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OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
OLD FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: COUNCIL WORK SESSION

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

7:00 P.M.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- ROBERT SEMENZA, PRESIDENT
- RUSSELL RINALDI
- JAMES HOOVER
- WILLIAM RINALDI, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR
- MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, BOROUGH MANAGER

Mark Wozniak  
Official Court Reporter

Original

1 MR. SEMENZA: Welcome to the Old  
2 Forge Borough Council meeting of February  
3 6th. This will be our work session. The  
4 purpose of tonight's meeting is to go over  
5 stuff for our regular meeting, which will be  
6 February 20th.

7 DPW, Paul Papi, do you have anything  
8 for the agenda?

9 MR. PAPI: No, everything's okay.  
10 Just a prayer to stop snowing.

11 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any  
12 questions for Paul? Paul, we're supposed  
13 to get some snow tomorrow starting in the  
14 afternoon.

15 MR. PAPI: Start around 7:00, 8:00  
16 and snow all day until 7:00, 8:00.  
17 Somewhere along the line it's supposed to  
18 switch over to sleet and freezing rain.  
19 We're all ready to go. All the trucks are  
20 ready to go.

21 MR. SEMENZA: Great. Thanks, Paul.  
22 Dave, do you have anything on the agenda for  
23 our council meeting?

24 MR. LOPATKA: Just the bids.

25 MR. SEMENZA: At the last meeting I

1 asked you to go back to the contractor for  
2 Corcoran and Grace Street and get some more  
3 information.

4 MR. LOPATKA: I did. I called some  
5 references. I mean, it's hard to deny them.  
6 That's the problem.

7 MR. SEMENZA: I understand. There  
8 was just a big difference in --

9 MR. LOPATKA: The one down here  
10 there were some guys that were close. The  
11 Corcoran Street one was pretty skewed. I  
12 called him again. He's comfortable with his  
13 numbers. That's all I can do. I don't know  
14 what else. It's hard to -- if he's  
15 comfortable with his numbers, his  
16 references, he's done good work. I don't  
17 know if you can discount him.

18 MR. SEMENZA: Thanks, Dave. Anybody  
19 have any questions for Dave? Thanks, Dave.  
20 Chief, anything for the February 20th  
21 council meeting?

22 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Contract and hire  
23 two full time jobs.

24 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: That was the  
25 plan tonight.

1 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any  
2 questions for Chief Dubernas? Thanks,  
3 Chief. One question. Snowstorm tomorrow.  
4 We took the cars off the road and there's  
5 only the SUVs?

6 CHIEF DUBERNAS: We always do.  
7 There's only the two.

8 MR. SEMENZA: I have nothing for  
9 you. Bill?

10 ATTY. RINALDI: The police contract,  
11 and do you have any part-timers you want to  
12 update? Did you update that list this year?

13 CHIEF DUBERNAS: We're supposed to  
14 update that.

15 MR. SEMENZA: We did not.

16 CHIEF DUBERNAS: They had the list  
17 in January.

18 ATTY. DUBERNAS: That's the only  
19 items I have.

20 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any  
21 questions for Bill? Thanks, Bill. Steve,  
22 anything for the agenda?

23 MR. BIERYLA: We don't.

24 MR. SEMENZA: Anybody have any  
25 questions for Steve? I talked to the chief.

1 Did you take a look at that snow on the  
2 road? Steve, our ordinance of putting snow  
3 on the road, can you briefly go over it?  
4 You can't take snow off your sidewalk and  
5 put it on the road, could you?

6 MR. BIERYLA: You're not supposed  
7 to.

8 MR. SEMENZA: Do you have an  
9 ordinance on that?

10 MR. BIERYLA: I'm really not sure.  
11 I know we have a sidewalk ordinance that  
12 says it's got to be cleaned.

13 MR. PAPI: We have one.

14 ATTY. RINALDI: There is a sidewalk  
15 where you have to keep snow off of the --

16 MR. PAPI: Something about blowing  
17 snow out into the road.

18 MR. SEMENZA: In your travels if you  
19 see something could you get in contact with  
20 Jason, see, you know, where some piles of  
21 snow are in the road, making it hard to turn  
22 down some streets here and there.

23 MR. BIERYLA: I stopped, the last  
24 snowfall, probably eight different places  
25 and told people not to blow it in the road.

1 MR. SEMENZA: One is across from  
2 your rental property on Edith.

3 MR. BIERYLA: The plow comes by and  
4 plows it, they get up and throw it back in  
5 the road, then the plow comes by and pushes  
6 it again and Paul gets another phone call  
7 that says --

8 MR. SEMENZA: I'm talking about  
9 people that pile snow. I get it. You got  
10 to shovel spots and there's nowhere to put  
11 it. They put it in front of their car, park  
12 the car. It is what it is. But when you're  
13 putting it on a corner, around the corner it  
14 just makes travel hard.

15 Anybody have any questions for  
16 Steve? Thanks, Steve. Marylynn, anything?

17 MS. BARTOLETTI: I really don't, no.  
18 I'll have some stuff for the meeting in two  
19 weeks, but I really don't have anything  
20 tonight.

21 MR. SEMENZA: Okay.

22 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Two questions.  
23 Marylynn, just for the record the special  
24 meeting was advertised tonight?

25 MS. BARTOLETTI: Yes.

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MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: All council members were aware of it?

MS. BARTOLETTI: Yes.

MR. SEMENZA: I believe at our last meeting -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- I stated that we were going to have a special meeting for the Corcoran Street project and the Grace Street project after Dave can come back with us with his answer for my question. Right? And nobody had opposed it at that meeting?

MR. HOOVER: Yeah, nobody.

MR. SEMENZA: If anybody's unaware of it --

MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I was just making sure because -- well, I know I was aware of it. Obviously, you two were aware of it. I just wanted to make sure everyone was aware of it. I'm not saying they weren't, I'm just saying I wanted to be reassured that they were made aware of it, plus that I know it was advertised.

MR. SEMENZA: I'll go down the table, see if any council members have anything to speak about. Mayor?

1                   MAYOR LEGG: I've been spinning my  
2 wheels trying to get information on possibly  
3 adding some names to the monument. I met  
4 with former mayor Turquato. I have to go  
5 see him again. It's going slow. I'm not  
6 getting calls back. So I don't know if  
7 there's anything that can be done.

8                   Other than that, I've been meeting  
9 with the chief very regularly. I spent more  
10 time with him than he does with his wife, I  
11 think. On Monday and Thursday I'm going to  
12 be here. I put it in the Tri-Boro. 3:00 to  
13 4:15, if anybody wants to come in and they  
14 have a problem or concern. I did have a  
15 gentleman come in on Monday for about an  
16 hour.

17                   MR. SEMENZA: Will they be your  
18 regular hours?

19                   MAYOR LEGG: Yes. That's about it.

20                   MR. SEMENZA: Great. Mayor, quick  
21 question. To go back on names on the  
22 monument, have some people contacted you?

23                   MAYOR LEGG: I had a person contact  
24 me personally and he had four individuals.  
25 He wasn't one of them. I think two were in



1 Vietnam and I think two were in World War II  
2 or the Korean War. I don't know if it can  
3 be done.

4 MR. SEMENZA: Why couldn't it be  
5 done?

6 MAYOR LEGG: I don't know if there's  
7 room.

8 MS. BARTOLETTI: It's always been  
9 Mayor Turquato's thing.

10 MAYOR LEGG: I'm going to go see him  
11 again probably Thursday, on my day off.

12 MR. SEMENZA: If there's no room,  
13 and I'm only one of all these guys, but I  
14 would like to see maybe another wing to it.

15 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: Definitely.

16 MR. SEMENZA: We have another war.

17 MAYOR LEGG: Former mayor Turquato  
18 brought that up. I don't know where you  
19 would put it. I didn't want to open a can  
20 of worms. I had somebody approach me about  
21 four people. I didn't announce it. If you  
22 do, there's Desert Storm people.

23 MR. SEMENZA: There will be more to  
24 come. Find out what you can do. If you  
25 can, we'll definitely entertain the idea of

1 going in that direction.

2 MS. BARTOLETTI: Since we are  
3 working on our plan to remodel the borough  
4 building, it's probably something good to  
5 think about while doing it. Maybe it's  
6 something that we can come up with, maybe  
7 like a secondary or another branch of it,  
8 something like that. We were planning on  
9 doing a little courtyard in the front.  
10 Maybe that's something that we incorporate  
11 into that.

12 MAYOR LEGG: Good.

13 MR. SEMENZA: Maybe even possibly  
14 dismantle that one and restructure a new  
15 one. Could we do something like that? Or  
16 was that done with some kind of a grant  
17 that --

18 MS. BARTOLETTI: I don't think it  
19 was a grant. I think it was just people  
20 paid for their bricks and people donating  
21 their time to actually do the work to put it  
22 together.

23 MR. SEMENZA: Get all you can off  
24 him.

25 MAYOR LEGG: I did speak with

1 Mr. Mancuso. I think he was one of the  
2 people involved in putting it up.

3 MR. SEMENZA: Willie or Joe? The  
4 mason?

5 MAYOR LEGG: Yeah.

6 MR. SEMENZA: Anything else?  
7 Councilman Rinaldi?

8 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: No items.

9 MR. HOOVER: No, nothing. Paul did  
10 a good job in the last storm so I'm  
11 expecting the same.

12 MR. SEMENZA: I have nothing myself.  
13 I'd go off Councilman Hoover saying the DPW,  
14 yourself, you did a good job the past couple  
15 storms. You hear people out there saying --  
16 everybody's complaining about something.  
17 You try to let people know that our DPW is  
18 doing their best. They don't understand for  
19 the rest of the year the work they do, they  
20 never get any thanks. I appreciate  
21 everything you guys do throughout the year.

22 MR. HOOVER: It's the private  
23 haulers that screw the intersections up.

24 MR. SEMENZA: One other thing, Paul,  
25 the snow fence we talked about.

1 MR. PAPI: We got it. We put -- a  
2 stop sign got knocked down. Three days we  
3 were there, three different times, because  
4 we can't get it in the ground far enough.  
5 It's just solid.

6 MR. SEMENZA: We do get a warm spell  
7 next week or two. We've had storms in  
8 March. I want to see that -- eliminate that  
9 issue there.

10 One other thing is that no parking  
11 sign on Grace Street, in the 300 block of  
12 that street, on that side of the street, no  
13 parking this side that was gone.

14 MR. PAPI: We talked about the whole  
15 side of the street.

16 MR. SEMENZA: There is an ordinance  
17 in place. Put the sign back up when you get  
18 it.

19 We'll go to public input. Bob  
20 Aulisio.

21 MR. AULISIO: Bob Aulisio. I live  
22 on East Grace Street in Old Forge. I'm here  
23 representing Pride Mobility Products  
24 tonight. Im just going to give a quick  
25 intro.

1                   Pride Mobility Products is currently  
2                   located at 401 York Avenue in Duryea. We  
3                   also own property along Wood Street in Old  
4                   Forge. Some exciting things are happening  
5                   at Pride within the next few years, and one  
6                   of the things we're looking at is expansion.  
7                   So we are looking at putting a warehouse on  
8                   our Wood Street area, which would totally be  
9                   in Old Forge.

10                   I'd like to introduce Jim from  
11                   Reilly Associates. We have a preliminary  
12                   drawing that he can talk about and show you  
13                   what we have planned.

14                   MR. RIDOLFI: I'm Jim Ridolfi. I  
15                   work with Reilly Associates as an engineer.  
16                   This is a preliminary concept plan. If I  
17                   can, this is the existing building that  
18                   Pride Mobility has right now. Intersection  
19                   here, here's the county line which cuts  
20                   right through the current property. This is  
21                   the existing Pride Mobility, formerly Topps  
22                   Chewing Gum factory, which is located right  
23                   here at this intersection with York Avenue.

24                   This piece of property right now is  
25                   wooded. It's entirely in Lackawanna County,

1 entirely within Old Forge Borough. This  
2 piece of property is where they are  
3 proposing to install a 280 foot by 280 foot  
4 warehouse facility, along with additional  
5 parking for the truck facility --

6 MR. AULISIO: You're looking at  
7 about 71 trailer spots there, and that  
8 building alone will have about 20 to 25  
9 people working there.

10 MR. RIDOLFI: So you'll have  
11 employee parking on one side and trailer  
12 parking. These are loading docks.

13 MR. SEMENZA: How much more traffic  
14 a day are you looking at?

15 MR. AULISIO: We don't see any huge  
16 increase in truck traffic at all. If  
17 anything, we're probably going to see a  
18 decrease. Right now we have a facility in  
19 Exeter and, of course, this facility, and  
20 we're transporting materials. That's what  
21 some of our truck traffic is. But our LTL  
22 carriers and our container carriers, we  
23 operate one shift. Basically from 4:30 to  
24 10:30 there are anywhere -- and it varies --  
25 from three to eight pick ups and drop offs

1 that currently occur. We don't see that  
2 really increasing at all. What we're doing  
3 is -- and again, it's about a 78,400 square  
4 foot warehouse there that we're looking at  
5 adding. Again, it's just a preliminary  
6 drawing, but what we want to do is Pride  
7 believes in being a good neighbor to the  
8 communities, and we want to get the word out  
9 to all of you prior to you hearing something  
10 that all the sudden you say hey, what's  
11 going on. We're hearing nothing but yet  
12 you're going around telling folks. We just  
13 want to come up and kill the rumor mill.

14 MR. RIDOLFI: Let's come directly to  
15 you, this is what our plan is right now.  
16 It's just a concept. It's not cast in  
17 stone. We've had some preliminary meetings  
18 with Duryea, the county conservation  
19 districts because we are in two different  
20 counties. We have to go through the entire  
21 planning process, we have to go through  
22 erosion and sedimentation control, we have  
23 to go through storm water management  
24 programs. So we know it's a long road ahead  
25 of us, but we at least wanted to present to

1           you a good idea of what we have.

2                   MR. SEMENZA:  When are you looking  
3           at starting and how long until you think  
4           you're finished?

5                   MR. AULISIO:  Well, by the time we  
6           get though all of the permitting and with  
7           the storm water we would likely put a shovel  
8           in the ground this year.  I'm hoping by,  
9           like -- I'm being real hopeful -- April, May  
10          I'd like to see a shovel in the ground, if  
11          that's possible.

12                   MR. RIDOLFI:  Realistically, I think  
13          by the third quarter.

14                   MR. SEMENZA:  Somewhere around  
15          August.

16                   MR. AULISIO:  We're hoping to get  
17          started as quickly as we can.

18                   MR. HOOVER:  You're not going to  
19          increase truck traffic on Dick Street, are  
20          you?

21                   MR. AULISIO:  No.  All of the truck  
22          traffic is going to come in the exact same  
23          way it comes in now.  We have an existing  
24          coming off of Wood Street now.  We will put  
25          a road in, so they'll still come in that



1 same entranceway. We're not adding or  
2 decreasing any roadways or trying to add  
3 more roadways. Everything is still going to  
4 come in the existing pathway and then drive  
5 into our warehouse.

6 I think we're zoned for what we want  
7 to do. It's industrial. We're covered  
8 there.

9 MR. AULISIO: We've gone through the  
10 whole zoning ordinances to see if there's  
11 anything we'd have a problem with. We tried  
12 to calculate our parking spots based on what  
13 the zoning ordinances say. So we've already  
14 had a chance to at least look through it  
15 all. I didn't see any red flags.

16 As he said, we're basically taking  
17 Exeter out of the loop. Right now the truck  
18 traffic is not going to increase because  
19 instead of going to Exeter with the things  
20 and then bring it here, they're just going  
21 to bring it here.

22 MR. HOOVER: I'm just worried about  
23 the truck traffic on Dick and Wood.

24 MR. RIDOLFI: We never had it  
25 before.

1 MR. AULISIO: There was a sign going  
2 way back that said truck traffic local only,  
3 but for the most part pretty much all of our  
4 traffic is either coming in from Foot  
5 Avenue, down York, and then turning onto  
6 Wood and coming in. That's pretty much the  
7 route of our trucks, or else they're coming  
8 from the south, they're coming all the way  
9 up Wood. So most of our truck traffic,  
10 again, is coming in off of Foot, up York  
11 Avenue, turning into Wood Street and coming  
12 right into our facility here.

13 MR. HOOVER: You're not going out  
14 that way to Lonesome Road?

15 MR. AULISIO: No, and then they go  
16 out the same exact way.

17 MR. SEMENZA: Basically, this is  
18 going to take the place of your Exeter --

19 MR. AULISIO: For our warehousing,  
20 yes. And the big picture is this, that  
21 Pride is look at making our Duryea facility  
22 our corporate headquarters. Pride's a  
23 worldwide company, and what we're trying to  
24 do is make it into one facility. We have a  
25 lot of plans, which, again, you guys --

1 we're adding a lot of parking, because when  
2 this comes through we're looking at bringing  
3 up about 300 people from Exeter to the  
4 Duryea facility.

5 MR. SEMENZA: What's in gray is what  
6 you're adding. Right?

7 MR. AULISIO: Yes, and that's still  
8 in flux.

9 MR. RIDOLFI: It just changed today.

10 MR. AULISIO: But we are adding a  
11 lot of additional parking, even though we're  
12 probably going to have limited parking here  
13 just for the folks working in this building.

14 MR. SEMENZA: How many people does  
15 this facility employ?

16 MR. AULISIO: Right now we have  
17 close to 400. We'll probably have about 20  
18 to 25 folks here in this building. The  
19 majority of the folks are still going to be  
20 in here. This is going to basically be a  
21 distribution center, warehouse.

22 MR. SEMENZA: Will it be creating  
23 jobs or is it just going to be taking jobs  
24 from other --

25 MR. AULISIO: We're probably going

1 to create some jobs, but for the most part  
2 the folks that are in this side of the  
3 building are the folks that are going to  
4 move into this building.

5 But we want to just get the  
6 information out to you tonight just to let  
7 you know this is what we're looking at  
8 doing. Again, we want to be a good  
9 neighbor. I think I've worked with Steve on  
10 quite a few things on different things that  
11 you guys have asked us to do over the years.

12 MR. SEMENZA: You've done it without  
13 even questioning what we've asked. We  
14 appreciate you coming in.

15 Do you have any questions.

16 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: No.

17 MR. HOOVER: No.

18 MR. RIDOLFI: If something pops in  
19 your mind a day or two down the road, I'll  
20 leave you a business card. You can get a  
21 hold of me, Bob. We'll be happy to answer  
22 any questions up front.

23 So at least you have an idea, so  
24 when you hear about what's Pride Mobility  
25 doing you're actually going to be able to

1 tell them.

2 MR. AULISIO: And Steve knows how to  
3 reach me. We went to Duryea Borough and did  
4 the same thing and they were excited, too.  
5 But I think the impact, too, even for our  
6 town is -- you know, we're going to have  
7 700-some people in that building and they're  
8 going to use our community, which I think is  
9 a plus.

10 This wooded area that sometimes gets  
11 trashed up a lot, we're going to dress it  
12 up. That was our whole plan even with our  
13 building that we're doing here. This is a  
14 walking trail. We're going to do a whole  
15 campus effect at our facility. You can see  
16 the greenery here. We're going to dress it  
17 up, make it look nice. Not just make it  
18 flat and pavement. We want it to look nice.  
19 The warehouse itself, the design of it is  
20 going to be a nice looking warehouse. We  
21 want it to look nice, be a nice part of the  
22 community.

23 But we just wanted to come up and  
24 give you the information. When we get  
25 closer to more finite plans we'll let you

1 know.

2 MR. SEMENZA: If nobody else has  
3 anything -- Mayor, nothing? The chair would  
4 entertain a motion to adjourn.

5 MR. RUSSELL RINALDI: I'll make that  
6 motion.

7 MR. SEMENZA: By Councilman Rinaldi.

8 MR. HOOVER: I'll second it.

9 MR. SEMENZA: All in favor?

10 (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 22 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