

OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

IN RE: COUNCIL WORK SESSION

HELD:

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

TIME:

7:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

Old Forge MUNICIPAL BUILDING
310 South Main Street
Old Forge, Pennsylvania

C O U N C I L M E M B E R S :

RUSSELL RINALDI, President

JIM HOOVER, Vice President

MICHELE AVVISATO - absent

ANDREW BUTLER

MICHAEL KOMENSKY

JENNA JONES-SHOTWELL

MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, Borough Manager - absent

ROBERT LEGG, Mayor

WILLIAM RINALDI, Esquire, Solicitor

MICHELLE SMOLSKIS
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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(Pledge of Allegiance.)

MR. RINALDI: Roll call, Bill.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Shotwell.

MS. SHOTWELL: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Komensky.

MR. KOMENSKY: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Butler.

MR. BUTLER: Here.

ATTY. RINALDI: Ms. Avvisato.

Absent. Mr. Hoover.

MR. HOOVER: Present.

ATTY. RINALDI: Mr. Rinaldi.

MR. RINALDI: Here. Once again, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Tuesday, August 6, 2024, work session of the Old Forge Borough.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is we'll go through some of our department heads, we'll hear any reports they have for tonight or anything they have for the agenda.

We have a public sign-in sheet. If anyone from the public would like to address us, we'll give you a few moments at the end.

We'll then hear from our Council

1 members, we'll go down the table, and our
2 solicitor if anybody has anything for the
3 meeting tonight or for the agenda coming up.

4 Before we begin the work session,
5 though, we're going to call Joe from CDBG. He
6 has a report from Lackawanna County he wants to
7 give us.

8 Joe, if you want this sheet here, we
9 have it signed for you.

10 MR. ROVINSKY: Thank you. I
11 appreciate it.

12 MR. RINALDI: And then we'll let you
13 get on with your presentation and then your
14 evening.

15 MR. ROVINSKY: Thank you.

16 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.

17 MR. ROVINSKY: The reason I'm here
18 tonight is to go over the community development
19 block grant program for Lackawanna County. The
20 Lackawanna County Department of Planning and
21 Economic Development is the administrative
22 agency for the CDBG program in the County.

23 CDBG funds are federal funds from
24 the United States Department of Housing and
25 Urban Development which are administered by the

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PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

There are eleven entitlement communities, which Old Forge Borough is one, and twenty-seven non-entitlement communities. To be considered an entitlement community, which Old Forge is one, it has to have a population of 4,000 people or more and meet the current minimum standards of physical and economic distress of the Federal Urban Development Action Grant Program.

Currently, Old Forge Borough has access right now to \$208,477. That money currently has been allocated as part of a senior center improvement project with the 2023 funding which is not yet technically available.

The 2023 application has not been approved by the State -- it has been approved but it's at the Governor's office currently right now, and that's for 144,633, and that's the money that'll be used going towards the senior center project, which is a series of improvements to the senior center in the Borough.

So, the 2023 money should hopefully

1 be available for the Borough in a few weeks,
2 and that money will be spent for the senior
3 center project.

4 Now, 2024 funds, the current
5 allocation is 142,086, and that will not be
6 available until 2025. So, that money will not
7 be available any time soon to the Borough.

8 The State's about a year behind in
9 terms of approving applications, and again,
10 we're still dealing with 2022, and 2023 is
11 still not technically available to start any
12 projects. As soon as '23 is available, we'll
13 be able to do the project for the senior
14 center.

15 The goals of the CDBG program are to
16 assist communities preparing community
17 development plans designed to address the
18 different needs of the borough, assist
19 communities, administering all the activities
20 designed to address a number of needs
21 identified by the plan, to encourage and assist
22 communities to focus upon and address housing
23 and the community facility problems and to
24 pursue economic development to commercial
25 revitalization through public investment

1 initiatives. That will result in the
2 development and expansion of job opportunities
3 within the Commonwealth.

4 There is numerous activities that
5 should be spent upon. Again, Old Forge is
6 working on a senior center project, but the
7 project's gonna include water and sewer
8 improvements, street improvements, parks and
9 recreation and senior center facilities.

10 In the past we put the elevator in
11 Old Forge from CDBG. As mentioned, we're doing
12 currently the senior center project.

13 This is a restrictive program.
14 Grants have to be spent on -- meet one of three
15 national objectives. It has to benefit low to
16 moderate income individuals, address blight or
17 to address any threat to the health and safety
18 of the community.

19 And usually at this point in time
20 I'd be asking for project ideas but right now
21 Old Forge has an allocated project for the
22 senior center which ties it pretty much to the
23 current funding that's available. So, that's
24 all I have.

25 MR. RINALDI: Joe, quick question.

1 MR. ROVINSKY: Sure.

2 MR. RINALDI: The funds, 208,477 for
3 2022 --

4 MR. ROVINSKY: That's currently
5 available. That's already put towards the
6 senior center, yes.

7 MR. RINALDI: That's already put
8 towards the senior center. The 2023 funds that
9 aren't out yet --

10 MR. ROVINSKY: That will go towards
11 the senior center, as well.

12 MR. RINALDI: That's gonna --
13 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

14 MR. RINALDI: That's gonna go
15 towards the center, as well?

16 MR. ROVINSKY: Yes.

17 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

18 MR. ROVINSKY: The 2024 funds, which
19 won't be available, that'll be for a new
20 project.

21 MR. RINALDI: Right.

22 MR. ROVINSKY: So, if there's any
23 street improvements you're looking at down the
24 line or anything, that you might be looking
25 forward to 2024 for application.

1 MR. RINALDI: When are we expecting
2 the 2023? I know you said --

3 MR. ROVINSKY: Hopefully within a
4 few weeks.

5 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

6 MR. ROVINSKY: It was approved by
7 the -- it goes to the Governor right now. It
8 was approved by DCD and it usually takes about
9 two to three weeks.

10 MR. RINALDI: How much was that
11 total?

12 MR. ROVINSKY: That was 144,633.
13 And then we go out to bid for the senior center
14 project with that process.

15 MR. HOOVER: Can we go out to bid
16 with it now or wait for the money?

17 MR. ROVINSKY: We have to wait for
18 the money because there's not enough money to
19 cover the cost estimate currently. But that
20 should be within a week or two, so hopefully
21 that'll be done.

22 MR. HOOVER: It's just that we're
23 waiting a long time for it.

24 MR. ROVINSKY: Yeah. That's in the
25 State's hands.

1 MR. HOOVER: Yeah.

2 MR. ROVINSKY: You're about a year
3 behind, unfortunately. Once we pass it along,
4 it goes right to the State. It's been a long
5 time. We've been wanting to get it going, too,
6 so --

7 MS. SHOTWELL: When do we have to
8 spend the funds by?

9 MR. ROVINSKY: This current funding
10 expires -- really, you're not really -- I mean,
11 by the end of 2026 really --

12 MS. SHOTWELL: Okay.

13 MR. ROVINSKY: So, that project will
14 be done in -- the 2024 money, that's five
15 years, so that's way down the line, but if
16 there's any projects that you could think about
17 now, as long as we get ahead to -- especially
18 street, storm water improvements, maybe
19 something that may be larger so we can get it
20 taken care of.

21 MS. SHOTWELL: Thank you.

22 MR. ROVINSKY: That 2024 money,
23 that's probably 2025, late 2025, based off the
24 current way things are going, unfortunately.

25 MS. SHOTWELL: Yeah.

1 MR. RINALDI: Joe, you mentioned
2 blight properties --

3 MR. ROVINSKY: Yes.

4 MR. RINALDI: -- how could we use
5 CDBG funds for blight properties? I'm
6 confused.

7 MR. ROVINSKY: There was a
8 demolition. The State has told us in the past
9 not to use -- they tried to push us away from
10 demolition because there's so many different
11 things it has to go through, but they do want
12 it to be -- if there's a property that's
13 identified as blight, we can supply that to the
14 State for review to see what has to be done for
15 housing demolition or housing rehab.

16 MR. RINALDI: So, if the house is
17 vacant, abandoned, blight, does it have to be
18 condemned?

19 MR. ROVINSKY: Yes.

20 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

21 MR. ROVINSKY: That could be
22 possible, yes. That has to be through a State
23 office and then it goes through their approval
24 process.

25 They kind of always push us away

1 from doing those projects because it takes them
2 longer to get things approved, but, yes, there
3 is demolition that could be taken care of.

4 Yes.

5 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

6 MR. ROVINSKY: And also housing
7 rehab and first time home buyer programs are
8 also included, as well, as possible
9 expenditures. We have -- on the first time
10 home buyer programs now through CDBG funding.
11 That's this past year so --

12 MR. RINALDI: So, if there's a
13 blight property, instead of knocking it down,
14 go the other route?

15 MR. ROVINSKY: Yeah. Rehabbing.

16 Yes.

17 MR. RINALDI: Correct.

18 MR. ROVINSKY: Like, it gets into a
19 lot of maintenance, a lot of things. So it
20 takes some time. It takes a little bit longer
21 but it's doable, yes.

22 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

23 MR. ROVINSKY: If you're looking at
24 2024, since you have such a long period of
25 time, maybe you have a considerable project for

1 something like, but since you have five years
2 to spend that money.

3 MR. RINALDI: Okay. All right.
4 Anything else?

5 MR. ROVINSKY: That's all I have.

6 MR. RINALDI: Anybody have any
7 questions for Joe?

8 MR. HOOVER: Thanks, Joe.

9 MR. RINALDI: Anyone from the public
10 have any questions for Joe?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RINALDI: Joe, thanks for
13 coming. We appreciate it.

14 MR. ROVINSKY: Thank you.

15 MR. RINALDI: Have a good night.

16 MR. ROVINSKY: You, too.

17 MR. RINALDI: Thank you. We'll go
18 through our department heads, we'll see if they
19 have anything for the meeting this evening or
20 for the agenda coming up.

21 DPW manager, Joe Lenceski. Joe,
22 anything for tonight or for the agenda?

23 MR. LENCESKI: Nothing for tonight
24 or the agenda.

25 MR. RINALDI: Anyone have any

1 questions for Joe?

2 MR. HOOVER: Joe, that Astound
3 that's going through my neighborhood, it just
4 so happens there's 39 cuts in the road that
5 they -- I walked that whole subdivision today,
6 there's 39 cuts.

7 There's about six on that new paved
8 road that we just did Kohler Avenue last year.
9 I don't know what they're -- they're one by
10 sixes, one by fives, they're small cuts. I
11 don't know what their intentions are. I think
12 we should find out from Astound, you know, what
13 their intentions are.

14 MS. SHOTWELL: Are they definitely
15 from Astound?

16 MR. HOOVER: Yeah.

17 MS. SHOTWELL: Because someone on
18 my street asked me today and said that
19 Roto-Rooter was on the street and there were
20 cuts made.

21 MR. HOOVER: No, I mean, I know the
22 difference between those and Roto-Rooter and --
23 yeah.

24 MS. SHOTWELL: Okay. I was curious.

25 MR. HOOVER: But these are just,

1 they're, like, one by six, one by seven cuts.
2 Just enough for the bullet to go through, it
3 hit something, so they had to dig a hole.

4 MR. LENCESKI: Right.

5 MR. HOOVER: So, I think we should
6 ask the guy from Astound to come move it.

7 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I was talking to
8 Joe, we could get together, and I hope maybe if
9 you would come, all three of us go and check
10 out this --

11 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

12 MR. HOOVER: What we have to do is
13 we have to mark the prior ordinance, Billy.
14 Like, on Kohler Avenue, they're going to have
15 to pave half the road. You know, go from the
16 center of the cut, I think it's 15 feet on both
17 sides.

18 ATTY. RINALDI: I don't know off the
19 top of my head.

20 MR. HOOVER: Yeah. I think that's
21 what it is.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Did they pull
23 permits?

24 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. Every time
25 he makes a cut, he calls me.

1 MR. HOOVER: Gets a permit.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: And then if he runs
3 into something, like you said, the small ones,
4 he calls me and says, I need another permit
5 because they ran into something.

6 MR. HOOVER: Because Comcast never
7 fixed some of the cuts that they put in the
8 road. You know, I gave Joe one today. I don't
9 know whose it is. The piece of casing is
10 actually up out of the ground on Kohler
11 Avenue -- or Tommy Drive.

12 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. They've been
13 on delay because of the rain, the weather and
14 everything, so when he comes back, he said not
15 this week but next week. So, we can get
16 together.

17 MR. HOOVER: Yeah, we'll get
18 together.

19 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Go through the
20 whole thing before they start.

21 MR. HOOVER: I'll have to look at
22 that. Okay. That's all I have.

23 MR. RINALDI: Any other questions
24 for Joe?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Joe.

2 MR. LENCESKI: Thank you.

3 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome. Mike
4 Sokolowski, code enforcement/zoning officer,
5 anything for the meeting tonight or for the
6 agenda?

7 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: No, I don't have
8 anything. No.

9 MR. RINALDI: Anyone have any
10 questions for mike?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Mike.
13 Engineer, Dave Lopatka, anything for the work
14 session tonight or the agenda?

15 MR. LOPATKA: Just the discussion on
16 the Pagnotti Park. The mechanical electrical
17 plumbing engineer who's doing the work to
18 extend it, I'd like to go over and extend the
19 water over, brought something to my attention,
20 which if you look on the back, I think the last
21 page, that's the deed that's in -- there's an
22 easement that comes from Villa Road to the
23 Borough's property.

24 It's a 15-foot wide easement, I
25 think, but the easement is only -- the way that

1 the deed, or the easement agreement reads, it's
2 only for ingress and egress, it's not for
3 utilities. So I'm not sure how that needs to
4 be handled.

5 And I did talk to Bill briefly about
6 this the other day, but if you look at the plan
7 on the back, there's one all the way on the
8 back, it's colored. Yeah. So that shows where
9 the easement's located, but it's -- and if you
10 could flip back and read one of the early
11 paragraphs in the deed, it says it's for
12 emergency vehicle access and for ingress and
13 egress of pedestrians only, and it doesn't say
14 anything with regards to running a utility line
15 through there.

16 So I don't know if, Bill, you have
17 any information that we could -- or how we need
18 to do that, because if we're going to bring
19 water to that building and irrigate the field
20 with sprinklers, we need to bring water from
21 somewhere.

22 And in talking with Joe, the line
23 that comes into the building out of center
24 field going a half inch line, which does not
25 have enough water capacity to actually sprinkle

1 the field.

2 So my question is, you know, how do
3 we want to move forward with that portion of
4 the --

5 MR. RINALDI: So, you're saying that
6 according to the easement it doesn't allow the
7 utility to --

8 MR. LOPATKA: No. If you read on
9 the first page of the deed of dedication of
10 easement and you go down where the paragraph --
11 the second paragraph below where it says, See
12 property description attached on Exhibit A, it
13 says, (Reading) Being an easement intended to
14 be granted by The Villa Incorporated to the
15 Borough of Old Forge for use of emergency
16 vehicles and personnel and pedestrians to
17 provide ingress and egress and regress to the
18 Borough owned ball field.

19 It doesn't say anything about
20 running a water line through there to bring
21 water to the --

22 MR. RINALDI: To the field.

23 MR. LOPATKA: -- to the field.

24 MR. RINALDI: So, my first question
25 to you would be that's our first plan would be

1 to bring it from there? If we couldn't use
2 that, we'd have to go from another distance,
3 which is probably a lot longer and more
4 difficult.

5 MR. LOPATKA: Quite a bit further, I
6 would think.

7 MR. RINALDI: Right.

8 MR. LOPATKA: Plus it needs to be a
9 substantial line. It can't just be a half inch
10 line. It probably needs to be a one-inch line
11 or two-inch line to provide the water to
12 irrigate the field.

13 MR. HOOVER: Are we ever going to
14 use this for ingress and egress for emergency
15 vehicles?

16 MR. LOPATKA: Well, I don't know.
17 That's what you got it for originally when you
18 got it, but probably not but --

19 MR. KOMENSKY: But, Dave, when you
20 go to the next page, it says, (Reading)
21 Together with all the singular improvements,
22 ways, streets, alleys, passages, waters,
23 including pipes and inlets as part of the
24 roadway storm water drainage conveyance system,
25 water courses. See it?

1 MR. LOPATKA: You got to ask Bill.

2 MR. KOMENSKY: Yeah.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah, that was
4 probably carried over when they dedicated the
5 roads. So that included everything in the
6 roads, sewers, electrical, water, gas line.

7 MR. LOPATKA: That's actually if
8 they extend the road as opposed to just
9 providing an easement.

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Right. But there's
11 nothing between Villa and Pagnotti of the sewer
12 or anything like that. That's strictly a path
13 that the Borough wanted at the time to be able
14 to get emergency vehicles in.

15 MR. LOPATKA: Joe, do you know where
16 the water line comes from that goes to that
17 other one? I know it's only a half inch. Do
18 you know where it comes from?

19 MR. LENCESKI: Yes. The parking lot
20 from --

21 MR. LOPATKA: From Humphrey Street?

22 MR. LENCESKI: Yeah.

23 MR. HOOVER: Would we have to go
24 back to Louis and ask him to move this right of
25 way?

1 ATTY. RINALDI: You need an easement
2 from either him or anybody on that street that
3 says you want to just --

4 MR. LOPATKA: You would need to add
5 to the easement language.

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah. Or get
7 another one from anybody else there. There's,
8 like, two or three other lot owners there,
9 right, you just --

10 MR. HOOVER: There's two lots there.
11 Well, maybe three lots.

12 MR. LOPATKA: So he owns -- and
13 because it hasn't been sold yet, it may have
14 been subdivided, but there's -- he owns
15 basically, I think, three additional lots that
16 are there, but they're all technically part of
17 the overall until he actually sells them, and
18 then they're broken off with a description.

19 ATTY. RINALDI: There's a house
20 somewhere there because --

21 MR. LOPATKA: What's that?

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Somebody has a house
23 there. They put a hole in the gate, right?

24 MR. LENCESKI: Yes.

25 MR. LOPATKA: And I think there's

1 another house on this lot that's shown on that
2 back page that's --

3 ATTY. RINALDI: I see Patel.

4 MR. LENCESKI: Patel.

5 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. But I don't
6 know if the rest of that, I don't know if
7 there's a lot there.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: You can ask him for
9 an easement, you can ask, who's the next one
10 there, Martinelli, you got Viola. I don't know
11 if Kim Domiano's up too far, but that's up to
12 you. You could put it through anywhere.

13 MR. HOOVER: Who owns that big lot
14 right next to the right of the right of way
15 that's marked in black? Where all the trees
16 are.

17 MR. LOPATKA: That's all Villa
18 property.

19 MR. HOOVER: That's all Villa
20 property?

21 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah.

22 MR. RINALDI: Not sold yet.

23 MR. HOOVER: How about the lot going
24 up the -- say going up?

25 ATTY. RINALDI: That's Patel.

1 MR. HOOVER: That's Patel?

2 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Then you have
4 Martinelli, then you have Viola and Domiano.

5 MR. HOOVER: That's too far, right?

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Domiano's up the
7 top.

8 MR. HOOVER: I mean, why don't we
9 ask Louis if he'll give us a right of way for
10 the lot that he owns up the other end from
11 Patilla's?

12 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. I mean, you
13 could do it either way. You could ask him to
14 modify the existing easement that you have.

15 MR. HOOVER: Yeah. I think that
16 would be, I mean, in my personal, I think that
17 would be a better route. It's closer to the
18 field.

19 MR. LOPATKA: Where's this now?

20 MR. BUTLER: It's between Patel's
21 and --

22 MR. HOOVER: Where it says 130 feet,
23 one inch or something.

24 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. I mean --

25 MR. HOOVER: If we use that and get

1 rid of the one at the bottom, because we're
2 never going to use that for emergency vehicles.
3 That's not a road.

4 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Well, it would be
5 easier up that higher --

6 MR. HOOVER: It would be easier up
7 that higher one.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: I mean, you can use
9 it because they want to be able to get the
10 ambulance back there to the baseball field.

11 MR. RINALDI: He's gonna eventually
12 sell these.

13 MR. HOOVER: Yeah. That's why we
14 have to ask him if we can have 15 feet up at
15 the other --

16 MR. RINALDI: For the road or just
17 to run the --

18 MR. HOOVER: Just to run the utility
19 line.

20 MR. RINALDI: Right, just to run the
21 line, because it's undeveloped anyways right
22 now, so that would be the better way to go.

23 MR. HOOVER: I mean, you could put
24 it, for the water service, put the water meter
25 there, run your pipe. It'll be easier, I

1 think, but I don't know if you guys --

2 MR. LOPATKA: I don't disagree with
3 you, but --

4 MR. HOOVER: I don't think he's
5 gonna want -- I mean, we'll have to ask him.

6 MR. LOPATKA: I mean, I don't think
7 it needs to be a 15-foot easement either. It
8 could probably be a 10-foot easement just for
9 the --

10 MR. HOOVER: Just for the water
11 line.

12 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

13 MR. LOPATKA: -- it's not a big
14 water line.

15 MR. RINALDI: Obviously we were just
16 designated for the water line and the --

17 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

18 MR. LOPATKA: What's that?

19 MR. BUTLER: -- there and push his
20 property down.

21 MR. HOOVER: Yeah, that's what I
22 mean.

23 MR. RINALDI: We would just
24 designate it for the water line and the water
25 line only, because eventually he's gonna sell

1 those lots.

2 MR. LOPATKA: Well, yeah, and then
3 that -- like, if you're talking the way you're
4 talking, there would be an easement on that
5 first lot that he ends up selling, the next one
6 down.

7 MR. RINALDI: Right.

8 MR. LOPATKA: A ten-foot wide
9 easement for the water service.

10 MR. LENCESKI: Why can't you just
11 put it down the center of the road that we
12 already have easement on?

13 MR. LOPATKA: You could but you need
14 to revise the easement to say that you could
15 put utilities in there.

16 MR. LENCESKI: Right.

17 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah, you could. You
18 could do it either way, but somehow you have to
19 have an easement or some kind of language or
20 agreement with him to do it.

21 MR. RINALDI: Right. So, whether we
22 go through where the current easement is, we
23 have to get permission from him to rewrite the
24 easement, or we need a new easement if we want
25 to do it closer to --

1 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah. You need a
2 new easement.

3 MR. RINALDI: Oh, we need a new
4 easement?

5 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah.

6 MR. HOOVER: We need a easement
7 either way because you can't put it on the one
8 that's marked because it's only ingress and
9 egress, that's it, and you'd need another one
10 because the other one doesn't exist.

11 MR. KOMENSKY: So you would just add
12 utilities, a whole new one, same language, add
13 utilities to it. Right, Bill, is that what
14 you're saying?

15 MR. RINALDI: Yeah.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: Whatever he wants.

17 MR. HOOVER: Somebody want to -- I
18 mean, I'll call Louie.

19 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. We would have
20 to get something drawn up.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: We could pretty much
22 take this and just add to it.

23 MR. LOPATKA: You could.

24 ATTY. RINALDI: And that's not a
25 problem. I could do that.

1 MR. LOPATKA: Yeah. I mean, if you
2 use the same one, it's already described in
3 this deed that I provided you.

4 MR. KOMENSKY: So, it'd be like an
5 addendum, right, an amended one?

6 ATTY. RINALDI: It would just be a
7 new easement to add utilities.

8 MR. LOPATKA: And it would reference
9 probably back to this one then if you use the
10 same one.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Uh-huh.

12 MR. KOMENSKY: Right.

13 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So, Bill --

14 ATTY. RINALDI: Get the okay from
15 him and --

16 MR. HOOVER: I'll call him.

17 MR. RINALDI: Do you want to call
18 him?

19 MR. HOOVER: I'll call him see if he
20 wants to meet this week and hopefully I'll have
21 an answer.

22 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

23 MR. LOPATKA: That's all I have.

24 MR. RINALDI: Anyone have any
25 questions for Dave?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Dave. Chief
3 Dubernas, anything for the meeting this evening
4 or for the agenda coming up?

5 CHIEF DUBERNAS: After the meeting
6 if I could get a five-minute executive to
7 discuss an issue?

8 MR. RINALDI: Sure.

9 CHIEF DUBERNAS: And second,
10 possibly a hire that tested certified.

11 MR. RINALDI: For the upcoming
12 meeting in August?

13 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Uh-huh.

14 MR. RINALDI: Okay. An executive
15 tonight, you said?

16 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah.

17 MR. RINALDI: Sure.

18 CHIEF DUBERNAS: For just two
19 minutes.

20 MR. RINALDI: All right. Anything
21 else?

22 CHIEF DUBERNAS: That's it.

23 MR. RINALDI: Anyone have any
24 questions for the Chief?

25 (No response.)

1 MR. RINALDI: Thank you, Chief.
2 Assistant Fire Chief Bill Stull. Bill,
3 anything for the meeting tonight or for the
4 agenda coming up?

5 MR. STULL: No, nothing for tonight
6 or for the agenda coming up.

7 MR. RINALDI: Thank you. Anyone
8 have any questions for Bill?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Bill.
11 Attorney Rinaldi, anything for the meeting
12 tonight or for the agenda coming up?

13 ATTY. RINALDI: Probably I can talk
14 about the legal stuff in the executive. I can
15 get you up to date on that. And you're gonna
16 have a Council vacancy resolution on the
17 agenda.

18 You're going to have approval of the
19 Felitto sister city. I guess they're all
20 coming into town on the 6th, 7th and 8th, if
21 you want to do a signing.

22 You're going to have the grant with
23 the grant writer. He's making some changes
24 that is going to give you the ability to cancel
25 it on 60-days notice. You're not locked in if

1 he's not doing anything, paying him for 24
2 months.

3 And an auditor resolution that
4 Marylynn talked about last time, if she has
5 that ready, to hire an auditor. That's it.

6 MR. RINALDI: Does anyone have any
7 questions for the solicitor?

8 MR. HOOVER: The paving bill, the
9 paving contract, where's it at?

10 MR. LOPATKA: Marylynn has to sign
11 it --

12 MR. HOOVER: Oh, Marylynn has it.

13 MR. LOPATKA: And then I have to get
14 it out to American once it's signed.

15 MR. HOOVER: All right.

16 MR. RINALDI: Anyone else have any
17 questions for Bill?

18 (No response.)

19 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Bill. Before
20 we go down the table we'll go into public
21 comment. Jim Pon.

22 MR. PON: Yeah.

23 MR. RINALDI: How are you, Jim?
24 Good evening.

25 MR. PON: Oh, not too bad. How you

1 doing?

2 MR. RINALDI: Good. What can we
3 help you with?

4 MR. PON: So, I was here two months
5 ago, I came here and discussed me closing the
6 alley behind my house on Fallon Street.

7 MR. RINALDI: Yes.

8 MR. PON: And you told me go through
9 the procedure, sent the e-mail. I did
10 everything you told me, I got no response.

11 MR. RINALDI: Who'd you send the
12 e-mail to?

13 MR. PON: The lady who was sitting
14 here giving me a business card with the e-mail
15 on it.

16 MR. RINALDI: Marylynn?

17 MR. PON: Yep. She came back, gave
18 me a card. That night I left and I sent, like
19 you said, all the information, the date, my
20 information. I sent the e-mail.

21 I heard nothing. Wait a couple
22 days, sent another one. Wait a couple days,
23 sent another one.

24 MR. RINALDI: When's the event?

25 MR. PON: It was the Fourth of July.

1 MR. RINALDI: Oh, it was Fourth of
2 July?

3 MR. PON: Yeah.

4 MR. RINALDI: Oh, I thought it was
5 in August. I'm sorry.

6 MR. PON: No, no, it was fast. July
7 6th it was. So that's why I wanted it closed
8 off, but I heard nothing from nobody.

9 And you said I'd hear from the
10 police chief, the fire chief. I sent an
11 e-mail, nobody got back to me, not one person.

12 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Sir, I never
13 received an e-mail from you.

14 MR. PON: Are you the police chief?

15 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah.

16 MR. PON: Yeah. Well, he -- I sent
17 the e-mail to whatever was on the business card
18 from the lady sitting here. And you said I'll
19 be hearing from the police chief, but I never
20 heard nothing from nobody.

21 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, because the
22 chief of police would have contacted you to --

23 MR. PON: Yeah. Nobody.

24 MR. RINALDI: -- close it and -- or
25 you would explain to him how you wanted it

1 closed.

2 MR. PON: Well, that's what I did, I
3 e-mailed. So, I sent an e-mail to that card
4 she gave me, you know, I sent it all out. I
5 sent everything I was supposed to do, you
6 know --

7 MR. RINALDI: Did you have the
8 event?

9 MR. PON: What's that?

10 MR. RINALDI: Did you have the
11 event?

12 MR. PON: No. I can't have the
13 event. The police would be at my house all day
14 if I did because of the --

15 CHIEF DUBERNAS: He got a rough
16 neighbor.

17 MR. RINALDI: Yeah. He explained it
18 to us.

19 MR. PON: Oh, you know?

20 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Oh, yeah. He came
21 here and complained.

22 MR. PON: About me?

23 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah.

24 MR. PON: It's good to be famous.

25 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Three days before

1 the Fourth of July he was here.

2 MR. PON: He complained about the
3 Fourth of July and I didn't even have my party.
4 He must have been disappointed.

5 So, anyway, I'm back because I'm
6 having another party.

7 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Want me to give him
8 my e-mail?

9 MR. RINALDI: Yeah.

10 MR. PON: But listen.

11 MR. RINALDI: Go ahead, explain
12 yourself.

13 MR. PON: It's for my grandchildren.
14 It's on the 17th. Did you get the invite?

15 MS. SHOTWELL: Yeah.

16 MR. PON: So, it's going to be
17 pretty much all kids, because I had one two,
18 three weeks ago for my three-year-old
19 granddaughter, no alcohol, no loud noise, kids
20 running around, they called the police.

21 MR. RINALDI: The neighbor?

22 MR. PON: Yeah. So, the cops come
23 and he's apologizing to me. I'm like, What are
24 you guys doing here? He's like -- I'm like,
25 Dude, there's nothing but kids. It's my

1 granddaughter's third birthday party.

2 He's like, Well -- I mean, I
3 called -- the cop called me, I was on the phone
4 with him trying not to come, because we know
5 the situation. Like, Do we really have to
6 come? And he insisted.

7 She was intimidated to go in her
8 back yard because of all the people. Three
9 year old, four year old, five year old kids,
10 she's intimidated.

11 Now, mind you, at 11:00 that
12 morning, like I told you last time, they park
13 in the front. Any time I say I want to have a
14 little get-together, they pull around back and
15 park in the driveway. That's what that son of
16 a gun did.

17 By 11:00 I went out back, I started
18 setting my tables up, he sees it, he gets in
19 his car, he drives out and parks in the alley.
20 Now he has a reason to call the police on me
21 because, one, I'm blocking the alley; two,
22 she's intimidated; three, I'm shooting off
23 fireworks. We had no fireworks.

24 And he was just shaking his head at
25 me, the cop. He's like apologize. Apologize?

1 Come on out, get some cake. We got a big ass
2 birthday cake.

3 So the cops, when they come, they're
4 really good guys. I feel bad for them for
5 coming because they know when they're coming
6 they're coming for nothing.

7 I mean, this is, you know, I got my
8 family, that's all I ever raised is family and
9 friends. That's the American dream, man. Am I
10 not right?

11 MR. RINALDI: You're right.

12 MR. PON: And to have the cops come
13 every 20 minutes, it's just insane, it really
14 is.

15 MR. RINALDI: Well, then why don't
16 we do this, we're gonna double check with
17 Marylynn, make sure she got your e-mail. I'm
18 just curious to see what happened with that
19 even.

20 MR. PON: Well, that's just --

21 MR. RINALDI: I know, I know --

22 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

23 MR. PON: That's old news.

24 MR. RINALDI: But I'm just curious
25 to see what happened. We're gonna have the

1 Chief give you the e-mail, you could direct it
2 right to him.

3 MR. PON: Okay.

4 MR. RINALDI: Because he's gonna be
5 the one you're gonna have to contact so he
6 could meet you to block the road off and --

7 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

8 MR. PON: Okay. So, instead of
9 doing all the e-mail stuff, could we do this
10 right now? Because you mentioned last time
11 about the horses, you got the --

12 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah.

13 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, he has the
14 horses.

15 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

16 MR. PON: I'll do it myself.

17 CHIEF DUBERNAS: So, it's Henderson
18 to --

19 MR. PON: Henderson and Fallon,
20 whatever the alley --

21 CHIEF DUBERNAS: You want the whole
22 alleyway?

23 MR. PON: Nope. From Henderson to
24 my driveway in the alley. That's it. Give him
25 access.

1 CHIEF DUBERNAS: By the Hoover
2 residence there?

3 MR. PON: Yes. Well, no, no, no,
4 not even that far. He can get out that way.
5 I'm on the corner of Henderson there.

6 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Oh, so you want it
7 from your driveway to --

8 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

9 CHIEF DUBERNAS: You just want it at
10 Henderson, you don't want a way to turn left?

11 MR. PON: Right. Exactly.

12 MR. RINALDI: Right. Because
13 there's an alleyway by Hoover's where you could
14 still access --

15 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

16 CHIEF DUBERNAS: And you could go
17 out the other way.

18 MR. RINALDI: And you could go out
19 the other --

20 MR. PON: So, two options he still
21 has. Or he could keep his ass in the front,
22 but he won't, you know what I mean? Sorry for
23 saying ass.

24 CHIEF DUBERNAS: And when'd you say
25 this is?

1 MR. PON: August 17th. It's not
2 this Saturday, next Saturday. It's with all my
3 grandchildren.

4 So, my daughter plays for the 7th
5 grade basketball team here in Old Forge, so
6 they're gonna be there probably with their
7 families. My grandson plays with her son on
8 the football team, the B team.

9 MS. SHOTWELL: Yeah.

10 MR. PON: Probably gonna have the
11 whole football team here. It's embarrassing
12 the cops show up, you know what I mean? Like,
13 what are these parents gonna think, kind of guy
14 is this got the cops coming to his house. I
15 don't need that, you know what I mean?

16 MR. RINALDI: Well, contact him.
17 We're gonna get you the police horses that say
18 Old Forge Police on them.

19 MR. PON: Yeah.

20 MR. RINALDI: So, maybe that'll
21 help. Maybe it'll be like the police are
22 blocking the road already.

23 MR. PON: Yeah.

24 MR. RINALDI: Maybe it won't. I
25 don't know, but --

1 MS. SHOTWELL: It's next Saturday,
2 right?

3 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah, what time?

4 MR. PON: Saturday the 17th.

5 CHIEF DUBERNAS: What time?

6 MR. PON: Let's close the road from,
7 like, 12 in the afternoon until 11 at night.

8 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah. We'll let
9 the fire department know.

10 MR. PON: We just let them know,
11 right?

12 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Uh-huh.

13 MR. PON: I'm only saying, I'm not
14 being a wise guy, I sent the e-mails and I
15 heard nothing.

16 So, that's why when I came here
17 tonight, I just want to get it done tonight.
18 Like I said, let me know, that Saturday I'll
19 come pick the horses up myself.

20 CHIEF DUBERNAS: We'll drop them off
21 probably on Friday.

22 MR. PON: Even better. All right.
23 So, you know where it is?

24 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah.

25 MR. PON: I live at 703 Fallon

1 Street. And the knucklehead's 705, right next
2 door.

3 MR. LENCESKI: From the back?

4 MR. PON: Huh?

5 MR. LENCESKI: You put them in the
6 back?

7 MR. PON: You could put them in the
8 back, yeah. And you'll definitely drop them
9 off?

10 MR. LENCESKI: Yeah.

11 MR. PON: All right.

12 MR. LENCESKI: I'll give you my
13 card.

14 MR. PON: Yeah. Does it have your
15 number on it? I'll be calling it.

16 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

17 MR. PON: All right. So, this is
18 it? We're all set up?

19 MR. RINALDI: You're all set.

20 MR. PON: All right, folks. I
21 appreciate you all.

22 MS. SHOTWELL: Thank you very much.

23 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Jim. Have a
24 good night.

25 MR. PON: Yes, you too. Thank you.

1 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.

2 Nadia, come on up to the podium. Nadia, just
3 state your first and last name for the
4 stenographer.

5 MS. MACHESKA: Nadia Macheska.

6 COURT REPORTER: Can you spell that
7 please?

8 MS. MACHESKA: M-A-C-H-E-S-K-A. And
9 it's N-A-D-I-A.

10 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

11 MR. RINALDI: How are you?

12 MS. MACHESKA: I'm good.

13 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

14 MS. MACHESKA: I would just like to
15 know what progress is being made on 516 Winter
16 Street.

17 MR. RINALDI: Okay. Nadia contacted
18 me, she has the -- it's been an ongoing
19 problem. Mike, you're aware of it, correct?

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Who owns the
21 property?

22 MS. MACHESKA: Well, that's what
23 we're trying to find out.

24 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. It's --

25 MS. MACHESKA: Are you the zoning

1 man?

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes.

3 MS. MACHESKA: Okay. We spoke on
4 the phone several times.

5 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes.

6 MS. MACHESKA: Yes. And I'm trying
7 to find out, I did look up on the Lackawanna
8 County records today, and the property,
9 according to Lackawanna County, is owned by
10 Dominick and Julianne Guida.

11 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes. He died?

12 MS. MACHESKA: I don't know. Did
13 he?

14 MR. RINALDI: What was the last
15 name? Excuse me.

16 MR. BUTLER: Guida.

17 MR. RINALDI: Guida. Okay.

18 MS. MACHESKA: Guida, G-U-I-D-A.

19 MR. BUTLER: Julianne, she was a
20 Giglio, I believe.

21 MS. MACHESKA: She was a Giglio.
22 Right.

23 MR. HOOVER: His name was Donny?

24 MS. MACHESKA: Right.

25 MR. HOOVER: Don Guida?

1 MS. MACHESKA: Right.

2 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

3 MR. HOOVER: He lives on Oak Street
4 now, doesn't he?

5 MS. MACHESKA: That's what I heard.
6 The house is abandoned.

7 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It's foreclosed
8 right now, isn't it?

9 MS. MACHESKA: Okay? And the weeds
10 were so bad -- well, first of all, the
11 retaining wall fell down years ago, and it
12 blocked my way.

13 I was here several meetings, I spoke
14 at them. I showed you pictures. I have
15 everything here if anybody wants to see it, I
16 have everything.

17 My lawyer wrote a letter to them.
18 My lawyer was corresponding with Attorney
19 Rinaldi, Bridget Perry, and I'm not going to go
20 with her because it's costing me money and I
21 don't have it. I mean, I just about get by
22 now. I'm trying to upkeep my family's property
23 and it's very hard.

24 The wall needs to be taken down.
25 I'm going to say probably about 97 percent of

1 the wall is taken down, but there's all ragged
2 edges where it's left. It's very dangerous.

3 And all the dirt is falling onto my
4 sidewalk, onto my side sidewalk, and weeds are
5 growing, like, this high (Indicating).

6 My neighbor on Saturday, he couldn't
7 stand it anymore, and I really asked him not to
8 do it, but he said, Nadia, he says, you're
9 having a hard time walking.

10 I mean, I'm falling and everything,
11 I'm having a real bad balance problem and knee
12 and hip and back, and I'm going through a lot,
13 and he couldn't stand how it looked so he
14 trimmed everything.

15 He got all the dirt, he shoveled all
16 the dirt, and you know how hot and humid it was
17 on Saturday, well he did all that for me.

18 He cleaned up 516 so now I could
19 walk on my sidewalk there on the side, but I
20 couldn't -- well, I mean, I did, but I had to
21 move through, like, weeds like corn fields, you
22 know, how like the corn fields are? Well,
23 that's what I had to move through. Nothing is
24 being done. Nothing.

25 MR. BUTLER: Nadia, how long is that

1 house empty?

2 MS. MACHESKA: To tell you the
3 truth, I don't really know exactly how many
4 years, but it's a couple of years, and there
5 are rodents there, there are rats there. I
6 have a picture of a dead rat if you want to see
7 it. I have it.

8 MR. BUTLER: And when you called
9 the -- what'd you say, you called the state?
10 Who'd you call?

11 MS. MACHESKA: No. I went on
12 Lackawanna County's website and I just looked
13 at the --

14 MR. BUTLER: Because they're
15 divorced. They're divorced a long time.

16 MR. HOOVER: Very long time.

17 MS. MACHESKA: She's remarried.

18 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

19 MS. MACHESKA: And she lives in
20 another town. She's remarried.

21 MR. HOOVER: I'm going to have to
22 say that house is vacant about two years, two
23 and a half years. He's out of there over a
24 year, so --

25 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, he's out of there

1 more than a year. More than a year and a half.

2 He is, because --

3 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

4 MS. MACHESKA: And I have a
5 girlfriend that is now retired but that worked
6 at a bank, and she said to me that when a house
7 goes, like, to the bank for whatever, you
8 know --

9 MR. HOOVER: Foreclosure.

10 MR. BUTLER: Foreclosure.

11 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah, foreclosure or
12 whatever, the bank has responsibility to --

13 MR. RINALDI: Upkeep the property.

14 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. But also, you
15 know, to put, like, wood on the windows and to,
16 you know, and they have to shovel the snow, cut
17 the grass.

18 The grass is being cut because I
19 asked the kid who cut the grass once, I says,
20 Who told you to cut the grass? He said, I got
21 a phone call. I said, From who? Because I
22 want to know who is his boss. Like, who is --
23 you know. And he says, I just get a phone
24 call.

25 I said, Well you tell him that if he

1 owns this property that it's ruining my
2 property, because now it's pushing over, and I
3 have steps to get up to Winter Street, my steps
4 are all cracked.

5 I had to get a new wall, okay, in
6 front, because my wall fell over, because
7 everything is being pushed over from -- I mean,
8 that's why I asked you to come and take a look
9 at it. It's better for you to come and take a
10 look at it than for me to explain because it's
11 too hard to explain.

12 MR. RINALDI: Well, I've seen it
13 before. I've been there before.

14 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. I mean, it's a
15 mess. Were you ever there, Mike?

16 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes.

17 MR. RINALDI: My question is is the
18 bank the owner of the property now, Mike, or is
19 he still the owner?

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I have no idea.

21 MS. MACHESKA: Well, I'll tell you
22 that.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: There was something
24 on the door.

25 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah, but that's

1 2022.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: That's so, so old
3 and nobody --

4 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

5 MS. MACHESKA: That's 2022. Right.

6 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: There's no contact.
7 They said they have nothing to do with it.

8 MS. MACHESKA: Okay. That was from
9 Solid Foundation, and that is who you called.

10 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Right.

11 MS. MACHESKA: Okay? So, I've been
12 calling Solid Foundation for years. So, on
13 6/26.

14 MR. RINALDI: Of this year?

15 MS. MACHESKA: Of '24 I spoke to a
16 Diamond, that's what her name is, in Solid
17 Foundation, and she told me that she will call
18 the maintenance supervisor and call me back as
19 to who owns the property by end of that week.
20 She didn't.

21 MR. RINALDI: Well, who's Solid
22 Foundation?

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: They were there
24 before. They were property manager for --

25 MR. RINALDI: Oh, property manager.

1 Okay.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: -- for the mortgage
3 company as of 2022. That's the only
4 information I have, also.

5 MS. MACHESKA: I gave that
6 information to you.

7 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yes. Right.

8 MS. MACHESKA: That's what all the
9 signs are on the door. I think there's, like,
10 about three signs on the door or so, it's all
11 for Solid Foundation.

12 Now, I don't know who fumigated the
13 place because I told them -- oh, they moved --
14 somebody moved everything out. I mean, not
15 Donny, because I saw them. I mean, they were
16 kids.

17 And then I told them, I says, Look,
18 I says, There's rodents in there. I said, We
19 saw rats here, okay, the neighbors. And he
20 said, Okay. He says, We'll put traps up and
21 we'll spray. I said, Okay.

22 So, I called Diamond on 7/30 and she
23 told me that it's owned by Rushmore Mortgage
24 Company, and she gave me a number, a phone
25 number, and I called it. And she said, But

1 they're going to be very hard to get in touch
2 with, and they don't call you back. I said,
3 Okay.

4 So, I called that number and they
5 said something about Rushmore Servicing, and he
6 gave me another number, like, the recording,
7 and he gave me another number to call, and he
8 also said that I could e-mail him at, and he
9 gave me the e-mail address, but I didn't e-mail
10 him.

11 MR. RINALDI: Not to interrupt you,
12 but to stop you right there, could you give all
13 that information to Mike?

14 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah.

15 MS. MACHESKA: Sure. I mean, I just
16 thought --

17 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It's the newest one
18 that we have.

19 MS. MACHESKA: But if I can get it,
20 why can't you get it? I mean, I'm just one
21 person, they're not going to listen to me.

22 MS. SHOTWELL: Don't we legally
23 have, like, we have to send them a letter that
24 they're legally obligated to --

25 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

1 MS. MACHESKA: But I don't even know
2 if this is true.

3 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: You don't know.

4 MS. MACHESKA: I mean, Diamond told
5 me this.

6 MR. RINALDI: If you give Mike all
7 the information you have --

8 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It's newer stuff
9 that I don't have.

10 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. But why can't
11 you get it, Mike? I mean, if I can get it, if
12 I can look up records, why can't you look up
13 records like me? I don't want to do your job.
14 I have enough on my mind.

15 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I have a lot, too.

16 MS. MACHESKA: And I know you do,
17 too, but you get paid for doing this. I don't.
18 I have to worry about my house, my health and
19 things like this. And if you have any
20 questions, you can always call me, and you know
21 you could.

22 Do you want to listen to your last
23 conversation that you left me on my voicemail?
24 I have it. I mean, I recorded it and I have it
25 if anybody wants to hear. You said you could

1 do no more.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I called and
3 called. Like I said, you have more information
4 than I do. That's the last I have.

5 MS. MACHESKA: Well, I have a mouth
6 and I have ears, and you do, too. I mean, you
7 could do what I did.

8 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I have about ten of
9 them.

10 MS. MACHESKA: I understand. I
11 understand, Mike, but this has been going on
12 for --

13 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

14 MS. MACHESKA: And I know that you
15 haven't been in zoning when this began.

16 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. Way before
17 me.

18 MS. MACHESKA: But this is going on
19 from Steve whatever -- I have it in here
20 somewhere. I mean, I've been to, like, three
21 zoning managers already -- or two. Two or
22 three zoning managers went through this
23 already.

24 MR. HOOVER: We have to find out who
25 owns the property first.

1 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. I mean, I
2 don't know if this is correct because he never
3 called me back. I left a message and I never
4 got a call back.

5 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: The one on Sussex
6 Street, the same thing. Whatever the property
7 manager, we looked it up on -- Marylynn looked
8 it up; they don't even exist.

9 Whoever put this up, they're trying
10 to take over these houses, from what we
11 understand, and it's just -- to find these
12 people and get in touch with them is so hard.
13 It's almost impossible.

14 MS. MACHESKA: And the house is
15 falling apart.

16 MR. KOMENSKY: Mike, could you get
17 that e-mail address from her, though? Maybe we
18 could try it.

19 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah, I could try
20 it, like I said.

21 MS. MACHESKA: Sure. I'm happy to
22 give you anything I have.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Nobody calls me
24 back. I'm in the same boat.

25 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah, but you have

1 more clout than I do. I mean, I'm just, Hello,
2 my name's Nadia Macheska, I live at 518 Winter
3 Street, and I was wondering about the property
4 next door to me, 516 Winter Street. Well,
5 they're not going to call me back.

6 MR. RINALDI: Well, that's why I
7 said you give the numbers and information to
8 Mike. He'll call them.

9 MS. MACHESKA: I mean, who am I?
10 I'm nobody.

11 MR. RINALDI: Well, I'm not saying
12 that. I'm saying that if you give the --

13 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

14 MS. MACHESKA: Really, I am nobody
15 to these companies, you know?

16 MR. RINALDI: No, no, I'm not
17 saying that. I'm saying that if you give him
18 the information as the zoning officer, he'll
19 call.

20 MS. MACHESKA: But I've given him
21 the information.

22 MR. RINALDI: But he doesn't have
23 this new information, right?

24 MS. SHOTWELL: He's not getting
25 answers either is what he's trying to say. He

1 does call and -- as the governing body, once
2 ABC company doesn't take care of it and XYZ
3 company doesn't take care of it -- I mean,
4 there has to be a property owner. So where
5 does, like, the buck end? The county?

6 MR. RINALDI: No. We have to get
7 the property owner.

8 MR. BUTLER: The tax roll.

9 MS. SHOTWELL: Right. But that's
10 what I'm saying, the property owner's ABC but
11 it's not really, it's XYZ. Who gives the
12 actual answer of who owns the property, the
13 county, right?

14 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

15 MS. SHOTWELL: The county records
16 the deeds. They record the deeds.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: It could be just
18 hung up on the foreclosure process where nobody
19 really owns it, everybody has an interest in
20 it.

21 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It's the same one
22 on Drakes Lane, same thing.

23 ATTY. RINALDI: Until there's a
24 final sheriff's sale.

25 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It went for

1 sheriff's sale twice and it didn't sell.

2 MS. SHOTWELL: It went for sheriff's
3 sale twice?

4 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Twice. And it
5 didn't sell.

6 MS. MACHESKA: I remember this home
7 went for sheriff's sale, because I called the
8 sheriff's office, and I don't know if I have
9 the deputy sheriff or whoever I spoke to's
10 name, I did, and he told me that they had a
11 letter two days before the sheriff's sale to
12 take it off sheriff's sale, that it was being
13 something with mortgage or something. I don't
14 know.

15 So, it was never put on sheriff's
16 sale, I guess. 516 I'm talking about. You
17 know, 516 Winters. But I'll be happy to give
18 you whatever you need.

19 But something has to be done. I
20 mean, the deck on the back, the boards are all
21 falling off. I mean, I'll show you the
22 pictures.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I saw that. I've
24 been there. I know.

25 MS. MACHESKA: Why didn't you stop

1 over my house? Why didn't you call me and, you
2 know, and we could talk? I'm right there.

3 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Let me have the
4 information, I'll try again tomorrow. I'll try
5 this other company.

6 MS. MACHESKA: I'll be happy to give
7 you the information. You know, my writing
8 stinks, so I'll have to give it to you.

9 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: All right.

10 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. This is what I
11 have. And this is what I found out. Today I
12 printed this out from Lackawanna County. See,
13 if you look on the top it says owners.

14 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Uh-huh.

15 MS. MACHESKA: That's Lackawanna
16 County. So, that's from the assessor's office.
17 It's Dominick and Julianne Guida are the
18 owners.

19 MR. RINALDI: It's saying that
20 they're still the owners as of today?

21 MS. MACHESKA: As of today. I just
22 printed that out today.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I think it still
24 stays in the name even though the mortgage
25 company -- there's a different mortgage

1 company. I don't know how that works. The
2 name still stays on there. I don't know.

3 MR. RINALDI: Mike, could you call
4 the County, see who's paying the taxes on it
5 tomorrow?

6 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah.

7 MS. MACHESKA: Does Gary Percy know
8 anything?

9 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I can talk to Gary,
10 too, but --

11 MS. MACHESKA: I mean, who paid the
12 taxes for Old Forge, city and school?

13 MS. SHOTWELL: Probably nobody.

14 MS. MACHESKA: But, I mean, Gary
15 should know that, right?

16 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

17 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: If they were paid
18 or not, yes.

19 MS. MACHESKA: Right.

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: If they're not
21 paid, yes.

22 MS. MACHESKA: Right.

23 MR. RINALDI: Unless there's a bank
24 or a mortgage company that owns it, they would
25 have to be paying the taxes on it.

1 MS. MACHESKA: Right.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Then you'll see,
3 yeah.

4 MR. RINALDI: Right.

5 MS. MACHESKA: Because if nobody's
6 paying the taxes on it, then what happens to
7 the house? I mean, what does Old Forge do?

8 MR. KOMENSKY: Then they have a sale
9 usually, an upset sale. Right, Bill?

10 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah. I mean, they
11 could be paying the taxes just so it doesn't go
12 to tax sale because they have a mortgage on it.
13 If they have a mortgage on it, they want to
14 protect their mortgage so they'll pay the
15 taxes.

16 MS. MACHESKA: Who?

17 ATTY. RINALDI: The mortgage
18 company.

19 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, the mortgage
20 company. But then Gary Percy would know the
21 mortgage company is what I'm saying.

22 MR. KOMENSKY: Yes.

23 MS. MACHESKA: I mean, you have him
24 right here, or somewhere.

25 MR. RINALDI: That's if they're

1 paid. Right. Correct.

2 ATTY. RINALDI: If somebody's paying
3 them through the year. If they're delinquent,
4 they get paid at the county.

5 MR. RINALDI: If they're delinquent,
6 though, it's on -- I would assume they are, but
7 if they're delinquent, they do from the county
8 like Bill said.

9 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. But somebody
10 should know something about who owns 516 Winter
11 Street. Somebody has to know.

12 MR. RINALDI: Well, that's why I
13 asked you to give Mike the information.

14 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. I know.

15 MR. RINALDI: He'll call that new
16 number. Also, we asked Mike now to call the
17 county tomorrow and see if he could find out
18 who's paying the taxes.

19 MS. MACHESKA: But I know you really
20 don't need that, but that's from the county.

21 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Right.

22 MR. RINALDI: Well, as long as he
23 has the phone numbers.

24 MS. MACHESKA: I mean, I just
25 printed that out from my computer.

1 MR. RINALDI: No. The phone number
2 of --

3 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, yeah. Rushmore
4 or whatever, yeah.

5 MR. RINALDI: The woman that you
6 spoke with, Diamond.

7 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah.

8 MR. RINALDI: Right.

9 MS. MACHESKA: Diamond. But she's
10 from Solid Foundation, and she's the one who
11 told me this, so God knows if this is even
12 right, you know? I mean, I don't know if she
13 told me the right information either.

14 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I don't know,
15 because I get so many, so many, so many, but
16 they just, they never pan out.

17 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. I know. Well,
18 and he didn't call me back either, so I don't
19 know.

20 MR. RINALDI: Well, let's see what
21 he finds out tomorrow. You have Mike's number,
22 correct?

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yep.

24 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, yeah.

25 MR. RINALDI: Okay. If you want to

1 call him in a day or two, see what he found
2 out. We'll check with him, as well, but, I
3 mean, if you wanted to just find out for
4 yourself, give him a call, too.

5 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Okay. Could I have
6 that information?

7 MS. MACHESKA: Sure. I just wrote
8 on any available paper I have. This is what
9 Diamond told me, Rushmore Mortgage Company.

10 And this is the -- I don't know if
11 you could understand my writing -- Rushmore --
12 let me look. I'll transcribe it for you.
13 Rushmore code, C-O-D-E, violations. That's
14 what it looks like to me, at something. Oh,
15 here, and I wrote it over here better.

16 But that isn't a good e-mail number.
17 I mean, that's not a good e-mail address. I
18 don't think so, because, you know, you have to
19 have the dot something.

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: But you have a .com
21 here on the end.

22 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, okay.

23 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: You don't know what
24 this is?

25 MS. MACHESKA: Something cooper.

1 You know what to do, if you call this number,
2 they're going to give you this.

3 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: This is the one
4 they gave you?

5 MS. MACHESKA: Yeah. And Rushmore
6 Servicing, I don't know, I got that number,
7 too, so if you want to --

8 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: All right. I know
9 it's Rushmore.

10 MS. MACHESKA: Solid Foundation I
11 haven't had --

12 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: They never got back
13 to me.

14 MS. MACHESKA: Oh, you have the
15 number.

16 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah.

17 MS. MACHESKA: But it's Diamond that
18 I talked to.

19 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Okay. I'll see
20 what I can come up with.

21 MS. MACHESKA: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Thank you.

23 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome. Thank
24 you. Anyone else from the public before we
25 move on?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. RINALDI: We'll go down the
3 table see if the members have anything before
4 we adjourn. Mayor Legg?

5 MAYOR LEGG: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman. I have nothing.

7 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.

8 MAYOR LEGG: I have nothing. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.
11 Councilwoman Jones-Shotwell?

12 MS. SHOTWELL: I have nothing this
13 evening. Thank you.

14 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.
15 Councilman Komensky?

16 MR. KOMENSKY: I have nothing this
17 evening. Thank you.

18 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome.
19 Councilman Butler?

20 MR. BUTLER: Just the only thing I
21 was talking to Jason about before about the guy
22 that has the junk cars across the street from
23 Old Forge Golf. Those cars are too close to
24 the road.

25 You come out of Oak Street, you

1 can't see who's coming around the bend.
2 Somebody's gonna get killed there.

3 MR. RINALDI: Is that a new car lot,
4 Mike?

5 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: No.

6 MR. BUTLER: It's a junk yard is
7 what it is.

8 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah, that's been
9 there.

10 MS. SHOTWELL: Well, it's a car lot
11 but now he has junk cars there.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: That's a good one
13 for NEIC.

14 MR. BUTLER: The cars are right on
15 the road. There's about three feet of space
16 there.

17 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

18 MR. RINALDI: Coming up to Oak
19 Street looking left, correct?

20 MR. BUTLER: Looking to your left,
21 yeah.

22 MR. RINALDI: On the grass?

23 MR. BUTLER: Yeah.

24 MR. RINALDI: Okay.

25 MR. BUTLER: There used to be a car

1 wash there at one time, was there not?

2 MR. KOMENSKY: Right. Yes.

3 MR. RINALDI: I'm not that old.

4 MR. BUTLER: Come on, Russ.

5 MR. KOMENSKY: This is the one we
6 got the pictures the other day.

7 MR. RINALDI: I know where you're
8 talking about. Yeah, up on the left.

9 MR. KOMENSKY: Right.

10 MR. RINALDI: Mike, that's the
11 separate property from the car lot, isn't it,
12 or no?

13 MR. BUTLER: There used to be a body
14 shop there at one time.

15 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. I think
16 Chickey owns it, the property.

17 MR. RINALDI: But it's not connected
18 with the old Dave's body shop. It's two
19 different properties.

20 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah. Bernie Cap
21 owns the other one.

22 MR. RINALDI: Right. The old Dave's
23 body shop, that's listed to Bernie.

24 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah.

25 MR. RINALDI: And then the corner

1 is --

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Chickey.

3 MR. RINALDI: Chickey.

4 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I don't know who
5 runs the lot. I called them, left messages,
6 nobody will call me back. There's a phone
7 number on the sign.

8 MR. KOMENSKY: On that trailer
9 there, right?

10 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Yeah.

11 MR. RINALDI: Bill, if the person
12 who owns the car lot is renting it off of Tommy
13 Chickey, which is the property owner, is the
14 car lot responsible to move the cars?

15 ATTY. RINALDI: No. The owner is.

16 MR. RINALDI: Oh, of the property.
17 Okay.

18 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: Chickey. I could
19 call him.

20 MR. RINALDI: Call him tomorrow,
21 notify him that the cars -- Chief, were you up
22 there?

23 CHIEF DUBERNAS: No. I drove by it.
24 They're right in the wooden telephone poles.
25 But there's a new sign there. It's not -- it

1 used to be Dave. It used to be Mix Autos. I
2 don't know whose it is now.

3 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, it is different.
4 Those are the pictures that the assistant fire
5 chief sent us.

6 MR. HOOVER: Wouldn't they need an
7 occupancy permit after being closed for so
8 long?

9 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: It hasn't been
10 closed.

11 MR. HOOVER: Well, there's nothing
12 going on there forever. Now all of a sudden
13 there's eight cars there.

14 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah. He pushed
15 them together, pushed them all the way way up
16 to the --

17 MR. HOOVER: Yeah.

18 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

19 MR. RINALDI: On the other side.

20 MR. HOOVER: So, don't you need an
21 occupancy permit?

22 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: I don't know when
23 it was opened.

24 MR. RINALDI: No. I think what he's
25 saying is it was never closed. They just moved

1 them up there now.

2 MR. SOKOLOWSKI: They just moved
3 them.

4 CHIEF DUBERNAS: They pushed them
5 all the way up.

6 MR. RINALDI: They pushed them all
7 the way up. They used to have them on the
8 side.

9 MR. HOOVER: So, I'm thinking about
10 a PennDOT problem again, ingress and egress on
11 a highway.

12 MR. BUTLER: Yeah. That's true.

13 MR. RINALDI: Right. That's
14 because --

15 MR. HOOVER: They have to do that.

16 MR. RINALDI: Right. They have
17 to -- oh, are you talking about permit or have
18 to move them?

19 MR. HOOVER: Is there an entranceway
20 highway occupancy permit to go in and out,
21 ingress and egress? I don't know that there is
22 one.

23 MR. BUTLER: I don't think there's
24 any way in or out.

25 MR. HOOVER: The only way that you

1 can get in there --

2 MR. RINALDI: Is through the old
3 Dave's.

4 MR. HOOVER: -- is over by the crick
5 by Casper Street, come up that way, or you have
6 to go in through Dave's.

7 MR. RINALDI: Right.

8 MR. HOOVER: But then you can't do
9 that. So that's another issue.

10 MR. RINALDI: Mike, tell Tommy
11 Chickey tomorrow. First notify him that those
12 cars have to be moved. Correct, Chief?

13 CHIEF DUBERNAS: Yeah. You can't
14 even see. Like I said, they're right up the
15 telephone pole, so --

16 MR. RINALDI: First notify him that
17 they have to be moved, and then if you could,
18 notify the State, see if there's a highway
19 occupancy permit there. Anything else,
20 Councilman Butler?

21 MR. BUTLER: That's it.

22 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

23 MR. HOOVER: I have nothing.

24 MR. RINALDI: I don't have any
25 items. The only item I have is James Pisa, one

1 of our DPW workers, he asked me just to address
2 Council with this.

3 He's gonna be -- (Reading) I, James
4 Pisa, am writing to seek an extension obtaining
5 my CDL license. I'm in the process of studying
6 and looking into taking classes. Once an
7 update becomes available on my timeline, I will
8 provide the information to the Council. Thank
9 you.

10 Bill, would this have to go on the
11 agenda --

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Yep.

13 MR. RINALDI: -- for the next
14 meeting --

15 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah.

16 MR. RINALDI: -- for approval or
17 not?

18 ATTY. RINALDI: Well, I'll talk to
19 Marylynn see what the issue is.

20 MR. RINALDI: Okay. I'll let you --
21 you could keep that copy of that letter. I
22 don't have any items either.

23 Anyone else from the public before
24 we adjourn?

25 (No response.)

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MR. RINALDI: At the time the Chair would make a motion to adjourn the work session.

MR. HOOVER: I'll make that motion.

MR. RINALDI: Motion on the floor by Councilman Hoover. All in favor?

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. RINALDI: Good night everyone. Thank you for coming.

(Meeting adjourned.)

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