

Penndel Borough Council Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

Council President Joe Adams called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the Meeting

Council President Joe Adams
Council Vice President Alan Dashoff
Councilwoman Barbara Heffelfinger
Councilman Joe Dudash
Councilman Gary Nickerson
Councilman Bud Murphy
Councilman John Stratz
Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

Dave Truelove, Solicitor, Hill Wallack
Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer
Geoff Thompson, Manager
Sean Perry, Police Chief

Presentation

Chief Perry presented commendations to Officer Kyle Wojciechowski for 22 years of service and to Officer Paul Callan for 20 years of service.

Council or Borough Announcements

John Stratz asked for the public's help in identifying a 14-year-old driving an illegal motorcycle. He was doing wheelies up and down Hulmeville Ave., causing havoc with traffic. He will get himself killed or someone hurt who is driving legally. If you see him, please take his picture so they can identify him. This June is the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs annual conference. Every borough is expected to send at least one representative. Last year they had three. If anyone wants to accompany him, please let him know soon so he can make reservations.

Barbara Heffelfinger said the Activities' Committee's Easter egg hunt is this coming Saturday at Redeemer Lutheran Church field. It is for ages 1-10. It starts at noon so people should arrive at 11:45.

Joe Dudash said last week he was educated on human waste. The sewer system got plugged up on Oak Ave. He wanted to thank Karen because they were calling her all hours of the night. Also, Carol and the mayor, Mr. Adams, and Officer Bevans. Their contractor Justin was great. They called him and he got the truck in to unclog it. They are going to be putting out in the newsletter and on the sewer bills that you should not throw hygiene products, wipes and grease in toilets or drains. It's like sludge. Two houses were affected on the end of Oak Ave. They have photographs of one house where it was coming out of the sink, and it was shooting up like a brown fountain. It affects all of them because they have to pay to bring these crews in. The second thing is the fire department gave them an extensive briefing from their mission statement. Regionalization is coming and they want to work with them to keep them in tune with what's going to happen if Middletown takes over the whole thing. They are in the dark as much

as council is. They just hired a new fire chief but they're going through baby steps right now. They need to have a task force for where they can communicate with the fire department so they can give them information on their meetings. The third thing is he got a weird letter. It was kind of shaky. The letter was to the police chief. It said "our life is wasted that is spent in the saddle. There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse when your horse follows you without being asked, when he rubs his head on yours and when you look at him and feel that tingle down your spine, you'll know you're loved." It was signed by big black and white face horses of Hulmeville, and they wanted to thank the chief. They had to write with their mouth with a pen, so it was a little shaky. They want to thank the chief and Officer Gaffney, who was working at Hulmeville at the time and who also works for Penndel. These two horses took a lot of time, and they were on the news. This is an historical moment, and they have to do something for the chief. Next session he's going to pass an award for him and Officer Gaffney. He does have one award for him tonight, so he can hang it on his wall to remind him. It's called the Howdy Award.

Mayor Sodano said this is not official business, but he wanted to bring it up here. Recently, he was contacted by a contractor who was actually one of the original bidders when they purchased and redid the police station. He had seen the information that had gone around about the second story etc. and all of the back and forth on it. He contacted him because being one of the original bidders, he had information regarding that and he passed on to him unofficially, that bid that included not a second story but the A-frame type roof that they had originally spoken about with space upstairs for some storage and steps to get to it. His bid in round numbers, was \$100,000.00 for that and he did specify to him that those numbers were at prevailing wage. He just wanted to mention it because it solidifies some of the concerns that something was afoot in what had gone on.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Joe Adams said before starting public comment on agenda items, he would just like to remind everyone of a couple of things. Everyone will be given the right and opportunity to speak but that does not mean that the council will tolerate any obscenities or threats or any acts of violence against anyone in the room. Also, the professionals work for them here at council. This is not a Q&A session for them. The audience can make comments and questions, they can ask anything they like but sitting here tonight in the chair position, he will be recognizing them before they ask them to actually speak. He'd like to give everyone a fair opportunity to make their comments before they start responding to those questions. They'll write questions down and answer them, as necessary.

Tim Weaver, said the first thing he'd like to discuss is the extra \$9,000.00 to put footers under the bleachers down at the ball field. That should not have been overlooked to begin with. Anybody could go down there and see that the old bleachers had been sinking into the blacktop for some time. He doesn't understand why there has to be another charge. The second thing is he sees \$25,943.50 for ADA renovations. He thought they just had that done out front. He doesn't understand why they need it out front and out back. Maybe they should just scale that down and put out a decent set of steps out back for anybody who wants to come in that way. They have plenty of access to get into the front doors. Third, he said to Dave Truelove that he was wondering how his second home is with all that money he's making on Schoolhouse Court.

Consent Items

MOTION BY ALAN DASHOFF TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 WORKSHOP MEETING. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. Motion passes 6-0-1 (1 abstention Joe Dudash).

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2023:

Please pay the following bills for the month of March 2023:

General Fund	\$20,998.30
Fire Tax Fund	\$ 5,842.91
Refuse Fund	\$ 185.08
Sewer Fund	\$32,901.34
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 1,812.50
Sewer Capital Fund	\$ 929.99
Liquid Fuel Fund	\$ 114.97
Escrow Fund	\$ 3,718.40
Payroll Fund	\$ 2,027.20

Payroll

General Fund	\$35,327.01
Sewer Fund	\$ <u>4,243.79</u>
Total	\$39,570.80

Escrow Fund Bills

Schoolhouse Court:

Hill Wallack, LLP \$1,690.40

Schoolhouse Court LD Waiver:

Hill Wallack \$1,300.00
\$ 728.00

SECONDED BY JOE ADAMS. All ayes, motion carried.

Reports:

President's Report

Joe Adams said there's been a couple major incidents recently that he'd like to highlight. The first one is last weekend with the water situation that took place in Bristol. He thanked Jim, their Emergency Management coordinator. He's been very much on the ball during this entire process. He attended all the necessary meetings and briefings, and they had steady flows of communication keeping everyone briefed. At no point in time was anyone in Lower Bucks County or Philadelphia's water contaminated. It was verified up and down the chain. He thanked Karen and the municipal staff for getting that information out there and putting it on Facebook. Water security is a real thing and where they get their water from is important and the safety of it is important. Another incident that took place this week as Mr. Dudash mentioned, they were up to their knees in waste together the other night on Oak Ave. They will be working with Karen and staff to put a little notice on the sewer bills. The sanitary sewers have a four-inch pipe going through a lot of these streets connecting to the mains. Please don't flush things down the toilet even if it says on the package, it's approved and safe to be disposable, because it's not. It was horrifying walking into someone's house and watching

sewage come up out of their utility sink and begin to pour into their basement. He'd like to thank Karen, Justin, the chief and the police that were involved, and Mr. Dudash and the mayor for responding on the scene and all of those that were a part of the process to help get that situation resolved. They have to pay attention to their services, and he knows Carol has some projects that they're working on right now. Another thing they have to be concerned about is that they recently had a tornado warning. He remembers the last time when they actually had to get into the basement because the tornado was two miles away. He's glad that they have good emergency management people like Jim and the police that are able to respond, should an incident take place.

Borough Manager's Report

Geoff Thompson read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL FROM GILMORE & ASSOCIATES FOR DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR PROJECT DESIGN, MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE BOROUGH HALL ADA RENOVATIONS PROJECT ESTIMATED AT \$25,943.50. SECONDED BY ALAN DASHOFF.

Joe Dudash asked if this is mostly the RDA money or do they contribute. Geoff Thompson said they can't use the RDA money for the planning and designing of the engineering work. It just covers construction costs, so they have to use a third party for the actual design work. It's for design documents, bidding documents and contract documents. The borough received a \$139,000.00 grant from the RDA for ADA improvements in borough hall. What that encompasses is replacing the rear ramp, which is not ADA compliant, the rear entrance door, the council room door, and the front entrance door. All those doors would need to be replaced because they are not ADA compliant. The rear entrance door would have a push button open since there's a ramp back there. The other two doors can have push buttons, but they don't have to have a push button ADA device on them. It can be ADA compliant without a push button. That is an option that council could consider. Also, within this grant, they are considering putting in a service counter at the council room door that would also be ADA compliant. That wasn't within the initial request for this RDA grant. They would need approval from the RDA. They haven't gotten a specific estimate on the service counter, but he doesn't expect it to be overly expensive. That's what this grant would cover. He had a schematic on the back of where the improvements would take place. The front entrance door hopefully would be replaced with some sort of like type door but metal, most likely a lower cost type door but it would match the existing architecture. The other doors would be ADA compliant. The proposal from Gilmore would be for doing the architectural work, the design and also putting together the bid specs. and it would also cover inspection of the project as it's ongoing. Joe Dudash asked if there were drawings from when Beverly was here when they were going to put on a second floor and all. Geoff said the only drawings he saw were part of the grant application and they were basically just sketches. Joe Adams said he thinks some of her drawings had mahogany doors.

Tim Weaver, said he noticed when Geoff was speaking, there are a bunch of add-ons like a little convenience window and stuff. He asked why everything always has to get changed. He said do the project the way it's written first and then if they want to do something else, figure out how to put it in there. Quit wasting their money.

Mike Smith, asked if the professional services put out for bid. Geoff said it wouldn't require bidding, just an RFP. Mike said so, only one person was contacted. Geoff said it's for Gilmore

and they were used because they're the original person to put together the original estimates and also the grant application to RDA. Mike said they should put it out for bid because he thinks they might get a better price than \$25,000.00. Geoff explained further about the items that are add ons. He said they are optional only if council wants them. The service window they have been talking about for a while. The RDA would have to approve it. Joe asked if it would block anything. Geoff said it would be beside the door. Joe Adams said now they are keeping the door locked during the day. Anyone can still come in under appointment. The service desk would be kind of like a bank teller's window, so that when they come in asking for stuff, as soon as the door opens and the bell goes off, a member of staff walks straight to the window and starts engaging with the resident. This way they are not just standing behind a locked door. Geoff said they have to spend the money by the end of the year. Joe Adams said they've got a little bit more time. Bud said he would support their getting another bid. Dave said if they want to table this, they have to have a motion to table. Gary Nickerson said he has some concerns about the ability to spend this money before the end of the year. It's pretty difficult to get construction materials. This is just to authorize them to do this. Geoff said someone else would have to create these plans and drawings. That will be pushing them back probably at least three months. It would be squeezing them. He's not saying they couldn't do it. Gary said he thinks there's a benefit in using Gilmore. They're aware of the scope of the work and have been here. Geoff said he thinks they have to have the project completed by the end of the year. They want to see that money spent. John said if they look at one of the pages in the book, the package is kind of giving Gilmore's fees and comes extremely close to \$25,000.00. If they table it, April will be gone, and they probably won't start the project until June. They already have plans completely written out and ready to go. Alan asked if anybody happens to know what the customary engineering fee or architectural fee is percentage wise. He is getting that this is about 20% of the project value. He asked if anyone knew what's normal. Alan said it seems a little high. It's about 20% of the cost of the project. From Google, it's about 15%, which is normal.

Tim Weaver, said they should negotiate and see if they can get them to bring that price down and throw it out to bid and maybe save a couple thousand dollars. Maybe they're willing to play ball at the table instead of just accepting things the way they are in this economy. Start playing ball with these people. Tell them you will throw it out to bid unless they're willing to play ball with them.

Geoff said for the sake of the expediency, he asked if they could just table this tonight and he'll ask Gilmore if they can sharpen their pencil because just thinking about it, he doesn't think they're going to be able to get this project done if they go out to an RFP. It takes too much time to get some new firm up to speed. John asked how much money they would lose by throwing this grant away and not completing it in time. Geoff said the grant amount is \$139,000.00. John said that opposed to saving \$2,000.00 or whatever.

Mike Smith if they do this by the end of this month, that gives them the first meeting in May to authorize it. If they don't get somebody else, then authorize Gilmore to go ahead. They're only pushing it back and giving the opportunity to somebody else. He thinks Geoff's off on his timeline. The project could be done. He asked Barbara if they have ever asked the county to extend an RDA grant. Barbara said yes, for extenuating circumstances.

MOTION BY JOE ADAMS TO TABLE THIS PARTICULAR MOTION AS READ. SECONDED BY ALAN DASHOFF. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Nickerson, yes, Bud Murphy, yes, John Stratz, no, Alan Dashoff, yes, Joe Adams, yes, Barbara Heffelfinger, yes, Joe Dudash, yes. Motion passes 6-1

Joe Adams asked if they need to make a motion to instruct the borough manager to start the process. Dave said the minutes will reflect the fact that with the table, it is now just to direct the manager to negotiate with Gilmore on the proposal. If he's not successful by the workshop, meaning remove this from the table, then they can actually have a separate motion to authorize the issuance of an RFP and have a deadline. Joe asked Geoff to see what they say. If they can't get a response from them by the next workshop, he'd like to have an RFP open and available and ready to go.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sodano read his report which is attached.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Sean Perry read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Engineer's Report

Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached.

Bud asked Carol if she was addressing the curve up there on Route 1 in front of the apartment buildings where there's really no sidewalk. Carol said she was envisioning that. PennDOT cited some crash data on Lincoln Highway for pedestrians crossing in the area of the car wash and the Dunkin' Donuts. She was even thinking about the Legrande Ave. area, but this would all be planning. It wouldn't be a design, but it would be to put a plan in place. It would be to get grant money to pay for putting a plan in place on how the borough would deal with these things to make it a more walkable pedestrian safe community. The webinar is on April 6th. She can forward the documentation to everyone who is interested. Barbara said they have to have a plan and she thinks that's been the problem before. If they can get a grant to do the plan, then they can go and try for another grant to do the work. They don't really want to talk to you if you don't have a plan.

John said there is another webinar put up by the Borough's Association on Wednesday May 10th from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on sidewalk safety, stop sign and intersection safety. He will send out the information.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1, THE RESULT OF A CHANGE OF STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS PRESENTED BY THE MANUFACTURER, AND THE RESULTING COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$8,995.00. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER.

Mayor Sodano said to Carol, in the paragraph that she wrote that describes the asphalt as an asphalt pavement installation, and that's also the way she phrased it when she was talking about it. He asked if that would at least intimate that they were going to put in new asphalt but now the manufacturer says they can't do it with asphalt, and it has to be concrete. Carol said that is correct. Mayor Sodano said so, they're saying that for the same size pad there's a \$9,000.00 difference. Carol said if he scrolled down on the document, she provided council with, he'd see it's a larger area for concrete because some of that area was asphalt already. They have a larger footprint of new concrete because in some areas they already had asphalt and they didn't need to put in new asphalt, so the square footage is larger for the new concrete than it was going to be for asphalt installation. Mayor Sodano said the bottom line is it increases the total to \$177,985.00, which translates to a cost of \$13,995.00 out of pocket for the borough over and above the grant number because the grant number is \$163,990.00. So, what

they're really talking about is does council want to approve that they're going to spend \$14,000.00 over and above the grant.

John said there are many grants out there with say a 50% match that boroughs have to come up with half the cost out of their own pocket. He asked what price they are going to put on safety. This change is for the safety of the bleachers, children, and parents. This is to improve safety because the company has done some tests and have decided that for safety purposes, they need to change this specification. It's not a 50% match and yes, it is more than they expected. Mayor Sodano said nobody on this dais hammers the aspect of safety more than he does, so there is no question that safety is paramount in his mind. What he's saying is this was bid at a specific number and suddenly, there's a manufacturer change to what was specified, which quite frankly reeks of somebody realizing that when they're talking about grant money, most of these boroughs are just going to look at it the way he did. That seems like an exorbitant amount of money, even though the footprint is bigger to change it from asphalt to concrete. He doesn't understand why that hasn't been questioned. It shouldn't just be rubber stamped. It should be questioned. That's a huge amount of money difference. There was a number that was agreed to. There was a number that the contractor said it would be installed at. Somebody bid on this project and now they're going to be talking about an extra \$9,000.00 bringing their total cost to \$14,000.00. They were going to spend \$5,000.00 and everybody was comfy with that but now they're going to spend \$14,000.00 and that's his question. It was bid at a different number. Somebody specked it out. Somebody agreed to do it and now because most little boroughs might just rubber stamp it, say well, it was a change order let's go ahead with it. That's what's happening here and he's questioning that. Joe Adams asked Carol to explain why she thinks this number is relevant or at the fair rate or why they'd be spending this for concrete. Carol said the unit price for concrete was actually developed by going on to Pennbid, which is the procurement software that they used to bid out these contracts and getting recent historical prices on four-inch-thick concrete sidewalk because that was the closest thing to this. They looked at bid unit prices for four-inch-thick concrete in prevailing wage jobs. This is a Davis Bacon job that's similar to prevailing wages. She took an average number of the awarded bid price and presented that to this contractor and said this is the unit price that would be appropriate for a change order. This unit price for the concrete support slab was actually based on current unit bid prices that were acquired from Pennbid. The other line items there have been changes in quantity and that was based on bid unit price that the contractor bid. So, that's where this number came from. She subtracted out the asphalt that was going in and added in the concrete that was going in. Joe asked what happens if they vote no on this. Carol said then the project is dead. She is getting a shop drawing from the bleacher manufacturer, and she can't accept their shop drawing that shows concrete under it if they're not putting concrete under it. They will not do it with asphalt. They're telling her that their current structural engineer said no asphalt. It's not sufficient and it needs to be concrete. They've had a change in staff that created a change in policy. She tried to get some other answers from the bidder, and they were dead in the water. She doesn't know how to move forward with this project if they don't implement this change order. She hasn't figured out another way.

Bud Murphy asked what the difference between the square footage for the concrete versus the square footage for the asphalt. Carol said she estimated that they would require 28 square yards of asphalt to put down in addition to the asphalt that was already there and because they're not going to be using the asphalt that's already there, the total area under the ramp and the steps is forty-nine square yards of concrete. Bud asked what the difference in price is between concrete and asphalt. Carol said the asphalt would have been \$159 a square yard and the Class A concrete 4-inch minimum thickness is \$175 a square yard.

Joe Dudash said they have two projects and they're asking for extra money from the taxpayer. There are some economic hard times out there. He thinks it's time for them to start holding some of these contractors' feet to the fire and say hey, this is what they have. He can't keep going to the taxpayer for more money. He asked why they keep doing piece meal on the rec field. They have a beautiful design for it. They just keep patching it and to him, it's a waste of money. If they're going to fix this place, they should go full blast. Let's get the grant money. If they're going to do it right, let's do it right and take the whole thing down and do what they have in all these designs.

Barbara Heffelfinger said they are getting a reputation for screwing up grant applications. The bleachers are crap. She is totally frustrated that they work themselves to death to try to get this stuff and they come in here and don't know anything about it and then they say to cut a couple of thousand here and cut a couple of thousand there and then they end up with the same crap they started with. They have to go with the flow and not antagonize these people. They built up a very good reputation with the people in Doylestown, with some of the other agencies and if they go nitpicking with something like this, they're going to end up at the other end of the rope and that means nothing will get done.

John Stratz said around 2016 – 2017 they had a problem with the tot lot, and they had to close it because they were worried about being sued. The bleachers are disintegrating and if they don't fix them, they will be sued by whoever gets hurt on those ancient rusty bleachers. They will be sued by the Wildcat organization for not providing bleachers when they've contracted for those fields. They owe it to the community to provide something decent. Let's take a \$1,000,000.00 loan out and redo the entire field. How's that for the residents? He doesn't think so. They have to take the grants as they come and improve little by little.

Gary Nickerson said to Joe Dudash that he thinks he was the one that actually brought pictures to a council meeting to show them how terrible the bleachers are. He's surprised he is having a change of heart now. He was sitting on the bleachers on Sunday, and they need to be replaced. He thinks this is a really good opportunity. It sucks that they have to pay a little more money for a change order but he still thinks this is a tremendous value. It would be pretty foolish to back out now. Joe said he understands what he's saying but it's like come on look at this, how much money they have to spend. Gary said this is the opportunity to actually do something to make a change down there to improve the field. Unfortunately, they can't get a grant for \$2,000,000.00 to redo everything. They have to do it a little bit at a time. Barbara said these are brand new bleachers. They had that grant all worked out and figured out how they were going to get money to cover the total cost of the whole field and then some nitwit decided he was going to call every agency and then the administrator in Harrisburg believed that person and didn't come to them to get it figured out. So, they withdrew the grant because that knucklehead didn't know what he was talking about and that's why we don't have that grant. Joe Adams said he doesn't like spending taxpayer money. He doesn't know a cheaper way than \$14,000.00 to get new bleachers right now and still wants to continue to redevelop that rec field. He thinks that should be a priority with the plans they have. He'd love to get a grant and redo the whole thing. Alan said he sees they budgeted \$70,000.00 for culture and recreation. He asked if that was grant money or if that is money that is going to be operationally spent. Geoff said he thinks it is available for the Capital Improvement plan. They are in it for backstops and fencing around the basketball court and he thinks resurfacing the basketball court. He doesn't know if that will use all of the \$70,000.00. Joe said the basketball court rate was astronomical for resurfacing. If they're not going to do the basketball court, then they can switch the money. They'd have a lot more in that line item there to be able to play around with. If they could get a grant for the basketball court, that would free up the line item in the budget since they already have Capital

Improvement money set aside for that. They will try to come up with grant money for the basketball court. That way they can get the bleachers because they already have the money set aside.

Mike Smith, said they all have good ideas. What is missing is they had an agreement for a certain amount based upon what the manufacturer said they needed. The manufacturer is now coming back and saying they want something different under there. They already gave them the project. They can't change it now. If they want to do that, tell them they have to cut some money out of their job. That's the way it works in the real world with construction. They have to stop giving in.

Tim Weaver, said he's tired of everybody sitting up here and saying this problem and that problem needs addressed now. These things have been neglected for years, they should have had money appropriated to them to take care of this little by little with this grant and that grant. Do the job and fix the crap as it's broken. Don't push it down the road and spend money on crap they don't need like these signs and stuff out there. People are going broke right now with this economy and they're just saying it's free money. That place has been neglected his whole entire life. It didn't happen yesterday. It happened subtly and then gradually it fell apart totally. There's no way they could put Humpty Dumpty back together again at this point with how much money they're losing by the day from mismanagement of the money.

Pat Donahue, said his grandson lives in Collegeville and there are five diamonds out there and the games all go on at the same time. There are no bleachers. Everybody uses folding chairs, and everybody sees the game and they're not spending any money.

John said it has disintegrated little by little each year until it's now not fixable. They have to tear it down. They have gotten a grant for over \$163,000.00 to do exactly that, tear it down, fix it. It broke gradually and they are fixing everything gradually. The bleacher manufacturer came up with different specs recently. They can't go to the contractor who agreed to put in those bleachers and say oh no, you have to eat the price. It doesn't work that way. The bleacher manufacturer is the one who changed the specifications to make them more safe. They did some research and discovered asphalt isn't making their products safe. Alan asked if there is a way to scale back the bleachers themselves in order to accommodate the \$8,000.00. Carol said when they originally bid the project, they did bid an option with less length of bleachers and the difference was \$5,000.00. So, they awarded the entire project because it really wasn't that much of a benefit. They've awarded the full project but if they want her to try and negotiate reducing the length of the bleachers for that \$5,000.00, she can go back to the contractor. Joe Adams asked if they already ordered the bleachers. Carol said no, because she didn't approve the shop drawings because the shop drawings show concrete, and they currently don't have concrete. She would have to renegotiate the change order with the contractor. It won't change the price of the footers. Joe Adams said it sounds like they would have to start all over. He asked when they have to have the money spent. Carol said the CDBG grant runs out this summer, so they don't have a lot of time. She doesn't think they would have to completely rebid the project. It's a question of whether or not the contractor would work with them and deduct the length in the bleachers.

Carol said when they bid this project, it was ninety-nine feet of bleacher. They did a price deduction bid and requested a bid for price reduction for installation of bleachers that are 81 feet long. That's a whole less section of bleachers and the deduct was \$5,000.00. When council looked at the bids initially, they preferred for that \$5,000.00 cost that they were getting the full length of bleacher. Joe Adams asked if they tabled this, would she be able to reach out to the

contractor and see if they'd be willing to do it with a smaller section of bleachers to reduce the cost. Dave said they might not have to table it. They could pass the motion tonight with not to exceed \$8,995.00, with the proviso to see if the engineer can work with the contractor to reduce the cost by \$5,000.00. Joe Adams said by adding not to exceed to the motion and the proviso, they award money to be spent but if the money can be reduced by modifying the contract, less money would be spent.

MOTION BY JOE ADAMS TO TABLE THE MOTION. SECONDED BY ALAN DASHOFF. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Nickerson, no, Bud Murphy, yes, John Stratz, no, Alan Dashoff, yes, Joe Adams, yes, Barbara Heffelfinger, no, Joe Dudash, yes. Motion carries 4-3.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE PAYMENT RECOMMENDATION #1 FOR MEMORIAL PARK PHASE 2 LIGHTING PROJECT FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$8,100.00. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. Carol said this is the CDBG funded contract to continue improving the lighting at Memorial Park. Phase one changed a number of the field lights to modern LED lights and upgraded the electrical panel. This is phase two, which was providing electricity to the pavilion and updating the rest of the electric of the field lighting. What they're paying for tonight is just the pavilion work. They're still waiting on the field lighting.

All ayes, motion carried.

Committee Business:

IT Committee

Alan said the IT Committee is looking at two things. The first one is getting TV's or projectors in here so that when they do have to do a show and tell, they can all see a little better. They've got an idea of a single projector. They're also looking at the idea of maybe a TV set over here and a TV set over there facing that way and one towards the back, so anybody who wants to spin plus, they can see it from up here. They are getting some rough numbers. He is trying to sign them up for a free trial of MailChimp because that would give them an application that you could sign up for and give your email address and then they could push out notifications. Barbara asked him to explain what that was. Alan said Mailchimp is an email product that you subscribe to so by opting in, they can send anything out to anybody. They can send out emails in bulk and that way if there's a road change, when Karen puts it up on the Facebook page, they can also push it out in email because some folks have suggested putting it on the website but if you don't look at the website, you don't know. His goal is to get this for free. They have a free version of it for 1,000 emails a month. He doesn't think they're ever going to hit that. He just started doing the sign-up process. Barbara asked what the benefit was. Joe Adams explained that some people want to get information immediately from the borough through email anytime something happens. They can use this for other things than just emergencies. This won't cost the borough or taxpayer anything and they're not forcing someone to provide their email. It's like the equivalent of being able to send out a newsletter or an alert via email whatever someone wants to receive, and they can unregister whenever they want. It's sort of like signing up for the Ready Bucks thing except that the borough controls it. Ready Bucks comes from the county, and they set the ground rules and are primarily for emergencies. Barbara said she knows they are all techies but they're groaning and moaning about \$8,000.00 and they want to buy three TVs for this room. She's not saying that's not valuable but let's get their priorities straight. Alan said they are just getting prices. There is a slot in the budget that's already allocated that they can use. They can't discuss it until they know the numbers.

New Business

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MID-CYCLE INVOICES:

Comcast invoice dated 2/26/23 in the amount of \$236.68 for internet and voice service for 37. W. Woodland Avenue

Comcast invoice dated 2/26/23 in the amount of \$217.19 for internet and voice service for 300 Bellevue Avenue

Deer Park Invoice #03B0431953892 in the amount of \$317.89 for spring water and professional cleaning of cooler

Gettysburg Premium Account dated 2/28/23 in the amount of \$169.59 for dental insurance premium installment

Office of Labor & Industry dated 3/1/23 in the amount of \$1,450.00 for fire department workers' compensation insurance

Waste Management Invoice #4721-2448-6 in the amount of \$17,976.25 for February service

Comcast invoice dated 3/2/23 in the amount of \$194.89 for internet at 790 Neshaminy Street

Comcast Invoice #167376440 in the amount of \$564.55 for business voice edge service

Independence Blue Cross Invoice #230308463468 in the amount of \$5,958.90 for medical insurance premium installment

Verizon Wireless Invoice #642544745-00001 in the amount of \$25.02 for M2M Account 1GB

Selective Insurance Co. of America invoice dated 3/12/23 in the amount of \$3,796.00 for workers' compensation and commercial package insurances

PECO Payment Processing invoice dated 3/15/23 in the amount of \$2,115.71 for street light electric

City Wide Electric LLC invoice dated 3/17/23 in the amount of \$3,500.00 for electric installation for the LED sign at borough hall

SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO APPOINT THE NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE EAC TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

TIM WEAVER – TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 2025

HOLLY GANT – TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 2024

KORY DUDASH – TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 2023

JOE ADAMS – TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 2025

SECONDED BY ALAN DASHOFF. Motion carried 6 yes, 1 no (John Stratz).

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO APPOINT HUGH CAMPBELL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION TERM ENDING 12/31/26. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER.

Tim Weaver, said that Hugh should be here tonight if he is going to be appointed. Everyone else seems to have been here for their appointments. He doesn't think it's fair. He should present himself in case council has questions. Nothing against Hugh. He knows him because he does work for him. Some council members may not know who he is. Joe Dudash said he doesn't know who he is.

A roll call vote was taken. Gary Nickerson, yes, Bud Murphy, yes, John Stratz, yes, Joe Dashoff, yes, Joe Adams, yes, Barbara Heffelfinger, yes, Joe Dudash, no. Motion carried 6-1.

Public Comment

Joe Adams said after council comment, they are going to adjourn the meeting and then go into Executive Session. It is regarding litigation. No action will be voted on after the Executive Session.

Tim Weaver, said he is going to again walk out of this room thoroughly disgusted. All this money they are spending when they misappropriated it all of these years with all of the boondoggles. They put up the sign and they broke the sidewalk. He asked who's going to fix it. Nothing is ever addressed on time. There's always something else going on in this town. The residents are trying to tell them to be fiscal stewards of this money and they're spending like a bunch of drunken Marxists. It's unacceptable. There's always change orders. He can't bill his customers extra. He asked why they are always getting billed extra. The economy is collapsing, and banks are failing just because big government bailed them out. Everybody is getting screwed on this one. The only thing they've really got going for them is at least they've got a good police department and they're out there protecting the streets every day. Start protecting their money like they protect the residents. He said thank you to the chief because his team never gives up on them. Sometimes this crew does.

Terry McIntyre, said he was a member of the rec board for years along with being on council. At that time, and he's sure it's still the same way, the rec field was mostly used by non-residents. There's really not a whole lot for the aging public. He and his wife like to walk a lot and they end up in Middletown because it's a lot safer there than in Penndel. You can't even walk on the sidewalks around here. Most of the homeowners don't keep up with their property maintenance. It's in the code and the ordinance and nobody enforces it. It would be great to see some type of walking trails at the rec for people. There's a lot of dog walkers in this town and it would be great to have a small dog park or something in the town. For Keystone Collections, he doesn't know how much they really know about it, but they don't just collect the EIT money. They collect a lot of fees and a lot of interest. He asked if the borough realizes any of that money from their fees. They hit everybody with late fees and if you don't have something in your paperwork correct, there's a penalty on top of that and if you want to pay with a credit card, from what he's understanding, they hit with another 2.5% on a credit card. He's guessing they keep all of those fees. If you google Keystone Collections, they will see a lot of people angry at the way that they do business and they're doing it under the borough's name.

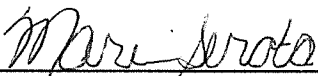
Council Members to be Heard

Geoff said they did not pay the contractor for the sign, the final invoice. He notified them and sent them a picture. They'll get that taken care of. Joe Adams said they had to have insurance to get the job. It's obvious they did it because he saw their truck sitting on it and the mayor was there and got pictures of it.

Mike Smith, said on the northwest side of Durham Rd. and Route 1, they put a new telephone pole in, but it blocks the red light if you're coming south on Route 1. It's in front of the carpet company. They moved the pole and now it blocks the red light. You can see the overhead one but if you're watching the cars down low, you usually can see the red light behind the cars. If you're coming down and you get to Dunkin' Donuts and the car wash, you can't see that light no matter what color it is.

Gary Nickerson said there was a lot of talk tonight about the rec field. In the three years he's been on council, he thinks they've made some serious improvements down at the rec field and the Wildcats themselves have made some improvements. The Wildcats just last week aerated the whole field and reseeded it. They pay for all the lawn care maintenance. The borough recently upgraded the restroom facilities down there and had a new electrical panel put in. They updated the playground. They put in new LED lighting last year. They took advantage of an RDA grant and for the second lighting phase, all fields are going to be lit up along with the batting cages. They now have lights at the pavilion, which was an issue. They recognized the need for bleachers. It was built back in the 50's and he thinks it's a dangerous situation. He hopes they can find a way to approve that project. There are a lot of local kids that are playing Wildcats football and baseball. The borough is getting a lot younger and there's a lot of kids playing t-ball. There are a lot of young kids that are walking there to play baseball. They should look into the asphalt trail that Terry mentioned. It goes from the concession stand to the playground. They should look at extending that around fields. He knows they were waiting to see what was going to happen with Middletown because they had all of these exciting plans and they were going to be doing a lot of work over at Spring Valley Farm. Putting down an asphalt path would go a long way and it would provide a place for people to walk. Mayor Sodano said they would have to have a grant because they're required to be ADA compliant.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:23 P.M.
SECONDED BY JOE ADAMS. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: 
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Mayors's Report, Febuary and March 2023

In February I attended all Council meetings and executive sessions.

In March I attended only the Council work session.

Attended Safety Committee Meeting March 29th.

Assisted in the March 30th Oak Avenue sewer emergency.

A reminder; under PA building codes, residential electric vehicle charging station installations require a permit and an electrical inspection upon completion.

Some upcoming Community Events to remember:

Representative Joe Hogan is sponsoring a shredding event Saturday, May 6th at Herbert Hoover School, starting at 8AM.

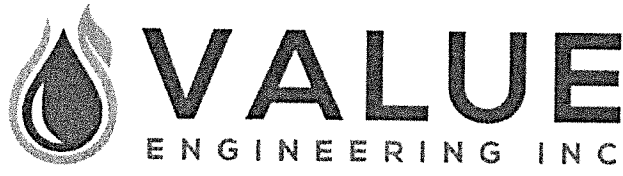
OLG's Spring Fling will be Saturday May 6th, from 5:30PM to 9:30PM on the OLG school Grounds.

OLG Penndel Classic Car Show, Saturday, May 20th from Noon to 4PM on the school grounds.

starting Penndel Hulmeville Memorial Day Parade will be Saturday May 27th, at 9AM.

Penndel Community Day will be Saturday June 3rd, 11AM to 4PM.

Please come out and support all of our Community events.



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April 3, 2023 Engineers Report Pennel Borough, Bucks County

Memorial Park Phase 2 lighting

Underground electric service, a light and two receptacles were installed in the pavilion at Memorial Park under the CDBG Phase 2 lighting contract. A recommendation for payment for that work is on the agenda for consideration this evening. This is a CDBG funded contract.

Memorial Park Bleachers

A Change Order is proposed to replace asphalt pavement installation with 4-inch concrete pad installation under the Access Stairs and Accessible Ramp to the new bleachers. This is a project for which CDBG is funding \$163,990.00. The change is the result of a change of standards and specifications presented by the manufacturer, and the resulting cost is estimated to be **\$8,995**. The **total** contract price, including this change order, would be **\$177,985.00**.

Walkworks Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is sponsoring a grant that would provide up to \$25,000 for developing an **Active Transportation Plan** to "improve walking, bicycling, using a wheelchair, and transit connections to everyday destinations and to increase safe and accessible opportunities..." This does not fund engineering or construction, only planning.

The Borough has a pedestrian safety issue for those crossing or walking along Lincoln Highway in the northeast portion of the Borough. Particularly vulnerable are the residents of the apartments wishing to reach local businesses and public transit without using a car.

If so directed by Council, I will attend a webinar later this week to learn more about the grant program.

