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OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: COUNCIL DECEMBER WORK SESSION

DECEMBER 5, 2017

7:00 P.M.

OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
314 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- JOSEPH LENCESKI, VICE-PRESIDENT
- JOSEPH FERRETT
- RUSSELL RINALDI
- LOUIS FEBBO
- RICK NOTARI
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, BOROUGH MANAGER

Mark Wozniak  
Official Court Reporter



1 MR. LENCESKI: Good evening. We're  
2 going to start the meeting with the Pledge  
3 of Allegiance.

4 (The Pledge of Allegiance was  
5 recited.)

6 MR. LENCESKI: Good evening,  
7 everyone. Welcome to the work session. The  
8 purpose of tonight's meeting is to set the  
9 agenda for our regular meeting on December  
10 19th. Roll call, please.

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Brown is  
12 absent. Councilman Notari?

13 MR. NOTARI: Present.

14 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Febbo?

15 MR. FEBBO: Here.

16 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Ferrett?

17 MR. FERRETT: Here.

18 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi?

19 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Here.

20 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman

21 Lenceski?

22 MR. LENCESKI: Here.

23 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Semenza  
24 is absent.

25 MR. LENCESKI: There's a public

1 sign-in sheet for anyone who would like to  
2 talk. DPW, Paul Papi, do you have anything?

3 MR. PAPI: No, everything is good.

4 MR. LENCESKI: Any questions for  
5 Paul?

6 MAYOR MULKERIN: Thanks for all your  
7 help.

8 MR. PAPI: Sure, Bob.

9 MR. LENCESKI: Code enforcement?  
10 Steve, do you have anything?

11 MR. BIERYLA: I do not.

12 MR. LENCESKI: Any questions for  
13 Steve? Thank you. Borough engineer, Dave  
14 Lopatka, anything for the upcoming meeting?

15 MR. LOPATKA: Just those two  
16 projects we bid. I have the invitation to  
17 bid. They're actually going over to  
18 Marylynn tomorrow, so as soon as she gets  
19 them I have dates set up.

20 MR. LENCESKI: Any questions for  
21 Dave? Chief?

22 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Nothing. The only  
23 thing, Councilman Notari, I found out why  
24 the mileage was off so much on it. When  
25 Officer Bernardi did the mileage, when he

1 did October it was almost November. So it  
2 was a long span. He told me because I was  
3 on vacation and everything was, like, almost  
4 two months' worth and the other one was only  
5 two weeks. So that's why there was a big  
6 difference.

7 MR. NOTARI: Thanks.

8 MR. LENCESKI: Any questions? Mayor  
9 Mulkerin?

10 MAYOR MULKERIN: Nothing. I just  
11 want to thank everyone for their participate  
12 Sunday and it's good to see everyone out.  
13 Nothing for the agenda.

14 MR. LENCESKI: Okay. Borough  
15 manager, Marylynn?

16 MS. BARTOLETTI: For the next  
17 meeting we will have on our agenda to accept  
18 the resignation of Chris Thomas, who was at  
19 this time the controller. As we know, he's  
20 being sworn in as a school director.

21 MAYOR MULKERIN: That's not going to  
22 cause any issues --

23 MS. BARTOLETTI: No. I have it  
24 worked out with the bank. As Bob said about  
25 Snow Forge, I just want to say a special

1 thanks to Paul and Steve and the DPW for  
2 everything that they did -- and Jason.  
3 Their help went above and beyond. Thank  
4 you. They did a great job.

5 Other than that, we will be voting  
6 for the budget as well, final version of the  
7 budget. That should be it.

8 MR. NOTARI: Marylynn, will you get  
9 us a copy of the final budget before that  
10 night?

11 MS. BARTOLETTI: Yes, I will.

12 MR. LENCESKI: Any other questions?

13 MR. NOTARI: I'd like to thank  
14 Marylynn and Paul for taking care of the  
15 tarring over at Rosemount. I had a resident  
16 complain to me, so I contacted Chairman  
17 Semenza and Marylynn about it. There's some  
18 cracks going the full length of the roads,  
19 so I believe they contacted the contractor.  
20 I know the resident that complained to me  
21 called me the other day and thanked me for  
22 getting it done so quickly.

23 MS. BARTOLETTI: Depending on how we  
24 go forward in the spring, the rest of the  
25 roads in town will get their share as well.

1 MR. NOTARI: Marylynn, the RFPs that  
2 were passed at the last meeting, were they  
3 put in the paper yet?

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: No, but they will  
5 be. They're in the process of getting done.

6 MS. BARTOLETTI: Anyone else?  
7 Solicitor Rinaldi?

8 ATTY. RINALDI: I started the  
9 process with Saint Lawrence Church. I still  
10 haven't gotten the title search back yet,  
11 but I arranged with Dave Lopatka to do the  
12 assessment of the property because we have  
13 45 days to do that from our last meeting.

14 The only other matter I'm going to  
15 put on the agenda for you guys, you have the  
16 ability to opt out -- and you only get one  
17 shot at it -- if Mohegan Sun wanted to put  
18 in a slot machine here in town. So if you  
19 don't opt out by December 31st they can do  
20 it. If you do opt out you can always revoke  
21 it one time. So the safe bet is -- unless  
22 everybody wants to -- not opt out and  
23 allow -- I'm not saying they're going to,  
24 but they have the ability to say we want to  
25 put in a slot machine parlor in Old Forge.

1 MR. FERRETT: What benefit would  
2 there be?

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Mohegan Sun, they  
4 can put a satellite within their 25 miles,  
5 and we fall within it. So far a lot of  
6 towns I've seen are opting out. It's not  
7 something you have to do tonight. We'll  
8 prepare it for the next meeting. It just  
9 has to be delivered to the secretary of  
10 gaming by the 31st. So we get one shot at  
11 it since they passed the law. It went in  
12 effect October 31st. It gave every  
13 municipality the option of opting out. If  
14 you opt out, you have the ability to revoke  
15 that opting out at a later date. If you  
16 don't opt out, you can't opt out later,  
17 after the 31th.

18 So you can talk about it between now  
19 and the meeting if anybody wants to ask  
20 questions, but just to let you know it's  
21 going to come up for that meeting.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: That means  
23 that if we don't opt out after the 31st they  
24 can purchase a property or rent a piece of  
25 property and put a slot parlor in?

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Right.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Within the  
3 limits of Old Forge?

4 ATTY. RINALDI: Right.

5 MR. RUSSEL RINALDI: If they do, do  
6 we get any type of -- is there a fee or do  
7 they have to pay us anything?

8 ATTY. RINALDI: No.

9 MR. FEBBO: No benefit to us?

10 ATTY. RINALDI: No. It goes into  
11 their big gambling share.

12 MR. NOTARI: We wouldn't become a  
13 host community, then, and then we can apply  
14 for LSA?

15 ATTY. RINALDI: That's my thinking.  
16 If they want you to revoke it and put a slot  
17 parlor in town they're going to come and see  
18 you and ask you to revoke it.

19 MR. FERRETT: Isn't that one of the  
20 basic reasons why Luzerne County, Plains are  
21 getting benefits from this, because they're  
22 located --

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Plains has one  
24 there.

25 MR. FERRETT: If they come with



1 something in Old Forge doesn't that refer to  
2 the fact that we're entitled?

3 ATTY. RINALDI: They don't say  
4 whether you're entitled or not because the  
5 casino still sits within Plains Township.  
6 So they're only allowing you to stop a  
7 parlor, slots parlor from coming into your  
8 town. The only one that can do it is  
9 Mohegan Sun because they're the only casino  
10 within 25 miles. Nobody else can put one in  
11 here.

12 MR. FEBBO: But when the benefits  
13 come out don't they use that word host  
14 community?

15 ATTY. RINALDI: You get a share now  
16 of the gambling funds.

17 MS. BARTOLETTI: We apply for it.  
18 There's no guarantee but we apply for it.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: You only get one  
20 shot at saying no.

21 MR. FERRETT: If we don't they  
22 automatically get it?

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Automatically, if  
24 they come up and say we want to put a slot  
25 parlor in you can't stop them. You have

1           until the 31th to say no.

2                   MR. NOTARI: Couple towns just opted  
3 out. It was in the paper this past week.  
4 Jessup or Jermyrn, somewhere up the valley.

5                   MR. FEBBO: So we can put that on  
6 the agenda for the next meeting?

7                   ATTY. RINALDI: Yes, and you can  
8 talk about it. They didn't give you a very  
9 big window.

10                   MR. LENCESKI: Any other questions?  
11 Public sign in, please. Justin Fiori?

12                   MR. FIORI: I recently moved back to  
13 the area after 25 years and I purchased the  
14 home my parents lived in at 203 West Grace  
15 Street, the corner of Lawrence and Grace.  
16 My fiance is completely blind, she has no  
17 vision at all, and I'm looking on here to  
18 see if we can get a handicap placard on the  
19 Lawrence side of the house for a vehicle to  
20 park. We also have a 17-month-old baby  
21 girl, and she has two children, seven and  
22 nine, that will be joining us in January.

23                   So I was reading through the rules,  
24 and I noticed that if I have a driveway or a  
25 place to park my vehicle, that it would be



1 the street. There's a side entrance to the  
2 house.

3 MR. LENCESKI: Bill, can we put that  
4 on the agenda for next regular meeting?

5 ATTY. RINALDI: I'd like him to at  
6 least go through the process with Marylynn.

7 MS. BARTOLETTI: You were already  
8 here today. Right?

9 MR. PARKER: I filled out the  
10 application and paid my \$10, yeah.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: It's not going to be  
12 exclusive to you. Just so you know that.  
13 On Sundays anybody going to church is  
14 probably going to jump in that spot.

15 MR. FIORI: With a handicapped  
16 placard.

17 MR. NOTARI: I thought we can make  
18 it exclusive to him.

19 MAYOR MULKERIN: I thought it was  
20 numbered so that it was to a specific  
21 applicant.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: It's to the  
23 applicant, but you can't preclude anybody  
24 else that's handicapped from using it.

25 MAYOR MULKERIN: A couple months ago

1 we were told different.

2 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We gave Mrs.  
3 Wilk one, I thought.

4 ATTY. RINALDI: We went through this  
5 and I straightened out Mrs. Wilk that, no,  
6 it's not just hers. It's anybody  
7 handicapped. That's a state law.

8 MS. BARTOLETTI: Mrs. Wilk has  
9 something different now. She has one that  
10 has a number on it.

11 MR. FIORI: I did notice other  
12 people.

13 MR. FERRETT: He has to have a  
14 special permit.

15 ATTY. RINALDI: That's what we're  
16 talking about.

17 MR. FEBBO: There is such an animal?

18 MR. FERRETT: You can't do that,  
19 have a special permit where it's only  
20 special parking for that person?

21 MS. BARTOLETTI: That's how it was  
22 decided with Mrs. Wilk.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: That's news to me.

24 MR. PAPI: It has a specific number,  
25 the license plate number, on the underneath

1 of the sign.

2 MR. FEBBO: Issued by us? Is that a  
3 state ruling?

4 MR. PAPI: That's what we did at a  
5 meeting one night. Council decided to make  
6 it specific for her and her alone.

7 MS. BARTOLETTI: That one would have  
8 to be handled the same way.

9 ATTY. RINALDI: Everything I've  
10 seen, the ones marked handicapped --

11 MR. FEBBO: Where did the sign come  
12 from, state issue?

13 MR. PAPI: No, I went down and  
14 ordered it.

15 MR. FIORI: The other question is  
16 how is it enforced if someone else does park  
17 there?

18 MAYOR MULKERIN: Now, I believe that  
19 you can call the police and it would be a  
20 violation. Would it be a tow or would it  
21 just be a parking violation?

22 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Have to be properly  
23 posted if it's going to be towed or just a  
24 fine. Like the one we had changed down  
25 here. There was no fine. So that has to be

1 properly posted. It's the same as the one  
2 that's at the borough building.

3 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: My advice  
4 would be that we should just structure it  
5 the same way we structured Mrs. Wilk's.  
6 That's how I think we should do it.

7 MAYOR MULKERIN: I think the sign  
8 included a fine. Doesn't it have a fine?

9 MR. PAPI: I know all the handicap  
10 signs we put down the football stadium all  
11 have the fine.

12 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: We should keep  
13 them all structured the same, because I  
14 think if we get people in the future we  
15 should just set one precedent and keep  
16 going.

17 MR. NOTARI: Because it is  
18 definitely going to be a problem there.

19 MR. FIORI: The other question is,  
20 with the weather changing, how does that go  
21 to putting a sign up? Do we have a small  
22 window of time?

23 MR. PAPI: Concrete sidewalk?

24 MR. FIORI: Yes.

25 MR. PAPI: We'll drill a hole right

1 through the sidewalk and hammer a three-foot  
2 piece of steel right into the ground and  
3 bolt the sign to the top. We can do that  
4 next week, two weeks.

5 MR. FEBBO: Do you have a  
6 handicapped tag on your both vehicles?

7 MR. FIORI: Yes, we do. We only  
8 have one vehicle.

9 MR. LENCESKI: Thank you. We'll  
10 have Bill look into that matter, find out  
11 exactly what is going on, and then if you  
12 want to come back and go through the process  
13 we'll have that information for you on the  
14 December 19th meeting.

15 At this time, we'll go through our  
16 councilmen, see if they want to put  
17 something on the agenda for the upcoming  
18 meeting.

19 MR. NOTARI: Nothing for the agenda,  
20 but I just remembered 123 Corcoran, now that  
21 Mr. Hoover is here, the lip into the  
22 driveway.

23 MR. HOOVER: They're supposed to  
24 take care of it tomorrow.

25 MR. FERRETT: Nothing.



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MR. FEBBO: No.

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Just if  
Mr. Fiori -- and I'm sure he will -- gets  
all of his paperwork I'd like to see that on  
the agenda. I'm sure you will.

MR. LENCESKI: I have nothing. I  
just want to thank -- we have some members  
of the Snow Forge committee here, Marylynn,  
Rick and Mayor Mulkerin, and I just want to  
say great job. Family had a great time.  
Every year it gets better and we're looking  
forward to next year. Thank you all for  
your time and effort into it, everyone else  
who was part of it.

At this time I'll make a motion to  
adjourn.

MR. NOTARI: I'll make a motion to  
adjourn.

(Unanimous. Meeting adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that I attended the foregoing proceeding, took stenographic notes of the same, that the foregoing, consisting of 17 pages, is a true and correct copy, done to the best of my ability, of same and the whole thereof.

  
Mark Wozniak  
Official Court Reporter