

Penndel Borough Council Workshop Minutes

February 22, 2022

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

Present at the meeting

Council President Beverly Wolfe
Council Vice President Gary Nickerson
Councilwoman Barbara Heffelfinger
Councilman Joe Dudash
Councilwoman Laura Germain
Councilman John Stratz
Councilman Joe Adams – absent
Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

Ben Hauser, Solicitor, Hill Wallack
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Council or Borough Announcements

Ben Hauser reported that at the end of the last meeting there was an Executive Session that lasted for 45 minutes. Members of council minus Ms. Germain and Mayor Sodano were in attendance and the subject of that Executive Session was concerning various litigation matters.

Barbara Heffelfinger reported that the Heritage Society and Activities Committee will be having the egg hunt and that's always the Saturday before Easter which is April 16th in the field at Redeemer Lutheran Church. There is no rain date. Barbara said she was asked by a couple of people to make a suggestion to council to purchase a brick to be put in front of the memorial. Beverly Wolfe said that Mr. McHugh is coming to the next meeting to make a presentation to the public. Barbara said she thinks it would be \$100.00 and it was suggested that it will go right in the front. She thinks it would be a larger brick. Beverly said the regular size ones are \$100.00. She said they will find out what a decent size brick would cost. It's allowed according to the DCED in their budget to contribute to veterans and various community groups if council agrees with it.

Laura Germain said if anyone has anything for the newsletter, she's trying to finish that in the next week or two to get the first draft out so please email her or let her know if there's anything they think should be in the newsletter. Gary Nickerson asked when the anticipated publication date was. Laura said last time they had it done, it took about three weeks to get to the residents which was extremely long. Usually it's a week, maybe a week and a half. She's hoping to have the first draft done Friday. Right now, she doesn't really have a good cover story. Depending on how much work it needs, probably another week and then they start doing the folding which probably takes another week and then the mailing out which usually takes a week. She's anticipating the end of March but because of the mail system being so out of whack last time, she doesn't know if that's accurate. Beverly said they need to speed that up a little bit if they can. They can get volunteers and they'll get it done.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jay Moser, 525 Hulmeville Ave., asked for the storm manholes being repaired by Seifert, if competitive bidding been done. Beverly said yes. Jay said that he knows that Mr. Seifert has a reputation. It was just a concern. Jay said for the two resolutions that are coming up for the Memorial Park, after the last meeting he had some thoughts, and they are putting a lot of taxpayer's money into the Rec Field. He said how many of the citizens in Penndel Borough are actually utilizing that field. He said it's time to close it down and make it a park for the citizens of Penndel to use as a walking path or for dog walking. The baseball fields don't work. It's nothing but problems to the citizens that are surrounding that area. There are citizens that are walking the streets that could possibly utilize that and taking their dogs for a walk and taking their kids walking and utilizing the playground. He thinks that acreage is being wasted the way that it's being considered right now. He's sure there are other citizens that do things with the kids like painting rocks or doing that kind of thing and they would have a place to go. Put in a second pavilion and tie it into the Evan's track at some point when that ever takes place. They have their own little spot that can be utilized for citizens that can use it. He would like to know and would love to see an attendance sheet of who plays football and who plays baseball and how many of them are actually from Penndel. He thinks they would be surprised. Just a thought before they start dumping out grant money that could be utilized elsewhere.

Consent Item

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

Tabled from the 02/07/22 meeting. Discussion on bid preparation for storm sewer inlet repairs.

New Business

Beverly said the next two motions are time sensitive and need to be voted on at this meeting.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2022-2 AUTHORIZING CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO REPLACE AND IMPROVE BALLFIELD LIGHTING AT MEMORIAL PARK AND AUTHORIZE THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH TO SIGN SUCH APPLICATIONS. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2022-3 AUTHORIZING CDBG GRANT APPLICATION TO REPLACE BLEACHERS AT MEMORIAL PARK AND AUTHORIZE THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH TO SIGN SUCH APPLICATIONS. SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. Joe Dudash questioned the motion. Beverly said she took a poll of council last meeting. Joe said they have all these magnificent plans for down there and drawings from the county or wherever they're from. He found these boxes and they're full of revitalization and it's like they're not getting anywhere and it's a dump down there now. They've got all these plans and he's talked to Barb about it. It's magnificent so why don't they start working on these plans to get the grants like a pavilion and amphitheater. Beverly said they have an easement for the farm. Joe said he thought they still have a say. Beverly said they need to discuss this now. They have been mulling around and Laura is very aware of this, and Gary is as well about starting a parks and rec advisory board comprised of citizens, business owners and whatever. The basis of this board would be the park would be the venue, the physical space and rec is the activity. Laura can attest to this because they've talked about it. She said Jay is right. But children are children and if they want to play in the athletic program, she's not going to turn a kid away from playing on the fields. Joe said what Barb is saying and he thinks Jay as well, said he's talked to Barb about these

drawings. Beverly asked what drawings he's talking about. Barbara said Spring Valley. The one where they had to redo the whole part. Joe said it is multipurpose. Beverly said this is in phases. She said maybe the Wildcats aren't going to be there forever. They can work in cooperation with Middletown. They have the money. Joe said they are in economic times, and he doesn't think anybody's going to have the money. Beverly said they've got some money for this Spring Valley project already set aside and have been most generous with talking to them about the project that went on a Covid hiatus but it's coming back. It's going to start up again. They have the park. Let's go for the rec and the rec would be about walking trails with stations for people who are recovering from joint replacements with two sided signs, one for somebody doing that and the other side for somebody who's rehabbing their shoulders or whatever and then they go down and there's another station for something else and you keep going and meandering around. But again, it takes vision, money and a plan. Joe said the problem is, they have plans but they never carry through with it. They keep going in different directions and nothing ever gets done. Beverly said the bleachers are falling down and can't have people sitting on them. This grant application is due in seven days. Joe said maybe there is something that they could possibly better utilize. Gary said the Rec Field is a great idea. He likes the idea of a walking path. They already have a quarter of the path that goes from behind the backstop to the playground. It could wrap around the basketball courts and go around. Something like that will be a good idea but they don't have time to do that in a week. They have this community development block grant and it's free money. Right now, they don't really have the luxury of mobilizing and putting together for that, but he would certainly be in favor of something like that next year. That would be a great idea. He's all for trails and walkability. Beverly said they could utilize the park for programs like Middletown does. Laura's got the ideas. Maybe a Saturday morning yoga class. But the park is the venue, and the rec should be the activity and we don't have enough of them down there and he is right, they are underutilizing space. For years, the focus has been the Wildcats football and baseball that's all it's been and cheerleading. That's what the field was designed around. She envisions having all these things and a Cinderella all-inclusive castle in the back for the kids to play on. Mayor Sodano said they need to clarify with the Wildcats because they're supposed to do a lot of work to maintain the field and they don't so they need to get that part fixed. Even though he doesn't have a dog, he'd love to see a dog park in some portion of the rec field that was fenced in for that. And when they're looking for something to spend grant money on, he'd like to see bollards on some portion of Dalola Ave. on the street side as opposed to fence on that side for a couple of reasons. First off, it's more inviting and you can put them close enough that the cars still aren't going to drive past them, and you can have gate areas. But for the police at night when they are coming up and down Dalola and they have to shine their spotlight in, they get a lot of reflection back coming off of the chain link fence. When there are kids back there doing what they shouldn't be, it's really hard for the officers to see them so, if they had bollards, it would solve a lot of those problems and would still protect from cars. Barbara said they did that plan years ago and we went through all the meetings, etc. This year she suggested to Carol that they put in for a walking trail because people are asking her all the time when they are going to put a trail in. Originally, they had a trail which would have been in cooperation with Middletown, and it would start over behind Delaware Park and would come through Taddei Woods and all the way over and through the field and all the way down to the creek. She thinks that is pushing it a little bit but if they had a walking trail just on the field, that would be good. She and Carol went down and measured, and they walked all around the field and as the field stands right now, they don't have the room unless they reconfigured it. If they had a trail that went maybe down one side through the woods which is part of their property and back under to Rumpf Ave., people could have that. That would be her solution, but they did look at that for CDBG money. Carol said to take it all the way around the field, they didn't have enough space. She thinks if they do little bits at a time, it would be feasible. It's going to cost money and there is a Trailways grant from

DCNR that could be utilized but they would really have to jump through hoops to get that. She thinks it would be a good project and even if they don't get it this year, we could put it on the board for next year. Tom asked if the trail thing is limited to a park. Barbara said she's not sure. Tom said maybe they could look into something like the bridge idea that was floated along Route 1. Now that Wawa is going in, there's going to be a lot of borough residents that are going to be walking up Route 1. Barbara said he's talking about an entirely different thing. And they would have PennDOT to deal with. Tom said what if they move it back out of PennDOT's right of way. The people who would be using it would be residents and people in the apartments and maybe they could get the college to help them out with that. Beverly said they can talk about PennDOT in a little bit because that's something that's probably part of the engineer's report and that does involve what he was talking about. Barbara said they do have the plans for down there. Beverly said they can't do anything without Middletown. They have to do everything in cooperation with them. Barbara said no they don't. If it's with Spring Valley Farm, yes. Beverly said she thought they'd need permission to connect the trails in with theirs. Gary said it's all passive recreation. There is no active recreation component there like an amphitheater. A walking trail would be nice so they could tie it into theirs. He likes her idea of doing it in sections. Maybe they could do something back by where the batting cages are and could start a trail that's going to go back behind the farmhouse. Barbara said they would have to put a little bridge over the creek. She said she's pretty sure it's already in the Spring Valley plans. Nobody wanted that plan and if her face is getting red it's because she was so darn mad about that she could spit nails. So, you'll check to see if what Barbara is saying if they do have a right of way. Beverly said they paid for an easement in Spring Valley Farm in the purchase of that property. They paid for an easement whatever that means. Joe asked for them to get clarification. Beverly said yes. Barbara said that little bit of property is getting smaller and smaller because of the resident down there who is pushing his property further. Every time you go past, he's got more grass and trees. All eyes, motion carried.

Joe asked with the way that materials are going up for construction, is that included in this. Whoever they're getting to do the bleachers, is it included. Beverly said this is just the application. They don't even know if they're going to get the grant or not.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO RATIFY K.E. SEIFERT TO REPAIR SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE ON FAIRVIEW AVENUE FOR \$3,997.00. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. Beverly explained that she got an urgent email from Carol about a sanitary manhole on Fairview Ave. along with photographs and she believes everybody on council has a copy of what was going on. John said what happened was the snowplows grabbed the manhole and kind of broke the manhole cover. There's only one handhold that is actually working on it but what was worse, they hit the manhole cover and the frame cracked leaving jagged edges on both sides and if a tire hits that going fast, it's going to flatten immediately. It was a definite public hazard. He tried getting out there and hammering it in. The frame was not budging. It was completely cracked and bent and there was no bending it back in. Beverly said because of it being an emergency situation that was a sanitary sewer manhole that had a gaping hole in the side of it going straight down into the sanitary system and the jagged edges sticking up, she authorized Carol to bring in a contractor, whoever was available to do an emergency repair on it. It was a public safety issue and it was also an issue for the sanitary sewer system that they are so delicately trying to keep tabs on because of Act 537. If there was a flooding situation going directly into the sanitary system, there would have been a spike that they would have. To answer Jay, Seifert was the only one to get out with the equipment in the time allowed. John said they were also less money. Joe asked if it was the borough's contractor that tore it up or PennDOT. Beverly said they have no way of knowing. Marie said it was on Fairview and the borough does its own streets. Joe asked if they could get any insurance money from it. Beverly

said they have to prove that they did it. She doesn't see how they can go after them without proof. Ben Hauser said without any kind of concrete evidence, it's not going to make this a slam dunk. But if council wants to explore it, they can but they can't authorize to explore it tonight. Beverly asked if they file a claim, will that affect their rating with the insurance company that they're filing claims. Ben said it certainly could affect it if they're making a claim with the insurance company against Seifert. Gary said it wouldn't affect the borough's insurance because they would be going after Seifert's. They require him to have certain insurance. Ben said they could ask Seifert to recompense the borough. Gary said if somebody hits your car, you don't go to your car insurance, you go to theirs. Ben said the borough's insurance company could subrogate against the other company. Beverly said they have a deductible. She said they should send a letter. Tom said he thinks, without proof it's going to be a difficult uphill struggle and it could affect the insurance because it is akin to no fault. They make the claim, and they go after whoever was the responsible person so if they lose, it affects the borough's insurance. Gary said they would not pursue it with the insurance company. They would talk to Seifert and say they believe they hit this manhole. He doesn't think they would say prove it. They had the issue with the previous contractor that hit and damaged curbs. Beverly said they repaired them. She said they would send a letter. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO RATIFY K.E. SEIFERT TO REPAIR STORM SEWER MANHOLE AT BELLEVUE AVE. & LINCOLN AVE. FOR \$5,929.10. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. John Stratz said this one is a problem that has been brewing for the last couple of months. They filled the space that has been growing alongside the frame often this past summer and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger and it is starting to sink making it a general travel hazard. Any really good truck hitting that it could become a sinkhole real fast. Joe asked what the problem is there. John said the bricks are breaking. Beverly said the bricks are actually falling in which means the structures above are collapsing. John said they are old and are the original like from the beginning of Pennel. For traffic safety and for the sewers themselves, they need to make repairs for that now. Beverly said this is storm sewer which at that intersection is notorious during two to four inch an hour events. It floods all the time and this might be part of the problem. The bricks are falling in and clogging it up. This is a pedestrian hazard also. It's not just cars but people walking as well. Joe said right next to that same intersection there's a cone and there's a pipe sticking up. He asked what that is. He said it's by Paul's Pizza, there's a red cone on the sidewalk that has been sitting there. Beverly said she didn't know and would find out. Joe said by the laundromat, that whole street is sinking. Beverly said that is another whole issue. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion on appointing a committee to review ARPA Grant funds projects as outlined in Borough Manager's memo dated 02/03/22

Marie said at the last meeting she said she had thought they received all the money. They received \$112,886.50 of the allotted \$205,771.50 which is a little more than half. Beverly said they need to have a committee to review these eligible projects and what they can do with the money. It's whatever they say that they're allowed to use it for, not something solely that they want. She told Joe Dudash that she thinks this is a perfect thing for him if he will do it. She thinks him being on that committee and having some other folks on there with him to figure out the right way to spend the money. Joe said OK. He said Barbara is the grant guru. Beverly said this is the Covid money. She needs him to appoint some people to look at it with him. She asked what they think this committee should be comprised of. They have Joe from council. Tom said he thinks that two council members might be a good idea. Beverly said she agrees with that. Tom said he would be happy to be a consult on it but doesn't think they should overload it with government people. He would attend and comment. Beverly said Geoff had recommendations and knows the restriction for use of the money. Barbara said they need an

expert. Tom said they do need an expert but also what might be an idea, Joe is in charge, and he could talk and maybe get a resident from that quadrant of the borough and one from over there and one from another and put together a more rounded committee. He thinks two council people and four residents and they have six people. Barbara said it should be five or seven. Tom said similar to what they did with the Long-Range Finance Committee when they were talking about the EIT for instance. Beverly said they have Joe and Tom as a consultant, and she thinks Carol should be on it too because there are some projects allowed under that that act as stormwater. Tom suggested maybe those who are on the long-range finance committee might be people to consider and have talked about all sorts of things of this nature over the past couple years. Beverly said they have Joe and Tom as a consultant, and she thinks Carol should be on it too because there are some projects allowed under that that act as stormwater. Beverly said she thinks five is a good number. It's got to be an uneven number. Gary said Carol should be the person they talk to. Beverly said she would be just a consultant for if they come up with an idea, she can tell them if they're going in the right direction. Ben said so they may want to have five or seven voting members plus Ms. Schuehler in her capacity as the engineer and Mr. Thompson in his capacity as Borough Manager sitting in on this with no voting powers. Beverly said five to seven members with voting power and perhaps stagger the terms and council would then formalize that by resolution. Ben said they can do that by resolution and once Mr. Dudash figures out what he wants his parameters to be, he can email him and he can write him something up. Beverly said it's a good idea that they get some citizen involvement, and they should have a mission statement. Barbara said Geoff can help him with that.

Beverly said since this is a workshop and the committees are all here, they can discuss any projects and things that they have on the horizon. So that this is clear, the committees are going to tell everyone what they're thinking about and what they're working on. This is the chance to ask questions. They can give any documentation that they have or they're going to go find something out if they are asked, but this is discussion time and inform everybody time.

John asked if it would be possible to have a suggestion box so that anybody in Penndel who is willing to sign their name to a piece of paper, can put in a suggestion. Tom said he doesn't think they need to have them signed, but they can take suggestions. Anytime he's been involved in a committee like that, he literally went out and talked to his neighbors and asked them for ideas to bring back. Beverly asked Laura if she knew how many hits they get a day on the website. Laura said she would look that up. Tom said it would be where people could leave a question or a suggestion and have it continue. Beverly said test it on this to see if this works and they'll do it on both Facebook and the website. Barbara asked about the newsletter. Beverly said they might have to have this done before the newsletter even goes out. Barbara said she and Laura can put an article together. Beverly said definitely in the newsletter that this is going to be available. Maybe a little cut off thing that has a cute little cartoon of a suggestion box to let them know they're working in that direction. Tom said when people feel like they're involved then that's good. Laura said he had shown her how to get how many people, but she didn't see it and will contact them and email it to council. Beverly said they have a huge number of followers on Facebook.

Public Works

John Stratz said they just had a motion on an inlet and a manhole. He included a map in their packets of all of Penndel's inlets. He and Jamie did a three day very thorough examination of all these inlets. The emergency situations of all of these inlets have been studied and a criteria for having them rebuilt has been established. And there are a number that, while they're not imminently dangerous right now, still have that ancient 1940's brick structure underneath that is collapsing and they really do need to start coming up with a plan of how they are going to fix

these. Making a full study of every inlet in Penndel was the first step. Jamie is taking pictures of them all and they will be evaluating the next ones that are getting close to being imminently dangerous. Then we will be hitting those but as they can see with the \$5,000.00 price tag, it's not cheap so they want to try and get as much use out of these inlets as they can before they have to reconstruct. Beverly said John did a lot of work with Carol and Jamie on this. One of the things that Carol was asked to do was to let them know what the worst ones are. Her original scope of work was they were all deficient but to show them which ones are the ones that are in such bad shape that are not on the PennDOT plans. The notorious Hulmeville Ave. & Lincoln Highway one is going to be replaced by PennDOT and then in two years the ones up the road. Unfortunately, Big Marty's couldn't wait. Everyone has the map, and she gave them a good, better, best scenario on trying to repair these. The Cares Act money can be used for this. Even the Spring St. swale. Carol picked the worst inlets and gave an estimated cost of the alternates that she had provided in this detailed memo so that's something they all need to look at and evaluate. They cannot let these go anymore. They've got 20 more just like it but thank God they're not collapsing in on themselves right now. To do nine of the worst inlets, the estimated cost is \$50,000.00. The next alternate is 14 inlets and that would be adding \$70,000.00 onto that, cumulative \$120,000.00. A total of 30 inlets is \$190,000.00 to reconstruct them, jet them out, do the whole shebang. It's something to be considered but if they decide not to use it for that, they have to start thinking of something else and look for grants. Joe asked if there are a total of 30 inlets. Tom said it's in the email in color. Beverly said it is in color and she put a square around the inlets where debris was observed. Joe asked about the inlet by Paul's Pizza that the trucks keep running over and if that is PennDOT's function. Beverly said when they do the reconstruction of that the entire area starting in 2023, they will be responsible for fixing that inlet. They will rebuild it, but the borough will be responsible to jet it out. Joe asked if when PennDOT redoes the corner, since the trucks are running it over, are they figuring that out. Tom said they are going to re-radius it. He would not be in favor of jetting those particular boxes out now because by the time they rebuild them, they're going to drop so much crap down in them again they'll have to reject every one of them. They might as well save those for the end. Beverly said Carol didn't even include those. The only one she included was the one at Paul's because it's deficient and the one at Tummy Yummies is deficient. Gary said they are the worst ones, and she has the box around them. Beverly said it's going to be torn out and the radius done. If they could hold off and wait for PennDOT that would be great. Tom said they could probably get all the other ones done and hold off on those. Beverly said they can do them one at a time if they have to.

Joe asked John if he had any news on the tree. John said he will still be trying to find the perp. He's very attached to those trees. They were very beautiful, and it was desecrated. Beverly said they did a lot of watering and hauling those hoses to keep them alive, and Corey did a great job of picking them out.

Beverly said he needs to start working on the refuse contract and start thinking about the deficiencies that were in the last one.

Community

Laura Germain said they have the newsletter coming up. She asked Beverly about the process. She said normally when she has an idea, she emails her committee members and the president and vice president. With this new format, she asked if she should email all of council if she has something that she wants to discuss. Beverly said after tonight's workshop, the next agenda for the workshop will be their input. Under her committee she should say what they're going to talk about and that way the public knows what they're going to talk about. Laura said she really doesn't have any supporting documents yet but if she did, would that be something to send to

them before. Beverly said yes. The agenda is going to be much more detailed because that's where the thinking and all the ideas are going to come from. Laura said since the vaccination status is good, they can start really doing events again, especially in the warmer months. They had the summer reopening party last year, which was a big hit, so they won't call it reopening but maybe just a summer celebration or something. She would like to keep most of them outside just because in talking to other parents, they feel more comfortable going into events outside. The big project she would like to work on with her committee is a time capsule. There are a lot of local governments doing them now because the pandemic just changed so many things, so people want to put a snapshot of what life was like during their community during the pandemic. She will forward an email with everything to everyone else so that they'll have it as well. Depending on what they want to put in it, they can get a container from \$50.00 to a little over \$100.00. Something that she was considering that should be in the actual time capsule is a newsletter from that time and COVID related items. Whatever they think would be interesting. Local and national newspapers, minutes of a council meeting and a recording but they would need to include the technology, whatever they play it on is what they need to include because 50 years from now or whenever they open it, they might not have that technology anymore. Maybe some minted coins from 2022. She would like to involve the community and have people submit artwork or writings or essays about their experience during COVID and then during the dedication ceremony, they could come and read them. They could have age brackets zero to five and photographs, whatever they want and then if they have enough and there aren't enough winners to put in there, they could just display them, and people can come look at them during that and then letters from at least the council president and the mayor. They can discuss whether they should all put a letter in, but she thinks at least those two people. They would have to discuss where to bury it or to bury it at all. A lot of experts suggest actually don't bury time capsules anymore because of the moisture and everything but it's kind of dramatic and traditional to bury it. She'll be interested to hear what people think about burying it and then when to open it. Traditional times are 10, 25 or 50 years. She personally thinks 10 years is a little soon, so she prefers 25 at least but is open to suggestions and then we need something to mark the spot where we bury it with a plaque. There's a lot of different ways they can go with. This is pretty early right now, and she is still gathering information. She thinks that this is something worth doing. It kind of will be a celebration of this is what they went through. Barbara asked if it will be information from 2022 back to 1900 or about COVID because she gave her the Centennial book but it's a COVID capsule. Laura said it doesn't have to be. It's kind of a snapshot of where they are now, and it will include COVID stuff but not exclusively and she thinks she would leave the Centennial book in there and then in 50 years, people will open it and sort of see where they were.

Barbara Heffelfinger said she's been working with Carol on grants. They're going for the two CDBG and they're also working on DCNR. They talked about a lot of things but nothing specific because they had such a time frame on the CDBG. Marie sent her this whole list that came from PSAB, and they say submit by next week. It makes her crazy. There are some in there that they can look at, but they all have short time frames. Beverly said they wanted some of them shovel ready. Barbara said another thing they probably should talk about is what their priorities are as far as where to go and what to look for. The question is what grants are available because they're all specific projects and do they have enough time to get it ready. Carol is working on the DCNR, and she is kind of time limited right now. Beverly said they can help look around for some grant opportunities. Barbara said the DCNR is a really convoluted one. It's now virtual but you usually have to go down to the city and go through all these different conferences and whatever. They've got a bunch of plans but if they modify them and decide this is what maybe they'd like to do. Next year maybe they can budget and find out if they can use in kind services which she and Marie did for the TCDI and that saved them a lot of

money because they're a 50/50 match. This means whoever is from the borough has to get down there and put down when they start and when they finish and how much time they put in. But it's well worth it. They did very well on the last one that they did. Another project she thinks they have to look at is the point and see how that can be done so that it doesn't upset any of the residents and how they can get it so there's not a bunch of accidents down there and maybe improve the sightline, all that kind of stuff. They have not met as a committee, and she doesn't know if they're allowed to do that anymore. Beverly said it's the two of them and everything they discuss will be brought here to the workshop and they'll get to see all of it. Barbara said the proper way to do it is to start looking instead of just looking at the list that comes out. They should look at what they need in the future and then aim for that. They have the multimodal. Beverly said she'll give an update on that one. Barbara said Carol's been working on the grants and they had meetings and were walking around down at the park and looked at all the junk and bounce on the bleachers to see whether they were OK, which they weren't. She was in Sam's Club and as she was checking out, she saw they have these really neat containers that are only \$15.00 and they're plastic and won't rot. They have to work on beautifying at least the entrances to Taddei Woods, maybe get a few of those planters. She might have to spend some Heritage money and pick them up. Gary said as somebody who lives at an entrance to Taddei Woods, he thinks that's a fantastic sentiment but it's wild woods it's going to get overgrown. It's going to look great when you do it but it's woods and it is what it is. Barbara said she knows what he's saying but they have to try and for \$15.00, they spent a heck of a lot more money before to put containers out there. Gary said he would rather see the \$15.00 go to plants just in the front. He wouldn't put a cent into anything there other than tree maintenance. That's just his opinion. Beverly said to Laura and Barbara that they have been neglectful in having dedication ceremonies on things that they've gotten with grant money. Dedication ceremonies and plaques put up for the RDA. She saw some pictures of other municipalities and it would be the right thing to do. They could have a little ribbon cutting and they could do it in one day because they got so neglectful and they could just go around the borough and drag all the officials with them and have them cut this ribbon here, this ribbon here. They need to do that on all the grant projects that have been generously given to them by the RDA and CDBG. They can do it this summer. Barbara can compile a list of how many there were over the last how many years that they didn't put anything up. Barbara asked who is going to pay for that. Beverly said they will. The borough was the recipient of the free money so they can afford to put up plaques to honor the people that gave them the money. It's the right thing to do. John said they have an upcoming project in the works that are beautiful new bathrooms for the Rec Center. Beverly said they will do that when it's finished. They should be doing that for as many as possible. She saw a picture of a plaque that really is nice, and it didn't look like it cost a lot of money. They can have the officials from the various agencies come.

Joe Dudash said that Hulmeville is having their 100th anniversary. They contributed to Penndel in the borough's centennial book. Barbara said it is their 150th and they took out a full-page ad. Beverly said it's the right thing to do. They are our neighbor and they should support them the way they supported Penndel. Barbara said a full page is about \$250.00. She said she gave the form to Beverly. Tom said he would get another one. Barbara said she talked to one of the Wheelers and he gave her the list of people to contact but she's had a minor interruption, so it didn't happen. Beverly said they would take care of it. Beverly reported that she, Carol and the entire design team from PennDOT, along with Vince, the guy in charge of District 6, have a monthly meeting. It looks like the bridge is now pushed back to August and then the intersection will follow shortly after. Their contractor is losing money because they bid the job and they're here this whole time so they're going to be motivated to get it done. Then they'll fix that intersection and the radius and the stormwater inlet there. Then they're going to do another study down Lincoln Highway, a pedestrian access kind of study as far as pedestrian crossings

to keep the walkability and all that they want done and with the goal of walkability into the downtown area. She saw that they had put out wires across Route 1 for a traffic study. Then down to Bellevue and then down to Durham. That's where the multi modal comes in. It is due to expire in June. They've already gotten one extension and are now working on getting another extension with the help of Geoff Darwak at the RDA. They have asked them a ton of questions. Vince said to them in the last meeting that he's very unhappy that his people don't have the information for the borough yet to acquire the easements. They will take it to the solicitors and give fair market value and acquire these easements that they need. They are in crunch mode this week. Carol has all the ammunition she needs to compose this report to send over to the state. They feel very confident that they will get this extension and if they do not, there's going to be a real problem and she thinks there's going to be some interesting conversations with PennDOT because they admittedly they have dropped the ball on us on getting these designs done. Vince will stand behind that and Carol is building a very convincing case. They will get support from PennDOT because they readily admit it's all their fault. Gary asked if the multimodal grant is primarily to aid PennDOT to do these improvements. He asked if the borough will be contributing money for the purchasing of these easements. Beverly said the borough is purchasing the easements. Gary said but they can't purchase the easements unless they know where the easements need to be located. Beverly said right. Gary said so they are just kind of in a holding pattern. Beverly said that's correct. They are just waiting on PennDOT now. There's also part of the study that they had the opportunity to have conversations with PennDOT about what the mayor said earlier. She watches people walk on that guardrail all the time and it just makes her skin crawl. They're going to look at that too. It's a difficult engineering thing there because of the rocks and the creek down there. Tom said that's why he suggested if they can't come up with something, then move it upstream slightly and see what they can do. Beverly said there are portions of it that are in Middletown. She thinks the opportunity for a cooperative effort is there. If Penndot's going to take the lead on it, that's great. They realize that whole area is a safety issue. They're looking at beyond Durham and north and also looking at the fact that there are no sidewalks. They're trying to come up with something and give them some advice. The electrical poles have to be moved. It's on their radar but not on the front burner. Tom said they need to think outside the box on that walkway. Beverly said she thinks it needs to be elevated. Tom said he thinks they should put a wide walkway with some nice trees on Robbins Ave. Beverly said Robbins Ave. doesn't even belong to the borough. It's not a dedicated street. Gary asked if he was talking about getting across Route 1 or if you were to walk from here down to the new Wawa. Tom said he's talking about where you come down Durham, that little curve before you get to where the gas station is. It's all very difficult. The part where you're crossing Route 1, the poles are in the way. Everything is in the way. If there was a nice walkway and a pocket park that went along from where Bertrand's is along Robbins, it would benefit all of the people in the apartments. It would be a place where people could walk and not have to be on Durham Road, and they could traverse that area if there was a safe way to get across. Once they got down to Route 1, then ideally, they want to go to the closest corner. Beverly said they also looked at an elevated walkway over Route 1 at one point. Tom said that would be so expensive. Beverly said you don't get stuff unless you think big sometimes. Tom said if they could convince them that a pocket park with a wide walkway on Robbins was a good idea, they could start an elevated walkway back quite a ways which would make it much more feasible. Beverly said they would have to deal with all the various property owners who own Robbins. She doesn't even know who that is. They never looked at it. Tom said the grass area that's next to the airplane gas station that's behind Bertrand's belongs to the gas station. Beverly said she's all for pocket parks. Tom said if she needs somebody to schmooze the owners of the gas station, call him. Beverly said go ahead. If he's willing to talk, they have to have some ideas and plan ahead. Beverly said a nice walkway down Robbins with enough room to get a fire truck down because that was a part of

the problem before. Tom said there is a lot of space that people aren't using because they haven't been able to meet the requirements. Beverly asked if there are still craters all over Robbins. Tom said he knows it's not dedicated but that doesn't mean that they can't work with some of the people. Barbara said that's where Kory can put her trees. Beverly said she would love to see more stuff like little pocket parks. Joe asked if Tummy Yummies would be gone. Beverly said they don't know what they need yet until they give them the design. Tom said he would very much like to be involved in those monthly meetings with Vince if that could be arranged. Beverly said PennDOT decided who would be at the meeting, but she will ask the question. PennDOT is on their side, and she thinks that they will do everything they can to make this right for PennDel.

Beverly said for the grants, they're not done with the landscaping portion. And the job is not done until the doors go in. The chief is doing a safety assessment here at borough hall to try to keep the staff safe. The building is wide open and there's no other municipality like that that she's seen at least. People have to go up to a window. They just don't walk into people's offices so they're doing a safety assessment and will give them recommendations to seal this up and it all ties in with the doors. They're trying to see what they can do about finding some money to finish the project.

Ordinances (Gary Nickerson)

They had one or two issues with the fence ordinance. They gave a copy of the fence ordinance to the zoning officer at the end of the year, and she had a lot of really good comments, so they made a couple of tweaks in it, and she gave it back to him. The goal would be to have it for the Planning Commission to take a look at it in the April meeting. It's pretty straightforward but the plan is to give that to Sally and Geoff one more time. He wants to get their take on an issue regarding fences around swimming pools. There was one particular issue for whatever reason, that the ordinance prohibits solid type fences which he thinks they're referring to a wall and he thought that was unique that they prohibit solid walls. He didn't think it was a giant issue. He doesn't see too many people constructing walls around their property, but he thinks they should potentially allow for it. They looked around and it seems like the borough was unique in this prohibition. Some of the boroughs had things that went out of their way to specify that you can't have like a toehold. It has to be flush and no protrusions. The whole thing is safety so people can't climb it. They're going to make one or two revisions and send it back and then as soon as they get comments back from Geoff and Sally again, they can give it to everybody. Ben said in his experience, it might be best to have the Planning Commission give their view on it before they authorize it for formal advertising.

Technology

Beverly said Joe Adams, whom she talked to today, is really working hard on getting everything ready to present to council at a workshop. His plans for technology and how they're going to use it for storing records and accessing records. Gary said that way Marie wouldn't have to send them the updates. It will be sitting in a Microsoft One Drive and you just go in and grab it. Just like the fence ordinance that he's working on. It would be right there. Joe asked what they will do with the old records. Ben said there are records' retentions that have to keep them preserved. Joe asked if he would put them electronically. Beverly said that's something they've looked at for a long time but it's a lot of money. Gary said at some point, anytime you have a Sunshine request, they're pretty much going to be paying somebody to go and do all that work. The borough should probably start looking seriously into it. The longer you wait, the more it is. Beverly said she checked a few companies and years ago and the price is basically manpower to sit and scan and feed the documents and scan it all and then make sure it goes where it needs to go in the electronic files. It was staggering. Marie said the problem is the plans

because they're big. Beverly said she's talking about property records and stuff like that. Marie said there are plans in the files. Beverly said they don't have the capability to do that. They would have to send them out and have them done. Barbara asked, for people like her who don't like computers, will they have some kind of a workshop. Beverly said Joe is already planning on training one on one. For anyone who has a problem, he's going to make sure that there's shortcuts, macros, whatever on their desktops that would say Pennel Borough and you can just go and double click, and it'll automatically go where you want it to go.

Finance

Barbara reported that there's not much going on right now. Just paying everyday bills. She gets the updates on the budget weekly and goes over them. Beverly suggested they do quarterly reviews and make absolutely sure that if there's something that they're hurting on or they're really overstretched on, that it's brought to everyone's attention. Joe asked Barbara how they are doing with the Mercantile Tax. Barbara said nothing yet. Joe asked about the EIT. Joe asked if it was too early for the EIT. Beverly said they got a report in December and it's in the budgets and balances that he got from Marie. She said they ended the year with about \$340,000.00. She forgot what the number was, but it was good. Joe said April will be the fourth quarter. Tom said fifth quarter because a lot of people don't file until the end of the year. That's where they'll get the real number for 2021. Beverly said they won't know the real numbers for probably a year and a half or two years.

Public Safety

Barbara said she had another ambulance incident and the first person at my house was Sean Perry and he came well equipped. She doesn't know what was in that huge bag he brought in, but he was wonderful. The ambulance came maybe five minutes after he got there. She hopes that the people in the borough realize what kind of service those guys give. This has now happened to her twice. She's talked to other people, and they say "oh that doesn't happen in our town." Barbara said well it happens here, and those guys and gals deserve an awful lot of credit and she's very thankful that they can do what they do. Tom said there will be updates in both the Chief's report and in his report at the next meeting on those subjects. Beverly said sometimes people take that for granted. They have 24/7 police and they're there.

Mayor Sodano reported that the Planning Commission is meeting on Thursday at 7:30. He is going to make sure that they meet all the requirements. He will have an agenda so they can post that. It's a Reorg Meeting. He has a number of publications and records that he's collected, many Gary gave him, and he's kept everything so he's planning on giving a short tutorial so that the new people coming on board will be up to speed with what they'll expect from them. As Gary knows, he came on board and there was little or no information. He had to figure it out. When he came on board, fortunately, Gary was there which made it easier on him but still there was a lot they figured out. He wants to try and minimize that, so the Planning Commission is ready because as Ben stated, they're going to have to know what to do when things like these ordinances hit them. Since it's just a Reorg, he didn't plan on having the necessity of a lot of people, including the solicitor. Beverly asked if he needed her to attend. Tom said she can if she wishes. He's wide open to everybody but they're not actually reviewing any plans for anything. Ben said if that should change, to let him know. Tom said for those who have been monitoring the fire hydrant parking in Schoolhouse Ct., if they've been by there in the last week and a half, they'll notice there are no cars parked in front of fire hydrant. He gave congratulations to the officer that was involved in that. Beverly said she heard about that. She asked if the officer did that on his own. Tom said the initial steps, yes. Beverly said talk about a self-starter. Tom said he's involved in the fire company, so it was a subject that was near and dear. Tom said two signs went up on Centre St. and they may or may not have noticed but one

of them at least is facing in the wrong direction and it'll be fixed. The numbers were backwards. Tom asked about the Durham Rd. sinkhole and if they scheduled for the cameras to figure out if somebody has a water problem. That's an awful lot of water it would take to do that. Beverly said she would check on it. Tom said when she mentioned Spring Street, it reminded him about 217 Rumpf Ave., the Schoch house. That's the one that has the concrete drainpipe behind it. There's more water flowing because PECO cut some trees at Spring Street and the debris was cleaned up. There's visibly better water flow already which translates to come spring, if they have an issue there, it's not going to get any better, so they definitely need to look into that. It's going to push anything that got stuck along that culvert, that ravine going down to it they'll just have more problems, so they need to get out in front of it. Beverly said the street sign on Glen and Walker, Glen is spelled wrong. It has two n's so if it's on his radar, they can fix it. It's just one of those things that really bothered her. Gary asked if they are replacing street signs. Tom said yes and no. Centre St. is an emergency thruway so when there's an issue with those signs, they make sure those were replaced and they were ordered quite some time ago by Bob. The snow emergency routes and a street like that that's an emergency run for fire trucks, they do look at them often. If he's asking about some of the streets over his way, honestly, they might not pay as much attention, and they don't mean that to be rude. Gary said he noticed that both the signs are like three inches and not PennDOT specs. Beverly said they're the old specs. Tom said they don't have the new reflector thing on them. Beverly said there's \$1,200.00 in the budget for street signs. She's not sure what they have down at the plant that could be used and if they're even up to specs or not. Tom said if they've got street signs that are washed out, bent or broken and they have replacements, they could at least use those until they get the new spec ones. He'll make it a point to get with Lou and check the inventory. Joe Dudash said there's mixed rumors out about Permabilt with the flood that happened. He asked if there is any way they could check it out. Beverly said it's private property. Joe said there is the possibility that the structure has been damaged and they'd have to tear the whole thing down. He wanted to know if it was safe because it would be a shame if it gets torn down. Tom said the building inspector was required to go in and look after the incident. He asked Joe if he saw a condemnation sticker on the window. Joe said no.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:27 P.M.
SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer