

Penndel Borough Council Workshop Minutes

November 20, 2023

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

Present at the Meeting

Council President John Stratz
Council Vice President Barbara Heffelfinger
Councilman Joe Dudash
Councilman Bud Murphy
Councilman Alan Dashoff - absent
Councilman Gary Nickerson
Councilman Bob Winkler
Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

Barbara Kirk, Solicitor, Hill Wallack
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Council or Borough Announcement

John Stratz reported that there was an Executive Session at 7:00pm.

Mayor Sodano reminded everyone that December 2nd is the fill the police car event from 8:00am – 12:00pm. If they have any toys for the kids, bring them over to the police department to fill the car.

Joe Dudash read his speech which is attached.

Gary Nickerson asked Barbara Heffelfinger when the tree lighting is. Barbara said December 2nd. Santa comes and gives the kids goodies.

Consent Item

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. Joe Dudash said the minutes are inaccurate because they're missing the chief leaving prior to the banging of the gavel, the vice president leaving, the police entering the hall, the mayor's discussion on the executive meeting, info to chief advised council needs policy on officers to make them work, the PBA where they and the mayor were in there threatening to use state police. John said if it's not spoken into the microphone at the podium and yelled out from the audience, it will not be included. Joe said the chief leaving before he banged the gavel should be in there and Barb leaving should be in there as well. Barbara said she left because of the language from some people in the audience. No way in this borough hall should that kind of language be allowed. Joe said it's freedom of speech as long as they don't threaten anybody. John said they are following an agenda, and the public gets two separate times to have public comment.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO TABLE THE MINUTES UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

President's Report

John said that Thanksgiving is a time for families and for everyone to come together and support one another. He hopes that follows through the rest of the week. He wished everyone an early Happy Thanksgiving.

Solicitor's Report

Barbara Kirk reported that the first item is an extension of what was originally discussed in Executive Session, which started at 7:00 PM and lasted till approximately 7:15pm - 7:20pm. It deals with an issue of potential conflict of interest for their firm to represent the borough with respect to two right to know requests, one filed by Mr. Dudash asking for documentation from the Chief of Police and one filed by the Chief of Police to the borough asking for information from Mr. Dudash. Because the firm cannot represent the borough in their capacity as well as represent individual borough officials, conflict council should be appointed to handle the right to know requests.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF CONFLICT COUNSEL FOR PURPOSES OF RESPONDING TO RIGHT TO KNOW REQUESTS TO THE BOROUGH ISSUED AND FILED BY COUNCILMAN DUDASH AND BY POLICE CHIEF PERRY. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. Joe Dudash said the solicitor hasn't given him due process. He asked for the civil service attorney who the taxpayers are paying \$10,000.00 a year for, and she denied it. He told Barbara Kirk that she eliminated him from having a proper attorney. He doesn't trust any of her attorneys. She is not giving him due process and is not representing the people of Pennndel. That solicitor has known from the PBA what the sexual harassment is, which has been out in public here many times and it's on record and the grievances that the PBA filed. She's done nothing. None of them have done anything and that's an offense when you have a sexual harassment complaint. They've had it since October of 2022. They don't want the civil service involved. She wants the whistleblower's names. He will not give those whistleblower names. That is in violation of the right to know and her sitting down here as a solicitor. It's despicable how she let this go and she's not even following the laws of the right to know. What he asked from Perry was he wanted to know what memo he sent out to intimidate the police officers, which he's been doing. They don't want the civil service to investigate who has the subpoena power to do it, but they get the solicitor in here that's worthless and the taxpayer is paying \$170,000.00 a year for nothing. John said yelling is not necessary nor is slander. Joe said it's not slander, it's fact. John said his slanderous words are being recorded.

Tim Weaver, said to Barbara Kirk that if Joe doesn't get legal representation and if she's getting someone appointed by her, that seems more of a conflict of interest to them. Barbara said that Mr. Dudash issued a right to know request asking for copies of all documents, emails transmissions or things of that nature from Chief Perry involving him. The problem is they're not representing Mr. Dudash in the right to know request. Her office represents the borough in the right to know. During the course of their representation of the borough, because it involves Mr. Dudash's right to know request, which may present conflict with their representation of the borough, conflict council for the borough needs to be appointed to answer the right to know request. Tim said as residents they were led to believe that she was going to represent the borough and Mr. Dudash is a member of the borough council and the Civil Service Commission lawyer was supposed to represent the police. Barbara said she doesn't know where that came from. Tim asked Gary why they have a Civil Service Commission that's now defunct, and they still have a lawyer then. Obviously, it doesn't have enough acting members currently for a

quorum as we were led to believe by, he thinks Mr. Hauser. Barbara said the issue is not civil service. The issue is answering the right to know request. If civil service becomes involved later on down the pike, that's a different issue. It's a simple conflict of interest to answer Mr. Dudash's right to know request when he's a member of council and they deal with him as a member of council in their representation of the borough and they represent the borough. It was simply asking council to appoint conflict council to answer the right to know request. It had nothing to do with Civil Service Commission or any other charges but simply the right to know request. Tim asked if anyone knew how much it would cost the taxpayers. John said this is the man who when Gary was president, gave him a hard time about a \$13.00 timer and now, he's going to cost the taxpayers thousands. Tim said when you don't have the right to free speech anymore and you're being stifled, people start getting a little angry and that's when some very worded language comes out because people are up to their eyeballs with this stuff and get people's questions answered properly. Barbara Heffelfinger said if they knew the answer to the question, they would tell him. Tim asked Gary if there's an estimated cost for this to the taxpayer.

Dave Cahill, said at the October work session that he stood right here in front of this podium, and he asked if there was a sexual misconduct allegation made against the chief and all of them lied to him. At the last meeting, he was accused of making the allegation against him when he read his report. He said he's getting accused. He asked Barbara if she called 911 at the last meeting. He said she's in trouble. She's not allowed to direct the police officers. Barbara left the meeting at 7:55pm. Dave asked if it was true that the chief had to leave the last meeting because he was actually hired to do something for Hulmeville because they were having problems at their meeting. He asked John if he was going to give him the same answer, he gave him about the question that he asked at the last work session.

Terry McIntyre, for the conflict counsel, back in 2005 to 2010 when he was on council, they actually used David Truelove's office for legal matters and things like that because Don Williams didn't handle that because there was a conflict. He asked if Joe had asked for this a month later when he's not on council, would there still need to be a conflict counsel. Barbara said it doesn't matter because he's a current council person at this particular time. Even if he asked for that information in January, they would still require that. Terry said when they approve it, they have to have a not to exceed so that they don't get handed a bill for \$20,000.00.

Motion carried 4-1-1 (Joe Dudash no, Barbara Heffelfinger not at her seat.)

Barbara Kirk said that the Planning Commission, as approved by the Borough's ordinance, requires five members with three members being designated as citizen members. For quite some time, there's only been three members, two citizens and one council liaison. Several matters have been filed by applications with the borough, which have been at issue because the borough's Planning Commission is not up and running in order to review those matters. The municipalities' planning code and the borough code will allow the borough council to reduce the number of members from five to three, which would have to be done by ordinance. If there was nobody interested in the Planning Commission's position, the Planning Commission could be abolished, and a planning committee could be established. She understands that a borough resident has submitted an application to be appointed, which now means that the commission will have three members. If they want to ensure that there's always a quorum available, she asked if council was interested in reducing the number of people in the commission from five to three. If not, it can be left the same.

Gary said he doesn't think it's a bad thing to go from five to three since people leave all the time. He asked what the committee option is. Barbara said a governing body may elect to assign powers and duties upon a planning committee, which is not a formal commission that comprises of members appointed by council. The engineer for the borough would still act as the engineer for the planning committee. The solicitor for the borough would still act as a legal adviser to the planning committee but they wouldn't have the same rigid structure for a planning committee as they do under the ordinance for Planning Commission members. Joe said the reason why everybody resigned is because of the shenanigans of this council. His wife was on it. He said if somebody appeals it's going to go to Middletown. Barbara Kirk said no. If they appeal a code violation under the building codes, then it goes to the Middletown Technical Review Board for the appeal. That is similar to if somebody appeals a decision of the borough zoning officer, it would go to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Planning Commission provides an advisory opinion and recommendations on issues involving land development applications, subdivision applications, lot line change applications, special exceptions, and things like that. It's an advisory committee.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO AMEND THE BOROUGH ORDINANCE REGARDING COMPOSITION OF PLANNING COMMISSION FROM FIVE MEMBERS TO THREE.
SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON.

Gary asked if they reduce the membership from five members to three members if that would preclude them from having a fourth or fifth member should they be able to find some at some point in the future. John said they have a new applicant. He was just handed it. Bud said they currently have three members, himself, Leo, and Hugh Campbell. Gary said he doesn't think Bud ever resigned. Bud asked if he is a regular member of the Planning Commission or liaison because he is on council. Gary said he believes he is the liaison and Bud is a member. Barbara said a sign application just came into the borough and it was sent to her asking if it could go in front of Planning Commission because they had two members and Mr. Murphy was the liaison. She wasn't informed that Mr. Murphy was a member of the board. To clarify, there are three members out of five. There are two citizen members other than Mr. Murphy. The issue is, the way the composition under the ordinance says members, three have to be citizen members in order for the commission to operate. Mr. Murphy is not a citizen member, so they still have a problem with the number. Gary said if they add a third citizen member, then this is a moot issue because at that point they have four members, three of which are citizen members. Mayor Sodano said they should have a Planning Commission of their own because if they don't, it automatically goes to the county level and none of them want the county people making their decisions for them. The reason that most boroughs don't have a planning committee is a planning committee has no teeth so no matter what they look at and decide, it's non-binding anywhere, so the Planning Commission is a completely different situation and it's where they should be under any circumstances. Barbara Kirk said to clarify, the Planning Commission is an advisory committee. They don't have teeth per se to issue orders or decisions. They make recommendations. Gary asked if they were to do this, would they have to create an ordinance. Barbara said if they reduce the members from five to three they would have to do an ordinance amendment to change it because the Planning Commission and all of its' terms were established by ordinance. John said he realizes that right now any important decisions go to the Bucks County Planning Commission since the borough doesn't have one with teeth. He asked if they take away the word commission and make it committee, would that do the same thing, Pennel would have no teeth and the real decisions are made by the Bucks County Planning Commission. Barbara Kirk said If you have a planning committee, it's not

necessarily residents applying to fill the membership seats. A planning committee can be people appointed by council.

Dave Cahill, asked Joe Dudash if his wife resigned last year or early this year. They needed the Planning Commission for something towards the end of last year and Bud Murphy and Leo Campbell were summoned here by Marie Serota, and they tried to have a secret meeting and they found out that they didn't have a quorum. Bud is a member of the Planning Commission, so he would make a quorum if he were the third one. He doesn't understand why they're doing this when they already have enough people, and they just got the fourth application. Barbara said the application just came in. Dave said they still have three members and that's a quorum. They tried to have a meeting and Bud ran out the front door and got in his car. He thinks they were trying to have a meeting about the grant. He made a complaint to the state, and they found out that they were doing everything through the Bucks County Planning Commission. Barbara said she would read the code section to Dave. He said he doesn't need to hear it because he knows what it is.

Tim Weaver, said 30% of Pennsylvania municipalities do not even have a Planning Commission. Mr. Truelove informed them that it's basically an ad hoc committee that council can override a decision and that decision will go to the Bucks County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has more teeth than a committee. He asked them to do more research into this because they may actually be losing their power with this committee they want as opposed to the commission that they have because the commission with the citizens coordinating with the council actually has a little more pull it seems, when it goes up to the county for when they review the projects before it goes back to council for a final vote. Barbara Kirk said when an application comes into the borough for land development or for subdivision for certain zoning, it goes to the municipality's Planning Commission for review and simultaneously gets sent to the Bucks County Planning Commission for their review. So, it's not like it goes from the Borough's Planning Commission and then to Bucks County. They go at the same time and then Bucks County Planning Commission issues a recommendation as to what they've reviewed and then the Planning Commission issues a recommendation as to what it believes. The Planning Commission is members of the municipality that apply to sit on the Planning Commission. They're still advisory. The planning committee difference would be the council could appoint people specifically without getting applications. Barbara said a sign application came in this week and there was no Planning Commission to review it. They can't leave an application just sit indefinitely so, the only place where it could go was Bucks County Planning Commission for review. Tim said if they have another applicant, give them a chance. Barbara said she only found out about it when she walked in the building tonight. This was already on the agenda. Mayor Sodano said Tim was correct about teeth in a committee versus a commission. The committee is appointed by council, and they answer to council. The commission is advisory. When he and Mrs. Dudash were on the Planning Commission and there was some question on the AutoZone development, there was a lot of back and forth with the county and with the borough Planning Commission on vegetation to control water, sidewalk widths, etc. What they were able to do was they offered an idea of a compromise which the county then reviewed and accepted, and it eventually went to council, who approved it. A committee wouldn't be able to do that because they would only be able to suggest it to council and the county would still do what they wanted to do. Tim said It seems that the Bucks County Planning Commission would rather have citizen input as opposed to appointed input and that greases the wheels in motion to get things done because it doesn't seem like they're trying to sneak things through on small boroughs or municipalities. Mayor Sodano said they definitely

are much more receptive to the citizens that are on the Planning Commission than they are to appointed committees because they realize that it's a wider scope of people with diverse points.

Terry McIntyre, said he was confused. They have three members currently but it's five members of Planning Commission. Barbara said they can have three, four or five citizen members. There's only two citizen members at the present time even though they have three. They need at least three citizen members in order to call a commission meeting. If they were to change it to three, they would only need two members plus a sitting member. Terry said currently, on the Zoning Hearing Board there's an alternate. He asked if there could be an alternate for the Planning Commission to not run into this problem again. Barbara said the problem is there was nobody applying for the position. Terry said as far as committee versus commission, the committee looks totally political, and politics has really set Penndel back for the last couple of decades. When he was on council and the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission would get together and then their recommendations would go to council to save council time from doing all that legwork.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO TABLE THE MOTION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.
SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, motion carried (6-0)

Mayor Sodano asked Barbara Kirk if she knew if 50 Hulmeville Ave. has an escrow account or if she didn't know, if anyone else knew. Barbara said she is not aware of any escrow for them, and she is not aware that there was any formal application submitted for any work that would require an escrow. Mayor Sodano said when he went there on Friday, he found them again breaking up asphalt, moving it around and putting it where they were already given a stop order not to do anything. He notified the county and the borough manager but not the engineer, who then got included by somebody else. They have litigation going against these people and have all sorts of bills from solicitors, the engineer, etc., on all the things that these people are doing and the residents are footing the bill, which is very costly to the residents and it's not their fault it happened. When they consider the Cattani situation where they asked for a simple subdivision, the borough required \$5,000.00 in escrow and the solicitor and the engineer burned through that and another thousand plus, he has to pay for a simple subdivision while the residents are getting crucified financially, not to mention all the things that are illegal that keep going on at that property and they're footing the bill for engineers, for attorneys and they keep having to send code enforcement officials down there. They are spending an enormous amount of money trying to enforce that this guy doesn't break the law. Marie said there is an escrow. Mayor Sodano asked if it is being tapped on a regular basis for all of the expenses. Marie said not yet. Mayor Sodano said they were digging the asphalt up on the cartway that runs alongside the building between the building and the apartments and moving it and dumping it back where they weren't supposed to be dumping anything.

John called for a five-minute recess at 8:30 p.m. while they located their missing council woman.

John called the meeting back to order at 8:35 p.m. with Barbara Heffelfinger returning.

New Business

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO AWARD THE BOROUGH HALL ADA PROJECT.
SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON.

John Stratz explained the project. They received two bids for the project. The low bid was from

Premier Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$130,390.00. The bid price for optional automatic door opener for the front door is \$23,250.00. The front door will be ADA compliant without the automatic door opener, so the recommendation is against the alternate bid of adding \$23,250.00 for the front door opener since it is locked during the day and only open for council meetings. The rear borough hall door will have an automatic door opener. The project items are new ADA compliant doors for the front, rear, and vestibule, new ADA compliant rear entrance ramp, and an ADA compliant service counter approved by the RDA. The lock system is \$10,699.00, which is the same electronic lock system installed in the police station. The project total is \$141,089.00. The RDA grant amount was \$139,416.00. The borough would need to pay \$1,673.00.

Dave Cahill, said he got an invite from the chairman of the RDA to a meeting on Friday the 17th and Jeff Darwak told the committee that the bid that they put out had three automatic doors and the ramp and the railings. He did not mention anything about the service counter. The only thing that they said was that the borough got an extension on the project. The service counter bid has been tampered with and he can only assume it was by the borough manager Geoff Thompson. Council might not want to spend any of this money yet because they might not get reimbursed for this grant. John said the RDA approved it. Dave said he has a video of Bev Wolfe's presentation on what she asked for, which was three automatic push button doors and the handicap ramp and the railings with the key fob with a keyless entry and also two benches out front. She never asked for a service counter. It is a crime to tamper with government documents. John again said the RDA approved the service counter. Dave said if it's true that there's lying going on and that there's tampering going on, they might not even get the vehicles that they're looking for in the 2024 grant. He would say that since all of council is voting on this proposal, they're all guilty.

Tim Weaver, said they mentioned the service counter. He asked if that means that the door will be locked for security reasons and they will have to access the borough hall through the security counter. John said there will be an electronic lock push button from the office. Tim said so they wait in the vestibule and then they would get clearance in for safety purposes.

Motion passes 5-1 (Joe Dudash, no).

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE THE FIVE-YEAR BID OF LECK WASTE SERVICES FOR THE COLLECTION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLING IN PENNDEL BOROUGH. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. John explained that Leck missed a new government compliance in their bid that they have and corrected that problem. Bud Murphy asked which option. Gary said option 1 for five years with bulk pickup. There is a difference of \$800.00 a year to have bulk pickup but said he feels it is worth \$4,000.00 over five years. John said in the yearly prices for 2024, Leck was \$266,616.00, Waste Management was \$335,147.00 and Mascaro was \$514,812.00. Leck was clearly their best option. Gary said it is a 15% increase from last year. It goes up \$20,000.00 every year. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE 2024-2026 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE PENNDEL BOROUGH POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND PENNDEL BOROUGH. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. Joe Dudash said he will be voting no on this, not because of the part-time

officers. He thinks that the full-time officer should have been separated. It should have been put to a referendum for the full-timers. The part-timers in his opinion are getting screwed. Some of them have 20 years here and they should be getting the same salary as a full-time officer because they're going to have to train them. To get this thing passed to get a full-timer, they're nickel and diming the part-timers with like one shirt and one pair of pants. Every police department has a strategic plan, and they didn't even check it out, so he'll be voting no.

Dave Cahill, asked Bob and Bud if they were comfortable with the whole thing. They said yes. Dave said he didn't think they should be hiring any full-time or part-time cops because there is a problem within. His name is Sean Perry, the Chief, and nothing should happen until he is fired.

Motion carried 5-1 (Joe Dudash, no).

Public Comment

Tim Weaver, said it is disheartening that he is learning that they're living in a police state in their own borough. He walked out during the five-minute break and there is an officer stationed at Centre St. and Woodland Ave. and another out front. They have shifts currently not being covered. He is not disparaging the officers. They were obviously told to be here for a reason while they have other shifts not being covered in the middle of the night when he has to go out and confront criminals himself and see the drug dealing, speeding, and blowing through stop signs and nothing is being done but the police are here to police the citizens for standing up and voicing what they believe in and telling the truth. This is a disgrace to everyone in this building to have two police officers stationed out here for people speaking their minds and using their First Amendment privilege in a meeting, which they are about to have taken away from them. It's a disgrace. They are not having coverage on shifts and it's not the officer's fault. This will not be tolerated, and he will personally go to the media and report this tomorrow. He asked if someone told Chief Perry who was in here in uniform at the last meeting to be on standby for Hulmeville's meeting and stay on the clock to be ready to go there and take care of any internal problems that they had in their meeting and then two other officers show up in this borough hall. That's a politicized police force. This is unacceptable to the people, and this is not going to go away silently what happened tonight and what happened last week. Their words are what they use as weapons. They're not here to attack each other, use fists, or throw anything and they're calling the police out to intimidate them. The state police have to come in when the shifts aren't covered. They have an officer stationed down there and an officer stationed out front because the people are the problem. He asked what he is supposed to do when the shifts are uncovered and he's standing outside and he's the one watching these people sell their drugs on his street corner.

Dave Cahill, asked Bob if he told a resident that he thought he was banned from the meetings. Bob said no. He asked if he knew something that he didn't know. He asked Bob to keep his mouth shut when it came to his name. He asked Mayor Sodano if he knew how many shifts were missed since July. Mayor Sodano said he did not have that information with him. Dave asked him to bring it to the next meeting when the chief is here. Mayor Sodano said he doesn't think so. Dave said the police department is falling apart. They're not covering shifts and they are unprotected. He asked how long he thinks this is going to go on before a serious problem happens and they get sued. They collected taxes in April, so they're not getting what they paid for. They put in a right to know request and are waiting for the information to come back from the 911 center because they knew she didn't call 911 at the last meeting and probably this one. There was a letter from the DA in 2013 that council members were not to be directing the police officers around town to do things, so she might have some problems.

Mike Smith, said when he came to vote, Gary and Mr. Moffa were standing out back he made them understand what he figured out after hearing that 50 Hulmeville Ave. was purchased by one of their friends. When he was in the bathroom, he listened out the window and someone made fun of him for making the statements that he made and at that point it was said that's not what we're doing. He asked Gary who "we're" is because one of the biggest donators to their campaign are the guys from 50 Hulmeville Ave. Mark had the TOD expanded, which he thought was a great idea. Now they know why they had it expanded, so that his friends could come in here and buy 50 Hulmeville Ave. Mike told council they are the only ones who are going to be able to stop this.

Terry McIntyre, asked about the trash contract and the percentage for the increase. Gary said it's about 7 1/2 percent and it goes up about \$20,000.00 each year. Terry asked about the bulk items. Gary said they bid it twice, one option pay as you go and one for bulk pickup. It was an extra \$4,000.00 to have bulk pickup for five years. Terry asked about where the service counter was going to go because he didn't see any drawings. John said pretty much where the other table used to be. Terry asked if anybody tried to reach out to Hulmeville to see if they could get together on a larger bid to see if they can get the prices down. John said it didn't really make any difference to the trash people.

Council Members to be Heard

John Stratz said it was not any of the people sitting up on this dais right now that instituted a call for security for the police. It was former president Joe Adams who was the one who made that call and made that determination.

Joe Dudash said it's a sad day for Penndel in general and especially for the part-timers. They're being intimidated by their supervisor. They have a solicitor and everything else here that doesn't care about the Whistleblowers' Act. His suggestion to them is get out of this place as fast as possible because this will damage their careers. When they need radio batteries, they don't get them. When they need tasers, they don't get them. It's like a constant fight with these people up here. The only one that knew stuff was Alan and they cut him out of everything. None of these people have any law enforcement experience and he doesn't think they give a damn about the part-time officers. A lot of them are 20-year vets here. One ex officer who left for a full-time position said leadership is the problem. Nobody wants to deal with it. The solicitor doesn't want to deal with it. They have a Civil Service board for \$10,000.00 for a lawyer which he told them was going to happen, and now they don't even use them. He thinks they're afraid of the Civil Service board because they have subpoena powers. They can do interviews and stuff like that. The solicitor is politicized and everything else is political up here. He feels sorry for this borough after January starts. They're going to be in for a rough ride. So, keep an eye on them because you can see they get frazzled when you start asking them questions. Their favorite thing like the chief is to leave. He thinks the taxes are going to go up. They're not even looking out for the fire department mergers, which they've been warned that's coming down.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:07 P.M. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: Marie Serota
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

November 20, 2023

On 6 November 2023 (Council Meeting), was another dark page in the political history of Borough. I was appalled and ashamed of the lack of leadership and integrity from the President and Vice President of Council, Mayor, and Chief of Police. They had used our dedicated officers as political pawns, to intimidate the voices of the people in borough hall. Council, Mayor, and Chief talk a good game about requiring leadership and integrity from our officers, but they aren't "able to show it themselves when it matters most."

I want to commend Officer Peck, and Krimmel for their professionalism, after being placed in a political suppression situation by leadership. Using our Officers as pawns to advance political agendas is wrong.

This Council, Mayor, and Chief of Police have a serious condition; it's called "Political Pavlovian Dog Syndrome"!

Nothing should be more important to this Council, Mayor, Chief of Police, than ethics, integrity, and public trust.

We should do our duty and provide exemplary service to the borough without an expectation of personal, political, reward or gain.

Thank You (the People of Penndel)
Joe Dudash