. Every dime, every penny, every dollar we spend is our taxpayer's money. That is not our money, so we need to restrict those labor increases. John Aleszczyk stated those costs were still not going to have an impact, would not cover the engineering bills. Hector said it may not have an impact but it's the principle of something. Chad asked Hector about the raises, in your opinion who would get one and who wouldn't? Mehmet Birtok mentioned that when talking about the metrics, if you don't already have the system in place our goal should be establishing the system next year but looking at the picture today. I have this situation in my head and didn't take metrics, but we are not doing it now, we're not managing our people correctly. We're not managing our taxpayer's money correctly, but if we stop this today just because there is no evaluation of how people work, we will be collectively punishing people, or collectively awarding people, so we have to make that decision. Ron mentioned yeah, we have 3 groups of employees, we have the police, the administrative, and the maintenance. We have to by contract pay the police department, so do we not collectively give it to everyone else. Mehmet asked what the practice has been in prior

years. Ron mentioned that in previous years everybody was the same, it was automatic. Mehmet Birtek said If you want to make a change, and this is my sense if you want to make a change how you want to give raises you have to have that marriage set before you for this. Let's do this for 2024, Hector mentioned that is why I've been asking for if for over a year. Mehmet said I hear you but why is it not done. Hector mentioned I don't know. Mehmet said let's take stance today 2024 we are going to have a metric system in place, how to evaluate our workers. We're going to give that, and we have to adopt that. We need to send them guidelines. Hector Moss agreed. Mehmet Birtek, but your stance today is that just because we're not, okay so by the way your sense out of today we are not going to give raise. Hector said no my opinions of not issuing a raise isn't only based on the metric system. It's also based on your fact that we are entering into a new year where we need to restructure and get everything realigned and start planning better. So that we can put a metric system in place and then make those determinations next year how we are going to make awards based on that metric system. But I don't believe raising taxes again, it doesn't make sense we are trying to save money. Steve Hill asked Hector, "do you have faith in the borough manager. Hector responded that I have faith in the employees. That everything is getting done but there are no metrics in place. I'm going to give you a perfect example. Our ordinances that give job descriptions of every single employee of the borough are completely outdated. Do you know what each person employed by the borough does every single day? You know that they are doing their daily duties every day. Steve Hill mentioned he trusts the borough manager that those duties are getting done. We don't see what they do every day. I'm not going to spend 40 hours a week making sure everyone is doing their jobs. Hector Moss said he wouldn't either. John Aleszczyk said I do know that when there is a job or task, for example the school street project, they did a phenomenal job. That is a collective job. Steve Nemeth mentioned that we have 6 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee to run the borough 365 days out of the year. Steve Hill mentioned that when it comes to snow, they are out there almost 18 hours a day trying to keep roads clear. John Aleszczyk mentioned that when he goes to the gym, sees the guys stopping and picking up trash on the side of road. Ron mentioned that is the culture of that entire group. They know that if there is dirt out there, they pick it up. John Aleszczyk mentioned I understand what you are saying, I've said for years I don't want to raise taxes but when you spend more than you have, there is not many alternatives only way there is if you are going to cut all of the projects, aren't going to do that. Steve Hill mentioned we are the only municipality in PA without debt. Don't think the 7 of us and the mayor could have done a better job over the last decade. We've had a lot of favorable things. John Aleszczyk, we have had a lot of favorable things but there isn't much more of the extra money left. We can call it infrastructure; I call it waste. Hector Moss said to answer your question, I applaud maintenance crew and all of them at any given time they do a phenomenal job. Mehmet Birtek mentioned that sounds like you have a metric that did a very good job. So, your metric system worked, you just proved. We have a history of what the borough has done but we still have to factor in the budget. John Aleszczyk, motion was to advertise the budget, which has minimal raises across the board and 180,000 in highway engineering which is understated. If you want to vote on the budget as is go head. I don't think it's right the way it is but have to advertise as is. Ron asked for more discussion. John said if leave it as is you will lose money. Then you are in a bigger hole. Entering the biggest project in years and you saying you're going to hold. Mehmet asked when we do a project, we don't get paid until we show paid invoice. Correct. John Aleszczyk how are we going to finance that? We talked at the meeting we suggested invoicing monthly which at time we will be submitting to reimbursement. Mehmet asked if we won a big project, where are we getting financing. Ron mentioned once we get receipts, we submit. Steve Nemeth mentioned that in may is when we start to see the taxes coming in. at the projected start, we should be receiving that money at the right time. Chad asked that are we sure that the grantor is going to issue us money off the receipts and not the completed projects, is Ott and us 100% sure with that. Steve Nemeth said that is how the contracts are written. Chad asked so they can do partial payments. Steve Nemeth agrees. John Aleszczyk asked Ron, how are we going to make sure we don't go over like the other projects. Ron mentioned there will be an extra layer of monitoring. I'm telling you that they will stay under budget. I'm saying that engineering in highway will not go over 180,000. If it does, I will resign. I'm telling on my honor that they will not go over. John asked the other party if they could go over the grant budget. Will you stop the project? Ron mentioned the project will stop as we see fits. Steve Hill made a motion to raise taxes three quarters of a mill, no more room in the budget to go. We just don't have any fluff whatsoever. Ron asked if there is further discussion. John said no further discussion, I will reluctantly agree to it. Mehmet asked what three quarter does to the budget. John said it would bring in about 140,000. Hector asked if you know how much per household, John said about \$150 per household. Steve Hill mentioned

in the vehicle to go to site to turn off water, the room agreed. Next fee to be increased was the home settlement utilities reading rates which currently was \$10 and would like to increase to \$50.

Dave Knerr mentioned that next ordinance 584 is establishing everyone's salaries, just states the salaries and the maintenance department pay grades. One thing in the pay grades is the part time rate, not sure if you think those numbers are going to entice anybody to work here. Steve Hill mentioned that Steve Nemeth salary we will look at it again after he is here a year and make that decision. Hector Moss stated that he is ok with doing that. Chad mentioned that we didn't do that with Tony, why would we do that with Steve. Steve Hill mentioned that Steve should get five percent off the bat, to bump to 70,000. But I don't think there would be enough support to do that, Chad said I would say you know we did it for tony and we hired him last year and he got a raise, that just my opinion. Kathy Palmer said I think this council needs to stop doing one thing, the police department is totally separate from administrative and maintenance. Chad said that's what I'm saying, tony was hired in 2022 and received the raise in 2023. Ron mentioned why don't we revisit this on his anniversary. John stated that Tony received the normal raise, Ron agreed; Steve Nemeth would still be getting the normal raise, this bump is more so to bring him up to level, so at his anniversary we can discuss that.

Alburtis Sanitary Sewer Rehab- Pay Application 7 and project close out -

Steve Hill made the motion to approve request, motion 2nd by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Yard waste facility- Steve Nemeth mentioned this was previously discussed but wanted to get a motion on what they would like to do, keep it or no. John Aleszczyk mentioned that doesn't this it's a bad thing to do, and that the better thing to do is say we will start enforcing it on all of the residents. Kathy Palmer asked how you would do that when most happens on the weekend. Hector stated that's why we installed new cameras there, Sharon used to catch them. Hector said it comes down to enforcement, just like we need to enforce the ordinances. Steve Hill mentioned again we are talking about ways to save money, and that we are spending too much money. Spent 40,000 for those two dumpsters. Ron stated we can always come back to this if it becomes an issue. Steve Nemeth mentioned that he spoke to the Upper Milford manager, and he stated that he drives by our facility all the time, and that they had a similar issue last year until they fenced them in. John Aleszczyk mentioned that many municipalities are enclosing them. Hector Moss said let's just get rid of them.

Steve Hill made the motion to close the yard waste facility, motion 2nd by Mehmet Birtek and a unanimous vote followed. Motion passes 7-0.

DeIaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss-yay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Reducing the speed limit throughout the borough and inquiring into costs and process Ron mentioned we are already at the lowest speed that is allowed in borough. Hector Moss mentioned the reason why he requested this on agenda is he often sees people excel from stop signs and have somebody stand there, 25 miles per hour is fast for our streets. Dave Knerr mentioned you can travel 35 miles per hour without having a traffic study of any kind at all. You can have a lower speed than if you have an engineering and traffic study completed that justifies a lower speed. Not long ago they had a law that allowed to reduce to 25 miles per hour without a study, anything lower would require a study to justify that low of speed. You can always get somebody for doing too fast for conditions. Hector mentioned that he would just like to look into the costs.

School Zone Signage- Hector mentioned that he discovered that we don't have any school zone signs.

Typically, would say school zone with speed. Dave Knerr mentioned that you can do that if you want to get the

that we have gone 12 years without an increase. Mehmet said we are looking at it as 2024 obviously we got 2025 we're still alive but we need to plan for 2025. I mean we are going to have a big tax. so, trash is going to go up, looking further than 12 months. How does this impact us going forward? Are we going to need to raise it again next year? Hector said it will all come down to management over the next years of our expenditures and ensuring that we stay on target. Steve Hill mentioned my biggest fear is if we don't do it no there is going to be even bigger impacts on residents.

Steve Hill made a motion to increase taxes three quarters of a mill, motion was 2nd by John Aleszczyk, and a non-unanimous vote followed. Motion passed 4-3

Delaco- nay	Hill- yay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- nay	Rivera- yay
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Kathy mentioned here is the problem, we are going to give out the raises like we always do, not saying that nobody is entitled to. We are going to give out raises, next year garbage rates will go u. We have many seniors in this town, and we all know that many are struggling to live month to month. So be because of our mismanagement, council's mismanagement with these projects. It knows it puts those residents into this struggle. Ho do you justify that. John Said when you spend all of the money, lets manage those projects next year biggest project and it's going to at least cost us \$60,000 off of the bat. Chad mentioned biggest reason for voting against replacing people's sidewalks was the management of the projects. Dave Knerr mentioned that keep in mind we haven't had an increase since 2014 which was a quarter of a mill. Steve Hill mentioned that it's not like the votes for all of these projects were 4-3, most ended up being 6-1 or 7-0 say mismanagement at this time but that is how most votes came in. Ron mentioned that work needed to be done and we got grant money to cover it. John said for 2.5 years we did not manage the engineering bill but now we are going to. Steve Hill mentioned can't say that he is overcharged from the engineers when it is borough council that approved them to do the jobs, Ron said that we need to make motion to advertise the budget.

Mehmet made motion to advertise the 2024 budget, 2nd by Steve Hill, and a nonunanimous vote followed. Motion passed 6-1.

Delaco- yay	Hill- yay	Moss- nay	Aleszczyk- yay	Atkins- yay	Birtek- yay	Rivera- yay
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Dave Knerr mentioned that we need to advertise the tax increase and the salary increases. Ordinance 583 section 2-3 no increase in water, garbage or sewer next year corrects. Room agreed. Section 5 bounced checks increased from \$20 to \$30. Section 6 fees for zoning had been previous base fee of 200, like you wanted to chance that to say 425 per residential and 875 per commercial. Was that correct? Mehmet mentioned don't remember discussion this. Steve Nemeth mentioned these were to adjust the fee schedule because we were way below other municipalities. Steve Nemeth mentioned that these numbers all came from studying other municipality fees thorough out Lehigh, Northampton, and Berk's County. Steve Hill mentioned that we had asked Steve Nemeth to check into the fees that we are charging residents and businesses and found out that we were losing money. Mehmet mentioned that when did you notice that we were losing money? Steve Nemeth mentioned that he started noticing this within the first few months. Mehmet mentioned if we knew we were losing money why did we wait until 2023, instead of doing this in 2022. Dave Knerr mentioned that we don't often come across many of these fees, like other municipalities, so they don't get picked up on unless you start seeing a steady stream of these. Mehmet said these are studied numbers. Steve Hill mentioned that Steve Nemeth put the time in to study these numbers, so I believe and trust what he came up with. Dave Knerr mentioned that normally we would request an escrow on top of the base fee. Steve Nemeth mentioned that was the one item with house down the street, we incurred engineering costs which surpassed the escrow, increasing the escrow would prevent us having to chase after developer for costs and to protect us from these charges. Another item that was increased was the normal zoning application fee from \$50 to \$75. Residential rental fee increased from \$60 to \$100. We have a lot of rentals, Hector Moss requested to raise them to \$150. Mehmet seconded that idea. Miscellaneous rates in the water system include increasing the water shut off and on fee from \$15 to \$30. Mehmet asked what all goes into shutting off the water, mentioned that maintenance goes and turns off water at the curb. Mehmet said we should raise it to \$50, because you need to factor that time and gas

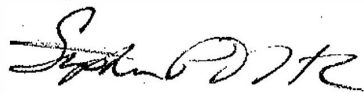
flashing light signs you would need PennDOT approval. Hector mentioned that he is hoping for example it'll say drug free school zone or whatever and like if it posted you can get arrested for having paraphernalia or whatever in general there is no signage. Ron stated that it would not hurt to look into the costs. Steve Nemeth mentioned that the flashing light signs are about 5,000 each and for the non-flashing signs roughly about 80 per sign and would need to install end of school zone signs also. Chad wanted to know limits for school zone. Steve Nemeth mentioned about 1600 ft. Chad asked about flint hill road if that would work up that way. Steve Nemeth mentioned that he will look into it. Steve Nemeth mentioned that he can look into ballpark figures for the signage.

Annual Holiday Staff Get Together- Steve Nemeth mentioned that we would like to hold our annual staff holiday get together on December 21st from 11:30 am-1:30 pm

A motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. was made by Mehmet Birtek, 2nd by Ashlynn Rivera and a unanimous vote followed.

APPROVED

Meeting minutes were taken and submitted by:



Stephen Nemeth, Borough Manager.