

Penndel Borough Council Workshop Minutes

October 17, 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  
Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering

Council or Borough Announcements

Joe Dudash read his statement which is attached.

Barbara Heffelfinger reminded everyone to bring out their kids and grandkids to the Halloween parade for goodies and prizes on October 30th which is the Sunday before Halloween. Line up at the firehouse at 12:00pm and they parade to borough hall where all the good stuff is happening.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

Consent Items

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2022 COUNCIL MEETING. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

**Reports:**

President's Report

Beverly Wolfe said for the curb and sidewalk issue, they will have a complete report on that for next meeting. They will have an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss it and once they're out of the executive session and in the meeting, they will discuss it with the public. Laura Germain asked if she knew what time the executive session would start. Beverly said it shouldn't be too long so probably between 6:45 to 7:00 o'clock. Laura said she would come right from class. Beverly said they would try to make it as brief as possible. Joe Dudash asked where they stand on the fence issues. Ben Hauser said the fence matter is being addressed by the zoning officer and that's all the comment he has on this at the moment.

Mayor Sodano asked if the council meeting was going to be on November 7<sup>th</sup>, the day before election day. Beverly said yes, they've done that before.

Joe Dudash said he wasn't too happy with what happened with the RDA grant. Beverly asked on which particular thing. Joe said the whole police roof matter. He said it's a combination of things that's going on here. They're having problems in this town. Nothing is moving ahead. They have more scandals than they can shake a stick at. He's hearing constituents are going to the RDA complaining and that there's an investigation. One of their council people practically said like don't report a crime. He asked Beverly if she read the minutes. Beverly said she's read them. Joe said he thinks she needs to do the right thing in what's best for her, the people in Pennel and borough council which is to leave the role of president. Beverly said the problem with the police roof, and she wishes the borough manager was here right now, was that emails went out in August to various members associated with the project talking about this and it also goes back to last March or April when all of council decided that putting a second story which amounts only to more attic space in order to put the gabled roof on, would not be a good thing. For whatever reason, they didn't want the storage for evidence and all that. There was a possibility that the roofer would be able to do it without an architect. That was in the meeting minutes. It was investigated to see if the roofer which she believes Dennis and Sons would consider putting a gabled roof on that building without an architect. They emphatically said no, they would need an architect for this. That was the last she heard about it until this round of the RDA grants were announced and then the borough manager she thinks, solicited opinions from people and asked for what the Police Department wants. Finally, she thinks it was August 18th that the email went out saying from the borough manager that they already paid for the architect and already paid to have these plans drawn up, why don't they just submit them again. She doesn't have access to his email, nor does she want it, but as far as she knows, no one responded so that was what was submitted, the original plan. Mayor Sodano said he was in Geoff's office four times and emphatically told him he was against it. The chief was there, and he emphatically told him he was against it. It was discussed by council, and he did not hear anyone on council say they supported the second story or putting it in that way. So don't say no one said anything. The fact that it didn't come directly to her is irrelevant. Beverly said she is speaking hearsay and second hand. She is trying to just relate what she knows happened. All she is trying to tell him is what she was told. Mayor Sodano said what he heard happened at the council meeting was pretty much everybody thought they had nixed the second floor. It was to simply be an A frame roof. Beverly said to Mayor Sodano, back in March when it was shot down by Dennis and Son that they need an architect, she asked if he knew what steps were taken after that. Mayor Sodano said he's not the manager and he didn't take any other steps, but he said to Geoff, whatever steps are necessary to get a roof. It's critical to get a roof. It's not critical to get a second floor, especially on a building that regardless of what the architects say, is questionable with support to hold up a second floor. He has been adamant about that he's never liked the second-floor idea. Beverly said they have a very big lack of communication here with the borough manager which needs to be immediately addressed. The problem is, they're presenting on Friday. The prioritization came in and Marie can attest to that, the police roof is the number one priority on their list of applications. The emergency squad and the fire company are she guesses second and third and this building is dead last. So, the police roof is the first thing on the priority list scheduled with the RDA and if there was a miscommunication with all of them with her, and she doesn't think Barbara was aware of any of them. She's not exactly sure what the breakdown is but they have to fix it because it can't happen again. This roof and attic space or whatever you want to call it, which also takes the downspouts and

everything out of the walls, has already been submitted to the RDA. They have to fix the communication problem. Joe Dudash said the communication problem is consistent here. Even his colleague Mr. Stratz even said in the minutes and Barb said in the minutes she didn't know anything about it. The problem is none of her committees know what the heck's going on. Only certain people know. That's the problem. There is no transparency here. It's not just this. There's political bias going on in this council. It just continues to go on. The thing that frustrates him is what he just read tonight is quote from quote from her from 2015 to 2016 when she went through, HE double toothpicks. She resigned and its quotes in the newspaper articles and all and she was yelling and screaming there was no transparency, and she wasn't being treated right. He feels her pain because he's going through it when he's dealing with her right now. There's political bias in everything in what he read. That's why it was so confusing for him to piece this together and write it. It's what she was screaming about. He thinks she needs to do some soul searching. He thinks she's the issue. He hates to say it but she's the problem. It's ongoing. Only certain people know what's going on around here. The manager he'd fire him tomorrow. He's worthless. He's constantly babbling and he's paying him \$70,000.00 for what. He's got poor Carol doing the grants. He asked what his function is. Every time you go in to talk to him, he doesn't know if there's a puppet master playing with him because he never gives a straight answer. Just like he knew he was getting hanged on October 3rd with this RDA thing and he finally comes out, and it's in the minutes, that they just sent the regular one in last year's model. He asked what the heck kind of manager is that for \$70,000. Hulmeville and Langhorne aren't even paying that. He's seen no revitalization here. He's seen nothing but problems down here. It's like one problem after another. You know Joey Sensor. Poor Joe. He's at Minnesota. They love him up there as a football player. Maybe when he dies, they should bring his body back here and plant him here and do like Jim Thorpe naming Centerville. Maybe they'll get some revitalization like they did.

Barbara Heffelfinger said she was absolutely furious and still is that all this baloney came up about the RDA application. No, she did not do it. She was unaware till the last minute that it was going in but for them all to make a big stink about that application really has her PO'd royally. She worked for more than ten years, she can't even count them, to get the RDA to give them consideration for grants. She fought with Bob White every year who said they're not contiguous. She said baloney they're not contiguous and finally they had a conference with Mr. Tomlinson, and she told him flat out, she doesn't know where the devil they got that ordinance or whatever the hell they call it. She said it's stupid and they're stupid for enforcing it. He said they just copied it from somebody out in the western part of the state. She told them that has no bearing on them. When she heard them complaining about that, she wanted to strangle every one of them because she worked so hard all those years to even get consideration and now, they're groaning and moaning about a grant. Put it in, make it a priority and what they give us they give us. They make do with what they get. They've done that for years and for them to make a big stink about that, she's PO'd to the max. If she had her hands on somebody this week, she would have let them, have it because of all that time they as a borough worked on that. She had fights with Bob White she can't tell how many times. She took papers over there and stuff that Carol gave her with all kinds of information and now they're groaning and moaning because of a little thing. She doesn't give two darns if they're trying to be political. She doesn't know what the devil is wrong with them but please keep their mouths shut. Let the RDA do their job. Just because somebody sits up there and makes a stupid remark. Everybody just shut up and let the grant go through. They're making a mountain out of a molehill. They need that roof to protect police information. They're going to groan and moan about this space which they

probably need to do the gable. That's her opinion and as she said, keep their mouths shut and let's see where it goes. Joe said he respects her. She's done a lot of work. He's been yelling and screaming about this budget. If she were still in power, his rear end would have been lit up a long time ago because this is ridiculous that we're going this late with the budget. The issue is not the RDA. She was here in 2015 and 2016 and she resigned too. It's the issue of non-transparency and separate and certain people only get information around here. The RDA was just the cream of the crop. Barbara said it's free money. Joe said she's missing the point though. What she was screaming about in 2015 and 2016 is the same thing he's screaming about now. There is no transparency. She was crying about that her own views weren't accepted. He's got tons of emails. History repeats itself in this town and it always goes backwards, they never go forward. Barbara said maybe his bedtime reading should be changed and not what he's digging out of the minutes. Joe said these people are seeing it. In Washington they call what they're doing here stock and trade. They're deceiving the voters and the taxpayers. It's a combination of things. This council is broken. Nobody votes what they really want to do for the taxpayer. He could go around this table and quote people that are here and they shouldn't even be here because they're not doing anything. Even Mr. Stratz came up at the last meeting and he says he heard and it's in the minutes. There are people that speak up but there's others on this council that he doesn't even know why they're here. Barbara said he takes up all the time. Joe said it seems like he's the only one really saying anything. Barbara said she said her piece. She's done. Joe said he accepts that but he's telling them they have a problem. Right now, he thinks the president should step down and they should appoint a new president. Beverly said she doesn't care. Joe said in 2015 she said to the man that she thinks he should you step down. Beverly said yes, she did. Joe said in fact when he didn't, she said that she thinks that even with all the good things that have been done and could be done, with all the things going on, the way is lost. Joe said that's what he feels right now. The way is lost. That is her quote. Beverly asked to see it. She said that's her quote from 2015. It had to be Vic Monaco. Gary Nickerson said he wanted to jump in and say he knows Joe loves to find conspiracies and controversy. Joe said this isn't conspiracy. This is fact. Gary said the conspiracy and controversy is they submitted the same RDA application. Joe asked if he is saying there's transparency. Gary said he doesn't really see the big deal. He thinks it was a good move. Joe said because he's in the socialist regime here. Gary said he let Joe mumble along for 15 minutes, so he just wants to put in his 3 seconds. He doesn't listen to anything anybody says. Like he's so effective up here. Joe said he's just a plain idiot. He mumbles and laughs like a hyena. Gary said nobody talks up here more than him and he doesn't make any sense. Joe said he doesn't make sense. Gary said he loves looking for controversies. He asked if they should all wear tinfoil hats. He asked if there is some sort of grand kebab that's pulling the strings. Joe said he is like Mark Moffa. He lost and that's what's going to happen to him. Gary said he is a joke. Beverly recessed the meeting at 8:57 p.m. for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

#### Engineer's Report

Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached. Carol said she was just talking today to Kevin Haines. He's looking to do some work on Spring Street at the end of this week so they should see some more activity out there as far as grading the swale from Bellevue Ave. back. The only other thing that she'd like to mention for their consideration, at the top of the report she

talked about the Memorial Park restroom ADA improvements. She doesn't know if council has any interest in pursuing some sort of a ribbon cutting or something to thank the county for their assistance with the funding for that. That might be something council wants to consider. If so, she would suggest a thorough cleaning of the facility. Beverly said they have many of those things that they need to do in the next budget.

Mayor Sodano asked if Carol was aware of when the water main broke in front of the hardware store. Carol said she was not involved in that. Mayor Sodano said there was a huge water main break there late last month to the point where it lifted the street up almost two inches from the water pressure. They had five pumps in the hole and couldn't keep up with it, so they had to open the hydrant in front of 40 Bellevue in order to cut the water pressure down enough. Through the month of September, they had more rain and to date, there is still not a drop coming out from between any of those buildings on Bellevue Ave. He just wanted to keep her up to date on that. The sump pump discharge that's been running for years has not since they turned the water off on Crescent. There has been zero water and they estimated over 200,000 gallons of water pumped through that hole. They still don't have any water coming from any of those basements.

Joe Dudash said for the bathrooms down at the rec, where the equipment is as far as the utilities like the electrical panels and stuff like that, he was in there. He said Lou and went in to say hello. He asked why the bricks are all cockeyed. It looks like on the walls; the cinder block is popping out in the mechanical room. Carol said that's just the way it's been. They didn't do anything with those walls. Joe asked if it's safe. Carol said she has no reason to believe that there's a structural problem in there but that the way they found it and she didn't have them address the walls as part of this contract. Joe said he was just curious. He asked if it looks that way in the women's room next door. Carol said no, they're FRP covered smooth walls. Joe said if Carol has anything for the COVID committee, he'd appreciate if she would send them over for anything that she could use the money for. They started to go over it and had their first meeting. Carol said they developed a list a year and a half ago. Joe said if there's anything new that she feels she could use, just let them know. Joe said he wanted to thank her, and it was very informative because it seems like they're on the environmental path here with the Permabilt readout with the investigation of what's in the soils. He thought the arsenic would be in there and this was a 430-page report. It was very informative. He would like to add like they did in the last meeting, add this to the minutes. Carol said it was a summary that her office did of the Permabilt environmental report that was provided to council in 2019. Joe said it was very good and informative. Everyone thinks it's a dump site. Ben said they have with the proviso that their office just reviews for any sensitive information. Joe said there's no sensitive information. Ben said with all due respect, he wants to make sure that they're not sending some sort of protected information. Joe said it's too late. He just handed it out to the public. John Stratz asked if this is from 2019. Joe said yes. John asked what relevance it has now in 2022. Joe said they should do another test but if he wants to poison his wife with the arsenic, he can go down there and dig it up. Beverly said it's not their property and they didn't pay for that test. John said what was found back in 2019 could be radically changed today therefore do not take the 2019 report as gospel. Joe said he agrees and thinks they should do another test. Beverly asked how much that would cost. Carol said it's not their property right and doesn't know that they have any rights to be entering there and doing tests. This was remediation that they were required to file and because she has some expertise on her staff in these matters, they

assembled the summary to explain to council back in 2019 what that remediation of evaluation was and what it said and that's what this is. Joe Dudash said he would like to make a motion to recall Beverly Wolfe. Ben said Act 65 requires a motion to be on the agenda. However, he doesn't know if the legislature has written the act this way, but he would imagine that situations like this probably wouldn't be tabled for the agenda. His recommendation is he would make a motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to elect a president.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO AMEND TONIGHT'S AGENDA TO INCLUDE A MOTION TO ELECT A NEW PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL. Ben asked what Joe's standing reason is for amending the agenda. It's a statutory requirement. Joe said the reason is what he quoted, non-transparency and so on. Ben asked Joe if it was fair to say that he believes that he needs to table the motion tonight that you need to so that you can achieve your transparency objectives and he's using Joe's words, they're not his words. Joe asked if he wanted him to postpone it to get his objectives together. Ben said no, he just needs a reason why he has decided to do it. Ben asked if it is because he could not get the motion on the agenda any other way or is it another reason. He asked Joe if he understood what he was saying. Joe said he feels he needs to do it which he's probably not going to get the votes. Ben said so he assumes that the reason is that Mr. Dudash does not believe that this would be on the agenda, otherwise in the absence of a motion under Section 712.1 of the Sunshine Act subpart E. The motion would have to be seconded. Beverly said there is a motion on the floor, and she asked for a second. Hearing no second, the motion failed.

### ***Committee Business:***

#### Community Development

Barbara Heffelfinger said they will be presenting the RDA applications on to the RDA board this Friday at 10:30. She will be going as well as Mrs. Wolfe. Barbara asked Mayor Sodano if he will be going to the RDA. Mayor Sodano said no that he would be at the urologist. Dave Cahill yelled out that he would be there. Barbara said no he won't. Dave said he will be there. Barbara asked if the Chief of Police will be there. Mayor Sodano said he believes he's on duty so she could ask him tomorrow.

Barbara said something they have to consider was what Carol mentioned. Do they keep the heat on over the winter or do they shut everything down and take a chance on the pipes freezing. Beverly said they can drain it. They can vote on that at the next meeting unless it's going to get really cold. Gary asked what the hours are if the restroom is currently open to the public or it's only open when the Wildcats are there. They currently have the porta potties are down. He thinks it's kind of crazy that they don't have a restroom and that they are only open like 3 hours a week when the Wildcats are there. It should be whatever is the most prudent thing to do. If it's going to be locked and no one's going to be using them or unlocking and locking it every day, it really doesn't make any sense to have it heated. It's nice to have the porta potties there. At least one but he doesn't know what the cost for that would be. People still use it all the time. People walk the dogs and play basketball. He knows they still have a porta potty that's down there. He knows they used to have more while they were working on the restroom. Beverly said that's a good point. It's supposed to go down to 35 tomorrow night so it's getting close to freezing. Carol said the utility room is heated but the bathrooms don't have the heat on right now. Beverly asked if the Wildcats are done. Gary said they have a couple

more weeks. Laura said when they have events there, they have keys so they can open them but they're normally not open. Beverly asked council what their pleasure was because if it's going to start dipping down, they're going to have to put some heat on. Carol said if the low is thirty-five, she doesn't think it's going to go below freezing in those rooms. She doesn't know what the weather is over the next two weeks. She's already had frost up by her but it's a little warmer here. Beverly said that's as cold as it's going to get tomorrow night and then it's going to start going up again. Carol said it seems like they could postpone the decision. Beverly said let's do that. Gary said if it does dip down, they can have Lou go down and turn the heat on. He's not sure if the Wildcats are done on November 7<sup>th</sup>. He's not sure if there's any playoffs. Beverly said there might be so they will have to find out. Joe asked who is on finance. Beverly said Joe Adams resigned from all of his committees, finance, technology. Joe Dudash said he has some questions. Barbara said she would appreciate it if he could hold those questions for a week. They are going to look at the preliminary and then she will be better equipped to answer the question. Joe asked who handles ordinances. Beverly said Gary. Joe asked if he could educate him on these rental properties and these houses that rented out online. He asked if they need a permit. Beverly asked if he was talking about Airbnb's and stuff like that. Ben said he believes the borough regulates from rentals a year or so longer. He thinks Joe is referring to some sort of short-term lodging facilities ordinance. He doesn't know if that has been sent to the ordinance committee for its consideration but at present there is no restriction on that. Joe asked if there is a permit or anything they have to fill out with their name and who the renter is. Beverly said there's nothing in place. They had an Airbnb situation not long ago on Dehaven Ave. where they had somebody doing short term rentals. Ben said they would look into it given some of these issues. Beverly said they have had a history of that. Gary said the issue of the short-term rental was discussed but it hasn't advanced any further than that. Currently they have fences, signs and stormwater. Next, they are looking to do street openings so that we can avoid what's going on when someone opens the streets, and the utility has to go curb to curb like Falls Township. Short term rental was discussed previously, and they thought it was probably something worth pursuing but it's another thing they have to look at. Unfortunately, the fencing has just drug on. Beverly said they would have to have an ordinance for short term rental. It does need to be addressed. Joe said on October 3rd the mayor asked him if there were members of his police force in direct contact with his office and you said you would look into the matter. He asked if anything came up with that. Ben said his office did have discussions with the police on a certain request to ensure compliance with the right to know and that's all he'll say on the matter. Joe asked if there was more than one matter. Ben said no. Joe asked if it would be discussed in executive session with council. Ben said generally no. The right to know involves the right to know office and the right to know officer. Negotiations and contracts and PBA all that stuff has to go through the solicitor's office particularly if they're making changes to a contract.

### New Business

Beverly read the next item on the agenda, "Discussion on the LED sign memo from the borough manager", she thinks they should table this. Gary said he and Geoff have been working on this. Beverly said but they applied for the money to pay for this in the RDA grant for borough hall. Gary said they currently have \$25,000.00 in this year's budget to pay for this. Beverly said she doesn't know how that would work if they were awarded it from the RDA and they had already done the work themselves. Gary said they could drop it from the project. Everyone voted on this budget last year and this included the \$25,000.00. Beverly said he's right. Gary said he gets that she chose to try to get it for free but that's a roll the dice. Beverly said then they

should discuss it. Gary said he apologizes for the delay in getting this quote. The contractor that they had previously worked with, they were just unworkable, and their prices were crazy even though they had previously asked for estimates and mentioned that the estimate was based on \$25,000.00 to do exactly what they discussed and what they wanted to do. They were basically unresponsive, so he asked Geoff for some help, and they had KC sign come out and they gave a presentation. They actually brought the sign on the little trailer, and they put it out and they were able to look at it. It's a pretty cool sign. On page 4 they can get a good rendering of what it would look like. The brick base is like a faux brick base. The sign itself is six feet by two feet and then the top he believes is one foot tall. There are all different specifications on here. They were basically trying to get the biggest sign they could get for what they had budgeted, and this is essentially it. There are two estimates here. One quote is for an LED sign that is he believes twelve millimeters and it would be an extra \$5,000.00 if they wanted to go for something that's nine millimeters. He doesn't think they need to do that. He thinks the smaller you get it becomes more like a fancy television. This is for a double-sided sign. The cool thing about this sign is it's programmable. They could decide if the borough manager and the chief of police or Marie would log into a website, and they could control what's depicted on the sign. If there's a snow emergency declared at midnight, the sign has telecommunication so they could just simply go on the sign and put snow emergency declared or no trash today or Halloween parade is Sunday at whatever time it is or for any sort of event. They could communicate when their meetings are. The website is secure and there's a two-part authentication and they would probably want to limit who has access to that. The LED sign is color and changeable by computer. Essentially, it's pretty straightforward. For the proposed sign location, he doesn't think this sign would work where the existing wooden sign is just because of the trees being in the way. By moving it closer to the intersection they'd also get some cross traffic and for this particular size, he believes they're going to on the side of the walkway that goes to the flagpole. They're going to try to figure out where it makes the most sense from the road for safe distance. They would have to get an electrician to run a line out there which is not included in this, but this is essentially what it is. It's a double-sided LED sign. The cool thing about these signs is they don't have to look at them head on. You can see the sign, he thinks, when you're almost directly next to it you can still see the sign. It's not like one big television. Each one of these things are like little bricks. He thinks they're one foot by two foot so these things are essentially assembled, and they all talk to each other so if one of them were to go down, they would just replace that one. They're extremely robust. If you were to like punch this thing, you'd break your hand. It's metal. It's not like it's a TV. The guy was saying they have a bunch of these in Philadelphia and they can take some minor abuse and he thinks it had a five-year warranty. These guys were pretty responsive. They were found on Costars so they're pretty reputable. They are out of Aston in Chester County. The sign is made by Blade M which is a company that's made in America, and they keep rapidly expanding. He thinks they were originally made in Maine and now they're made in New Hampshire. It's a great quality product and he thinks the lead time was, if they were to pull the trigger on it, they'd have it in thinks like six weeks. He thinks this is something that the borough desperately needs just to convey information for social events, civic engagements, public safety. Beverly asked if he has any idea what the cost would be to run the electrical line. Gary said no. He knows they've reached out to people in the past. He doesn't know if that's something they can get donated or something like that. There's power already outside but he isn't sure if he were looking for a 220 line that's heavy duty or if a standard 120 line would be OK. Beverly asked if it's only capable of a single message. Gary said no, they can put whatever they want on it. They can specify the frequency; they could have it static or they could have something changing if they had multiple



messages. If they are interested, they can go to the website and the gentleman can give them access to like a dummy or like a faux website where they can log on and get your message. They originally had something a little bit larger, but they were trying to keep it as close as possible to the amount that was budgeted. For their reference, the sign in front of Herbert Hoover elementary also has an LED sign. He was a little nervous about this being only two foot tall. The LED portion on the sign in front of Herbert Hoover is 2-foot same height but it's seven feet long and that you can see from pretty far. It's a pretty good display so based on that, he thinks the two by six-foot sign would be sufficient to get their messages out. John Stratz said a great example of this particular sign, right down Hulmeville Rd., the auto place that's right over the bridge, he's always loved that sign and has always said he wants this sign for here and Gary is giving it to him. Mayor Sodano said for the question on the electrical line, at the bottom of this paragraph up from one, it does say it's a dedicated 120-volt line so that'll be considerably less expensive than running a 220. He doesn't know anything about the actual pricing but if they don't have to go to 220, it shouldn't be outlandish. The Planning Commission is in the midst of a new sign ordinance. He asked if this sign meets all the requirements in their sign ordinance. Gary said it depends on how the sign is operated. They loosely talked about what was meant by the 30% display. It's all in how the sign is operated. They would probably just have text so yes that would meet them. Joe asked if it would have to go to the Planning Commission. Gary said it would not have to. Joe asked what about the historical committee. Gary asked why it would need to go to them. Joe said because she likes to keep things historical. Gary said that's why they went with the faux brick base. The guy was able to match it. It's not actual brick but the guy says it stands up pretty well and he would recommend maybe just putting some mulch around the bottom so it wouldn't get weed wacked. It's that opposed to just having a single pole. He was originally thinking for the budget they would have to do a pole, but it was nice he was able to do that faux brick around the base. He thinks it's pretty attractive. Ben asked Gary if the sign will be located in a spot that conforms with the Pennel Borough zoning codes and all attempts be made to make sure that all proper permits and other code compliance is secured. Gary said the issue of visibility is one thing they have to double check. He's not sure what the setback is for this road. Beverly said it has to be maintained within a distance of ten feet from the intersection of street lines. Ben said he would advise making sure that the borough administration talks to each other about compliance. Mayor Sodano said with the angle of viewing on that sign, which would work out fine. They'll be able to see it coming both ways on Woodland. Even ten feet back from the sidewalk they'd still be able to see it both directions on Woodland and then the two faces for Bellevue north and south there would be plenty of visibility at that distance from the street. Gary said the two trees that are closest to Bellevue are getting a little bushy and if they're trimmed back a little, he thinks that would only improve the visibility. If they were to put the sign where it is currently, they'd have to take out one of the trees. That is why they're moving it closer. They will see it better on the cross street and they don't have to take down any trees. Mike Smith said they should do a mockup of what they're going to put out there and put it where they think it'll be all right and pull up with their car and see if they can see. Beverly said she was just going to ask Gary that question, that they make absolutely sure that of the line of sight wherever they're going to put it they can see at that intersection. Mayor Sodano said the picture that they superimposed it on, it's pretty much in that spot and you can really see, and it looks like a good spot. Beverly said she thinks it's a great placement too. She just wants to make sure. Gary said with this sign, you can see it when you're moving, in the sun, it's not like one of these things where there's privacy. The way it's done, you can see it up to almost as you pass it. You would see the sign the entire time until you're passing it which is kind of crazy. Barbara asked if it was double sides. Gary said it is. The original vendor was

only going to give the one side for this price. If anybody has any comments you know they can certainly e-mail him or Geoff. The top "Penndel Borough" on a black background with white. He doesn't do colors. He thought this was good for the price. Beverly said it's an amazing price. She said if anyone has questions, get them to Gary and then they will consider this at the next meeting.

#### Public Comment

**Terry McIntyre**, 37-year resident, said they mentioned the EIT which is his most unfavored thing. He said see what they did now Langhorne Borough passed an EIT, and Morrisville did it about six months ago something like that so it's going to be like domino's so unfortunately, it's going to be here to stay. Their paychecks are going to be taxed. From the numbers they talked about, at the inception of this, just in collections from the very beginning, they have to be north of \$700,000.00. He doesn't know where the money is. That's their department but they could probably put fifteen roofs on that police station for what they have in EIT laying around. When they're working on the budget, a six-mil decrease is definitely in order for property owners for relief, especially since they're taking in way more money than they need. These residents need to get some of it back in the form of a decrease in milage and taxes and it would benefit people who were retired or unemployed or just having a tough time. He said to Carol that she was discussing the manholes. He happened to be in charge of that from 2005 to 2010. He'd have to go back and see if he has any paperwork from 2007 to 2008. Glace did a complete inventory and inspection of all the manholes. That information should be here. Many of them were resealed and a lot of them have liners he guesses on the lids and things of that nature. He was along for that because he was going in half days to go around and see what they were doing and making sure that they were looking at these manholes correctly. The paper that was passed around about the contamination at 24 to 50 Hulmeville Ave., from what he's seeing, they're saying if they don't decrease the parking lot, they won't have impervious surface but that's not really going to help water infiltration. If that's the case, they're going to have to probably look into that better. He said to Gary, the LED signs maybe, they've changed in the last couple of years. He had friends that had businesses that invested lots of money in LED signs and they were extremely problematic back then. He doesn't know about the newer ones. Maybe they're better. These things broke all the time, and they were taking out \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 signs after two years because they were just too hard, and they just wouldn't work right. He guesses these new ones, the black ones like he's talking about like in Middletown, they probably work a little better. They have a five-year warranty which is good. He might want to see what the repair rate is when they do break and what it would cost to fix the signs. Their hourly rate could be as high as \$200.00 - \$250.00. And hopefully there's no politics on this sign because it is just a destroyer. He's not sure who is going to control the sign or who's going to be the inputting, but they just want to keep an eye on that. Beverly said no way. Terry said that just destroys more towns and he doesn't care what politics it is. It doesn't matter. There shouldn't be any politics on the sign.

**Bruce Thompson**, Thompson Motor Service, said he just wanted an update on the modifications to the edges of the highway. He heard they will be at the next meeting. He is questioning the packet they sent around. The map in the packet has the plans that Wawa put out. Beverly said it basically is a lot of that. Bruce said the curb line that Wawa put out isn't the curb line that exists now. Beverly said they're going to come with a revision of that at the November 7th meeting. Bruce said Wawa doesn't exist so why would that even come out. Beverly said because they're going to have the same widening and the same radius around that

corner that they would have had to have for Wawa. Bruce said but that guy said that the curb line where it is, is not going to change. Beverly said he was just the traffic guy. They're coming to them with a further along plan on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Bruce said he'll be away, but his son will be there. He just wants to know what's happening. Carol said the design team from PennDOT is going to be here on the seventh and they're going to give a presentation of where things stand today. They would be able to answer his questions much better than this table. They're the fellows who are actually doing the design and they could answer the specific questions. Bruce said he just wants them all to be aware that he's trying to pay attention. Beverly asked him to stay for a minute after the meeting so she can write down his concerns so they can get them addressed.

**Mike Smith** asked Ben if they have to give their names. Ben said yes for the name. They don't have to give their address. Mike said he hasn't heard anything about what his attorney and himself provided to the borough. He knows Ben's answer is that it's litigation. He hasn't heard if the borough has planned on doing anything on their side. Moving past that, there's a lot of dissension here. As a resident, it's disheartening. It's very hard to sit here meeting after meeting and watch this go on. He said Barbara is right. Back in 2012, they all went to Tommy Tomlinson's office. It took them a lot of years to get somebody to include them into the RDA. He agrees with her that once it was presented, council had to approve it. He thinks where the problem lies is this council voted and made it known for months that there was no second floor included here. He believes the mayor and even Sean Perry made that statement they don't need a second floor at a council meeting. And John was very good at bringing that out. He thinks they will agree with what he's saying here and for them to hear that it was presented is what the confusion is. He doesn't know if they are talking through emails. He has no idea, but this stuff should be given to each other. No one should be hidden from any emails. It's causing problems. It's obvious. He doesn't know if they're including Joe. He doesn't know if Joe's including John. He knows that when they did it, everybody was on there. Everybody including Marie and Karen so that a copy would be kept here in the borough hall. That's transparency. He hates to say it but there's no transparency here. He knows that what Joe said, and he was wondering where he was going when he read that because they were all statements from back in 2015 and he was amazed that he found them and brought them up. They have to get along for everyone's benefit. They have to open up to each other and talk to each other. Politics are done. The election was last year. It should be over with until the next one. They all have to work together for their sakes out here. He asked Ben if there is any answer on the other two things. Ben said he won't be commenting on any actions the borough may or may not be taking at this present time. Mike said it's not in litigation. He asked if the president of council could answer. Ben said at this time I would advise no public discussion on that at the moment. He believes matters will be evident in due course. Mike said he still doesn't know whether he has pushed his issue. He's trying not to waste his money.

**Dave Cahill** said he has another right to no request. He'd like a copy of the October 3, 2022 zoning and code reports from BIU that council decided not to read at that October meeting. He asked, on the second-floor application that was submitted to the redevelopment authority, was the second-floor application still submitted or did they change that out since the meeting on the third for the A-frame roof. Beverly said the application was submitted. Dave asked if it was the same application for the second floor. Beverly said the one that they already paid the architect to design and paid Gilmore to design. Dave said that was last year's application that was submitted. Beverly said that is correct. Dave said after council voted 5-0 to do the A-frame roof

at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, not the second floor. He said there was no vote for the second floor. He asked if he was right or wrong about the vote that took place on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Beverly said it was the resolution to authorize the RDA for a police roof. Dave said that was for the A-frame on top of the flat roof, not a second floor. He asked if that was what was voted for. Beverly said she will have to check. She doesn't have that with her. Dave said he believes that this all came out at the meeting on the third. Beverly said she wasn't here. Dave said the vote was taken. He believes the mayor can vouch for that. The vote was taken 5-0 for the A-frame roof above the flat roof. There was already a vote that took place. Mayor Sodano said that was his understanding. Dave said to Beverly that she decided on her own to submit something else. Beverly said no. Dave said so it's more than just her. It's Beverly, Barb, Gary and the manager. He wants to know who's involved in all of this. Beverly said she thought she gave a synopsis of what happened. They do know that there's a communication problem. Dave asked if she doesn't think she did anything wrong here. Beverly said no. Dave said by making a change without all of council knowing about it after there was a vote taken. He asked if she thinks she's in the clear and she's good. He asked her if she remembers that they had a cop go to jail in 2012 for tampering with government documents. Beverly said no. Dave said maybe she should read up on the history of Pennel. Whoever was involved in this, the RDA knows because he was there 11:30 on Tuesday morning and told them. They said they were going to call them, and he said to please use his name. Beverly said they didn't. Dave said he wanted them to know that he was there. He'll be there on Friday too. They've never heard of anything like this before when he told them what she did. He thinks their chances of getting any money are slim to none. He feels bad for the mayor, and he knows that Joe said it at the last meeting that he needs things and they're playing games. Beverly said she can't believe what he's saying. Dave said there's no need for a recall. She needs to resign. And Barbara, Gary, the manager and everybody. The manager needs to be fired. Fire the manager. Dave pointed at Laura and said they have this one here coloring rocks. The rock painter. Beverly said that's enough with the personal attacks. Dave said she hasn't done anything the whole time she's been on council. She hasn't governed once. He told Laura she sucks at what she does. He said do them a favor and quit. He hopes she doesn't teach this bad. Laura said she appreciates his concern. Dave said to John that he's calling BS on his attempted break in on July 25<sup>th</sup>. He asked if he saw anybody. He's being told that he didn't see anybody that night. He heard something. He asked if that's true because one of the cops is doubting this whole thing with him. He's calling BS on it too.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO ADJOURN AT 9:00 P.M. SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer