

WORK SESSION

September 16, 2019

Council President Beverly Wolfe called the meeting of Pennel Borough Council to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting

Mayor Robert Winkler
Council President Beverly Wolfe
Council Vice President Barbara Heffelfinger
Councilman John Stratz
Councilman Mark Moffa
Councilman Joe Dudash
Councilwoman Laura Germain – absent
Councilman Rich Flanagan – absent

Also present

Ben Hauser, Hill Wallack, Solicitor

Ben Hauser stated that there was an executive session beginning at 7:03 p.m. on the subject of personnel related to an unemployment compensation claim. In attendance was the Mayor, Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Heffelfinger, Mr. Stratz and Mr. Moffa and it concluded at 7:12 p.m. As a result of the matter at the executive session, his office would request that council authorize to take all measures necessary and appropriate to contest the notice of charge received by the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Bureau with respect to the applicant, the employee.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE TO CONTEST THE NOTICE OF CHARGE RECEIVED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BUREAU WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICANT, THE EMPLOYEE. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Announcements

Beverly Wolfe reminded council and the public that between now and the next council meeting they have two budget work sessions on September 23rd and October 1st.

They had the Blue Mass service at Redeemer Lutheran Church and it was absolutely wonderful and an honor to ask for protection for emergency services and first responders. Thank you to Mayor Winkler.

Barbara Heffelfinger said she wanted to urge everyone to make sure that they respond to the census. That means a lot of money to us to get an accurate count and how much we will get from the feds so she's hoping everyone responds so they can get what we're actually due.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY THE FOLLOWING INVOICES:

A T & T MOBILITY/FIRST NET INVOICE DATED 8/31/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156.20 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT WIRELESS SERVICE

BURCZ LANDSCAPING INVOICE DATED 9/11/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,494.60 FOR TROUGH REPAIR ON WOODLAND AVENUE AT INTERSECTION OF HULMEVILLE AVENUE

BURCZ LANDSCAPING INVOICE DATED 9/6/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,272.00 FOR BRUSH REMOVAL ON SPRING STREET

COMCAST BUSINESS INVOICE DATED 9/1/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175.37 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT VOICE AND INTERNET SERVICE

COMCAST BUSINESS INVOICE DATED 9/2/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$127.87 FOR INTERNET SERVICE AT 790 NESHAMINY STREET

GETTYSBURG BENEFITS ADMINISTRATORS, INC. DATED AUGUST 30, 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$164.93 FOR DENTAL PREMIUM INSTALLMENT

PECO INVOICE DATED 9/3/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$237.91 FOR BOROUGH HALL ELECTRIC

PECO INVOICE DATED 9/6/19 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,679.83 FOR STREET LIGHTING ELECTRIC

SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. Mark Moffa asked if both Burcz Landscaping invoices were discussed at the last meeting. Beverly said the one for the trough was not to exceed \$1,590.00 and was at the 8/19 work session and for the brush removal and Spring swale was not to exceed \$1,272.00 and was also discussed at the 8/19 work session. Joe Dudash asked if the work has been completed and Beverly said yes. All ayes, motion carried.

President's Report

None

Mayor's Report

Mayor Winkler said that Holy Family University in Philadelphia is partnering with ReachOut Foundation Bucks County to sponsor a fall festival and family awareness day on October 20th. This project is a service project for the school of business incoming freshman class at Holy Family University. The students are required to participate in a service project in their community to receive credit for class. The ReachOut Foundation of Bucks County is located in Pennel on Monroe Ave. and provides services to anyone in need, free of charge. They offer services such as counseling for addiction, PTSD, grief, suicide prevention and support for families and individuals living with mental illness. The organization is a nonprofit entity and therefore relies on donations from the state and county as well as private donations. In order to facilitate the fall festival and street fair, they would like to request the closure of Monroe Ave. on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Eagles do not play until 8:20 p.m. that day. Please know that they are also working with Our Lady of Grace Parish to be able to utilize their parking lot as well. It is the hope of the students and faculty of Holy Family University and the ReachOut Foundation of Bucks County that this will be a community event with informational tables, games, face painting, bouncy house and crafts along with other activities for the public to enjoy while bringing awareness of the free services available. All proceeds will be donated to the ReachOut Foundation of Bucks County. Beverly asked if church services

would be over and Bob Winkler said yes. Beverly asked if it would be closed from Durham to Woodland and Bob said yes. Beverly asked if they needed to take action on it and Ben Hauser said they could take action now as outlined by the Mayor.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO AUTHORIZE THE ROAD CLOSURE PER THE MAYOR'S STATEMENT, MONROE AVENUE FROM 12:30 P.M TO 4:30 P.M. ON OCTOBER 20TH FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL AND STREET FAIR FOR HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ.

Steve Lowe, 409 Cynthia Ave. said the last mass is at 11:45. Shutting it down at 12:30 is not fair to Our Lady of Grace Church so you might want to check with the church.

Mike Smith, 127 Dehaven Ave., asked if police service was going to be needed. Bob Winkler said that will be talked about with the chief and that group. Mike asked if police services are needed, who would pay for it. Bob said they would tell them to pay for it. Beverly said it is making her pause because if what they say is true, the last mass starts at 11:45. Bob said they are meeting with Monsignor. If they have church and are not going to be out by 12:30, he's going to say no, they can't use the parking lot. It could vary and change from 1:00 to 5:00.

MOTION TO TABLE UNTIL THEY RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION FROM OUR LADY OF GRACE BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried. Bob will talk to the person who is handling it.

Mayor Winkler stated he would like to hire three part-time officers. He said we have one that will be leaving us towards the end of the year and we already lost one. Beverly said so he would like to hire three officers. Bob said he would like the ok to hire three. He wants one of them to start immediately. He is already trained and we have his equipment. Beverly Wolfe asked if they have been interviewed and Bob said yes. Joe Dudash said they had a committee meeting and the one officer is replacing an officer. The two others would be so that we have them to fill the schedule and would be like on standby. If we are short one or have a holiday and they say they can't work we can use the other two. They would be back up. They would like to hire the other officer because he was here prior. He moved on and came back to town. He's got experience so we don't have to go through all of that. We still have his equipment so we can save money there. The mayor and Sean did all of the background checks and everything came out clean. That is what they would like to do. One officer for replacement and the other two for back up for scheduling purposes.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO HIRE OFFICERS DANIEL DARNLEY AND DAVID SOSNOSKIE IMMEDIATELY. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. Mark asked if this was a motion just for two people and Beverly said yes, they would do another motion for the other one to be at a later date so you don't have two trainees at the same time. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO HIRE OFFICER DANIEL WINTER AT A LATER DATE AFTER OTHER OFFICERS ARE TRAINED FOR A PART TIME PATROLMAN POSITION. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Bob Winkler said he would like to advertise for a crossing guard. The spot is covered now. He has one out and the other running back and forth which is a sub so he is down to one sub right now. Beverly asked if he wanted to hire a sub crossing guard.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO HIRE A SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARD TO FILL IN FOR THE VACANCY. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Revitalization Task Force

Mark Moffa reported that the Revitalization Task Force will meet this week. They've had a couple of developments since the task force last met. Everyone knows about the one parcel that was relatively central to our redevelopment concept that's changed ownership. The engineer brought up some concerns with our proposed TOD Overlay ordinance. They've checked with the county planning officials as well and both will be present this week for this meeting to make some recommendations based on everything that's happened since they last met. It is the next step in moving along the TOD ordinance and also revising based on what has occurred. He looks forward to having an update at the next council meeting.

Long Range Finance

Mark Moffa said the committee met last week and came into a meeting of the minds with items this council had asked the group to consider. They were asked to look into whether they should hire a manager and whether the borough should institute an earned income tax. A written statement of the committee's recommendations will be ready for the council and the public at the next borough council meeting but he is prepared to deliver a verbal preview of their findings tonight. The committee will provide three specific recommendations. They will recommend that the borough hire a part time borough manager. They recommend that the manager be funded through an earned income tax of one half of one percent. And they will recommend that a substantial portion of the revenue generated through the earned income tax be refunded to the borough residents via a reduction in property taxes. He will have more information at the next borough council meeting. These are unanimous recommendations. He would request to the council president that they have an agenda item for the agenda for the next meeting so that council can have a discussion on how they might want to begin considering their recommendation. Beverly asked if he would like that to be a committee report or a presentation. Mark said it wouldn't be a presentation. He would have a letter signed from all the members of the Long Range Finance Committee and will be available to council and the public. He would recommend that it would just be an agenda item. He said council would have to decide on whether to bring in Keystone for a presentation. Beverly said she thinks they are required by the borough code if you are going to do anything like that that there is a minimum number of public meetings you have to have.

Ordinance

Mark Moffa said ordinances go hand in hand with revitalization at this time.

Streets

John Stratz reported that they tabled a motion two weeks ago regarding the addition of new street lights and he would like to get back to that. He said that pole was taken out by a car and a new pole was put in and the wires were coiled up in it but no light. Beverly asked if he verified this on the old street light inventory that it really was there. He said they haven't. Barbara Heffelfinger said she would verify it because it is on her corner. Beverly asked if it was something separate from the RSLPP program. John said it would be rolled into that. When they had the new light put in at Neshaminy St. and Lincoln Hwy., Armour charged them \$1,206.00. He expects this to be less because it is through the program. Beverly said so the motion should be to add this light with pole mast and arm and everything that goes with it when they do the rest of the street lights on the RSLPP program, not separate from it. She asked if it

would be added to the inventory. John said yes. The pole and wiring are already there in place. Beverly said this was not designated on the map they did previously.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO ADD TO THE INVENTORY FOR THE UPCOMING LED STREETLIGHT PROGRAM AT CRESCENT AND NESHAMINY A NEW MAST AND LIGHT FIXTURE INTO THE INVENTORY THAT IS GOING TO BE DONE ON THE ARSLIP PROGRAM. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. Joe Dudash asked if it was from a car accident. Barbara Heffelfinger said it was. Joe asked if their car insurance paid for it. John said he can't find any paperwork for it. The one at Neshaminy and Lincoln he does. Beverly said let's add it to the inventory so we can have it as part of the program but let's have the paperwork pulled so we can take a look at it. We have to get it into the inventory so that it is part of the program when it is finally approved by the DVRPC. Beverly stated that she thought this was going to be started by the end of the year and asked John if she was correct. John said for the budgetary process he got a commitment that at the very least they will buy the materials so that he can get it on the budget for this year. Beverly told Joe that they would take a look at the insurance. If it is part of the claim, she still wants it in the inventory but we can go after them to pay for it. Barbara Heffelfinger said it's on her corner and it is very, very dark. Mark Moffa asked if it's an immediate safety issue should they replace it with a regular light. He knows no one wants to spend the money. He asked how dark it is. Is it so dark that they shouldn't wait three or four months? Beverly thinks there's enough light coming from High Point and there's a couple of lights there right there on Neshaminy St. It's dark but it's not pitch black and that's her opinion. Joe Dudash asked Ben about what if there was an accident out there. Ben Hauser said he would shy away from making that kind of comment at this time. His preference would be that hopefully the problem gets rectified as quickly as practical. Beverly said they will look at the insurance claim and maybe they will just do something sooner. Mark said insurance might cover it. She will send it to the attorney's office. All ayes, motion carried.

She will let everyone know what she finds out about the insurance claim.

Building and Maintenance

John Stratz said they started on the outside beautification process and they will be continuing doing that.

They want to get grant money for generators for the borough hall and police department. They just got the final quote in so that will solidify the grant request which Barb has already been working on.

Joe said the windows were done at the borough hall and was a success. Joe had a question about the roof at the rec field for cutting the check and Beverly said they have it handled and it's done. That was voted on at the July 19th meeting. We get a \$500.00 rebate from that.

Public Safety

Joe Dudash said the Blue Mass was very good. He wanted to thank all of the police officers for the job they do plus the people on the ambulance and the fire department. It was really nice to see everybody out. He just wanted to thank everybody who participated and for coming. It was a get together but it was kind of a sad get together but it was nice.

Community Development

Joe said the work on Parkview Ave. was done which was trees from Taddei Woods. That was cleaned out and everybody is happy over there.

Finance

Barbara Heffelfinger said she needs the figures from everyone and the request forms have to be filled out. She received information from John and Laura and she needs trash figures from Joe. The next budget meeting is September 23rd and public safety will be discussed

They are talking about putting something in for the PECO Green Region grant to see if we can get money for Taddei Woods. The RDA grants are due September 30th by 4:00 p.m.

New Business

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO PAY THE FOLLOWING 2019 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS TO TD AMERITRADE: POLICE PENSION PLAN \$4,872.00, EMPLOYEES' PENSION PLAN \$23,030.00. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE BOROUGH HALL RENTAL APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY COMMONS AT MIDDLETOWN CONDO. ASSOCIATION ON OCTOBER 23, 2019 FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 P.M. Beverly Wolfe said they rent it every year for their annual meeting. She lets them in and then locks up when they are done. It's Donna Caracappa's sister's group. They call her when they are done. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE BOROUGH HALL RENTAL APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY BOB WINKLER ON OCTOBER 26, 2019 FROM 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. Mark Moffa asked if this was something they should know about or is it a private event. Beverly said it is a private affair. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO ATTEND THE PENNDOT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 20TH REGARDING HULMEVILLE AVENUE AND LINCOLN HIGHWAY PROJECT. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-25 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA FOR A NEW EMERGENCY POWER GENERATOR AT BOROUGH HALL AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-26 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. Barbara explained that for the borough building, they are putting in for the parking lot and a generator and total for that comes to \$67,930.00. For the police, they are putting in for a keyless entry system and a generator. The reason for the generator is we can't let the building go down if there is an outage, especially the police building. The police application comes to \$16,700.00. That is a total of \$84,630.00. She did not look at the fire company one yet. Mark Moffa said they are no match grants and Barbara said that was correct. She said it doesn't guarantee that we will get that amount of money, it's just what we are asking for. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-27 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN FIRE COMPANY RESCUE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT TO UPGRADE HEAVY DUTY RESCUE EQUIPMENT. Beverly said this is the grant that Mr. Lowe came before them and presented at the council meeting. It was approved at that time. This is just a formality. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Beverly Wolfe said she has a last minute item. They were approached by the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad as part of a multi-municipality project with the RDA funds. They are having more than one municipality apply. They have asked Penndel to sponsor \$35,000.00 of grant money towards one cardiac monitor and associated items. The project description is as follows. The Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad wishes to replace all five cardiac monitors that are in their medic units. The current monitors are reaching 11 years old. The manufacturer notified the organization that parts and service for the monitors will discontinue at the end of 2020. The organization also needs to replace the five monitor mounts that are used to secure the monitors during transport. This project also requires ordering additional supplies such as monitor leads, blood pressure cuffs, defibrillator, pads and monitor paper. Beverly said they are upgrading all five units and they are asking for \$35,000.00 of which is a total project cost of \$2 to replace all five of them. Barbara Heffelfinger asked Beverly if that's all they gave her. Beverly said they got the scope of work, the application, she has it all. Beverly said they made a mistake on the first page. The total cost is \$200,353.50 to replace them all.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE PENNDEL-MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. Barbara Heffelfinger said thank you to the fire company for their punctuality, for all they have done and that they came and presented to them and that they did not assume that they would say yes. The rescue squad has not done that. They did not present it to council. They did not give them a heads up until this. She said the rescue squad deserves every penny that they can get. But if they're going to do this, they have to come to council and they have to ask them to submit it for them. It's common sense and she's sorry but it hit her the wrong way. They came in without asking and said they want some money out of this. She appreciates them. They are a wonderful group of people. They do wonderful things for us and we'd be up the creek without them. But she would really appreciate, since she's the one who does this, that they are a little more punctual and considerate of council. John Stratz asked if it says who they are partnering with. Beverly said Middletown and Barbara said Langhorne Borough. Beverly said she spoke with the chief today and she thinks she was a little embarrassed by it that they didn't have time to come to us and didn't realize we needed it today to vote on. Personally, for her, and this is a personal observation, there's absolutely people in her life that wouldn't be here today without these people. To support them to get new cardiac monitors from this RDA grant, she supports it. John Stratz said this is the first time that both fire and rescue asked us for help with this. He asked if it would take away any money that Steve was asking for. Beverly said last year, the presentation in front of the RDA, the presentation was basically done for her. She didn't have to do anything because Steve already had educated them on why because he gave her everything that was needed for it and she definitely appreciates that.

Steve Lowe, Penndel Fire Co., said he understands where Barbara is coming from. All emergency services need money. They are all competing against each other and he doesn't want to talk bad about anybody. They are all in the same boat. For informational purposes, the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad has the opportunity to bill patients. He believes they

get payment every time they transport. He doesn't know what the costs are. He can tell you from his personal experience when his wife fell and was unconscious in the parking lot at Redner's, that bill was \$1,100.00, just to transport her. No drugs, no nothing. Just monitoring her from Redner's to St. Mary's. He asked if the Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad is putting in through other municipalities. Beverly said they are. Steve said when he presented the request from the RDA to her, the question was asked to him, is the Penndel Fire Co. putting in through anybody else. Their answer is no and it came from Jeff Darwak that since Penndel is now contiguous, they had to go through Penndel. Obviously, the name Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad, he's assuming that's an out for them and they're going to go through Penndel and Middletown and to their defense, that's probably why they are putting it through Penndel. He does support Barbara's comments about waiting until the 11th hour. Again, they are all emergency services and that little gesture he did was a crap shoot. That's how the RDA works. When they tell Beverly to come over and she stands up and does her presentation, the RDA will do their little number system and then behind closed doors they will prioritize and they put in for \$75,000.00 and then can cut it to \$50,000.00 or \$35,000.00, whatever they like. Barbara said she has worked on this since the Parx thing started. She fought with the RDA, she can't tell you how many years, to tell them we were contiguous. They said oh well. Then they had a meeting with a representative and told them we didn't like that bill and to please change it. She doesn't know if that did anything. She's sure it riled some feathers but we are now with it. Steve Lowe said you go through Middletown Township and then through Penndel to get there. He believes it was Tina Davis who wrote that bill and pushed it through for us. Barbara said she does not want to deny anyone. Steve agreed and said they are all emergency services.

Beverly Wolfe polled council. Mark Moffa, yes, John Stratz, abstain, Joe Dudash, yes, Barbara Heffelfinger, abstain, Beverly Wolfe, yes. Motion passed 3 yes, 2 abstentions. Mark Moffa said you need four ayes. Ben Hauser said that was incorrect and said a majority of a quorum is sufficient unless borough code or other state statute requires a majority of council vote. Three votes in the affirmative, none in the negative. Barbara said she apologizes to anyone who is sitting out there. She does value their services.

MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-28 AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF BUCKS, PENNSYLVANIA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES EQUIPMENT FOR THE PENNDEL-MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. Beverly Wolfe polled council. Mark Moffa, yes, John Stratz, abstain, Joe Dudash, yes, Barbara Heffelfinger, abstain, Beverly Wolfe, yes. Motion passed 3 yes, 2 abstentions.

Persons to Be Heard (3 minute time limit)

Mike Smith, 127 Dehaven Ave., said he heard Mark mention the earned income tax. He said all this is, is a tax shift. You're taking away 25% of property taxes. That means all that money has to be put back in by somebody else, mainly those who are not paying it or will get a major tax increase if their household makes whatever amount of money. So, although you may give back 25%, some of us are going to go up around 300%. He asked if that was fair to the people that are living here. Everybody here uses the same services. You're hiring another person. Why not get rid of one? That was suggested many, many years ago. Why is it that we can't figure this out? Why is it that some of us are going to get major tax increases while others are going to get their taxes reduced? He knows all your theories for it. He also looked into it many, many years ago. Barbara can tell you that. He spent almost two years looking into an alternative and they figured out a way and regardless of that, nobody is going to understand it. There is no fair way to tax anyone. You are trying to spread it out over many, many people.

What about the people who are only paying a half percent over in Middletown? Are they going to have to pay another half a percent here because they work here? So now they're getting a tax increase. The other part of that is what if the school district enacts an earned income tax? We now have a bill for whatever you're going to pay a part time borough manager. What if the economy goes down? Where is this money coming from? You'll have to go back to property taxes. You're not going to be able to afford it. Think about it long and hard. He knows Mark said everyone needs to be careful because it is an election year. No one is running against you so you are still going to get elected. Why inflict more pain on a community that has basically been declared moderate to low? You have to come up with another idea.

Amanda Mieluch, 16 Oak Ave., said she pays an earned income tax at her present position right now. It is one and a half percent. It gets paid to Montgomery County then to Horsham. That money does not come back to her community where she feels this would be a better place for her money to come than somewhere she is running through everyday going down one road. She would rather see it come here so she would have some control over where her money is actually going in this borough. You may not agree, that's fine. When they started talking about this, as a member of the Long Range Finance Committee, they started the conversation in January. They talked about it amongst themselves on how they could initiate this and make it fair. There were five people on that committee at the time and all five of them agreed they need to give something back. The best option was a percentage of the real estate tax which would be for everybody in the community. The only people who pay earned income tax are people who actually have an income. If you don't have an income, you're not paying the tax but you're still going to benefit by having a reduction in your real estate tax. It's an option. It doesn't mean that it's going to happen. It's a plan. It's at least something where a committee has gotten together and put something down and they want to present it to council to see if it flies or not. They have the right to say they are not doing it. It's not written in stone that this is coming through but it's the only option at this point. There's no other way. If you have some ideas Mike, please come to their next meeting. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Come to their next meeting and talk to them about it.

Steve Lowe, 409 Cynthia Ave., said he understands that EIT stands for earned income tax. He thinks he heard Mark say that they would do some kind of presentation. He hopes you would have a night to present this to the borough residents. He understands bits and pieces and what Amanda said about 1.25% and some coming back, he doesn't know how that works. A presentation would be good so that everyone could have a good understanding and maybe some paperwork. He asked if that was something that could be enacted by just council or by referendum. Beverly Wolfe said it can be enacted by council because it is a tax. Steve said as a resident and property owner in Penndel he would ask for a presentation because earned income, he doesn't know what income is earned. Does it affect retirees, pensions? Mark Moffa said that would all be explained. Beverly said if she is not mistaken, they are required to have a certain number of meetings on the topic. Even if they weren't required, they would do it anyway. John Stratz asked how many apartment dwellers they have in Penndel. Beverly said she didn't know but she can guarantee the people who do the taxes know. John said as an apartment dweller, a renter, they do not pay real estate taxes and asked if that was correct. Beverly said no, that is not correct, the owner of the building is taxed. If it was her, she would pass on real estate taxes in the rent. John said if there is four people at 25% of 100 as opposed to getting a whole bill. Beverly said they are assessed on the dwelling, the square footage of the building. They are not assessed on the people inside. John said you have one building but you have four renters there and they will all share in that 100%. They will only pay 25% out of pocket of the 100% of the tax collected. Beverly said if the building is taxed at say \$10,000.00 and there's six units in there, if they reduce the tax on the \$10,000.00 on the commercial building, it will be up

to the landlord if he reduces their rent or not. The people who are wage earners who are living in those units, if they are paying an earned income tax in another municipality, it will come from that municipality and come here. Instead of being paid to where they work, it will come to where they live except for Philadelphia. There's nothing we can do about that. We've had this presentation several times while she's been on council. John Stratz asked does a renter pay as much real estate tax as the owner. Beverly said a renter does not pay it, the owner of the building does. 100% of the real estate tax that he paid from each of the people inside that building, if there are four apartments and four people are paying for one building real estate tax, they're not going to get 100% real estate tax from each renter. He's not going to get 400% real estate tax back. Mark Moffa said they will be having discussions on how it's assessed and what it's assessed on in the coming months. What he believes John was trying to say was that via an EIT the borough would collect taxes from renters that are not paying property taxes now although they may be indirectly paying some property taxes that are included in their rent via a calculation made by their landlord. What he is saying is that the renter does not pay property tax but would pay an earned income tax. Beverly apologized to John that she misunderstood what he was trying to say. John said they are making it fair because now the renters will be paying a tax to Pennel. Joe Dudash wanted to thank the committee. When everybody hears taxes, they go bonkers. This council plus the committees were just researching. They are gathering the information and are going to present it. Give them time to present the statistics and then we will go from there. We present things, we give the facts and will be presented to the residents of Pennel. Beverly said they also make sure they give the most accurate information that they have and they don't speculate or conjecture. They give what they can find out is fact. Mark thanked Joe for thanking the committee. As Amanda mentioned it was a five-member bi-partisan group. Karen Flowers left earlier in the year for personal reasons. It is himself, Gary Nickerson, Amanda Mieluch and Mike Sodano and the group worked very hard and considered this very seriously. They were committed to come up with a unanimous recommendation. He was happy and proud of the group and it was open to the public. He wants people to have as much notice as possible that this is going to be discussed. This was a preview tonight of what is coming in the next few months. Council will be having meetings and presentations. No one can say it was snuck up on them. This is what's happening. They are being fully transparent. Beverly said when the Long Range Finance Committee was reinstated, Mark specifically asked for goals and what they were to look at. They did and that committee did it. She thinks they went beyond. Mark said they considered other things that were brought up in comment tonight were considered but the committee chose at this time not to make recommendations on those things. They will get into that as they make presentations. Beverly said the goals that they were given, she doesn't want to say that they were vague but they were very all encompassing, large goals that had to be whittled down into something a little bit more manageable. It's very easy for council to say, Long Range Finance, find us a way to get more money. That's a huge task. It was a big thing that had to come down to what is realistic and what was not. They are volunteers. Mark said he is there as an elected official but they are just volunteers. They did consider heavy things. They did consider staffing and alternative ways to administer the taxes. These are the three things they agreed on at this time to bring to the council. Beverly said there was a lot of outside the box thinking as Mark had indicated.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ.
All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer