

1 OLD FORGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

2  
3 IN RE: SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

4  
5 HELD:

6 Tuesday, July 15, 2025

7 TIME:

8 6:00 P.M.

9 LOCATION:

10 OLD FORGE MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
11 310 South Main Street  
12 Old Forge, Pennsylvania

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

14  
15 RUSSELL RINALDI, President

16 JIM HOOVER, Vice President

17 ANDREW BUTLER

18 MICHAEL KOMENSKY

19 ALLISON McCAWLEY

20 MIKE LETTIERI

21 MARYLYNN BARTOLETTI, Borough Manager

22 WILLIAM RINALDI, Esquire, Solicitor

23  
24  
25 MICHELLE SMOLSKIS  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 MR. RINALDI: Good evening, ladies  
2 and gentlemen. First of all, let us apologize  
3 for being a little bit late. We had one member  
4 stuck in traffic. Our solicitor was stuck in  
5 traffic. We had to discuss a little bit  
6 before, so we apologize for that.

7 We're going to get right into the  
8 interviews, but before we begin the public  
9 interview meeting, we're all going to stand for  
10 the Pledge of Allegiance and then we'll begin.

11  
12 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

13  
14 MR. RINALDI: Roll call, Marylynn,  
15 for the public interviews.

16 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilwoman  
17 McCawley.

18 MS. McCAWLEY: Here.

19 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman  
20 Komensky.

21 MR. KOMENSKY: Here.

22 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman  
23 Lettieri.

24 MR. LETTIERI: Present.

25 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Butler.

1 MR. BUTLER: Here.

2 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Hoover.

3 MR. HOOVER: Present.

4 MS. BARTOLETTI: Councilman Rinaldi.

5 MR. RINALDI: Here. Once again,  
6 ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the public  
7 interviews for the vacant Council seat of the  
8 Old Forge Borough. Old Forge Borough had a  
9 vacant Council seat from our prior  
10 councilwoman, Jenna Jones-Shotwell. She  
11 resigned and we advertised legally to do public  
12 interviews and hold a public meeting tonight.  
13 We're required within 30 days of her  
14 resignation.

15 So, at the end of this meeting,  
16 hopefully we would have a new member appointed  
17 to the seat.

18 With that said, applications were  
19 accepted until 4 p.m. today to the Borough  
20 manager, that was the deadline. We received  
21 two, correct?

22 MS. BARTOLETTI: Correct.

23 MR. RINALDI: The two applicants we  
24 received is Mr. Tom Borthwick and Dale -- I'm  
25 going to ask you to pronounce your last name.

1 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Mikolaczyk.

2 MR. RINALDI: Mikolaczyk. And  
3 Mr. Dale Mikolaczyk. We had those two who  
4 applied. So we'll do interviews, we'll go  
5 through a series of questions, Council will go  
6 around the table, all the members will ask some  
7 questions, our borough manager will ask.

8 At the end, we'll give each  
9 candidate a few moments if you would like to  
10 ask anything of us or if you have any questions  
11 or, you know, anything you'd have on your mind  
12 that you need, and then we're going to break  
13 into the interviews, we'll end them, and then  
14 our public meeting will start at 7 p.m. and  
15 we'll take our housekeeping business, and then  
16 we'll go into new business, and the first item  
17 under new business will be to appoint a Council  
18 member to fill the vacancy.

19 So, with that said, first we'll  
20 begin our first interview and we'll call up  
21 Mr. Mikolaczyk.

22 COURT REPORTER: Spell your name,  
23 please.

24 MR. MIKOLACZYK:  
25 M-I-K-O-L-A-C-Z-Y-K. Dale.

1 MR. RINALDI: Dale, first of all,  
2 thank you for applying. We appreciate you  
3 taking the time.

4 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Yes, sir. Thanks  
5 for having me.

6 MR. RINALDI: You're very welcome.  
7 The first two questions are required by Borough  
8 code 1006. Are you a registered elector of the  
9 Borough for the past year?

10 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Yes, sir.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: And have you resided  
12 in the Borough at an Old Forge Borough address  
13 for the past year --

14 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Yes, sir.  
15 Twenty-two years.

16 ATTY. RINALDI: -- prior to tonight?  
17 Okay. Those are the first two by borough code  
18 we need to ask.

19 Dale, my first question to you will  
20 be the availability for the Council seat.  
21 Right now this seat only runs until the first  
22 Monday of January, 2026. There's going to be a  
23 special election this June for this seat and --

24 ATTY. RINALDI: No, no.

25 (Inaudible crosstalk.)

1 MR. MIKOLACZYK: The coming June?

2 MR. RINALDI: No, no, no, no. I  
3 apologize. This November there's going to be a  
4 special election, and then this seat will run  
5 into the first Monday of 2027. Correct, Bill?

6 ATTY. RINALDI: Yeah.

7 MR. RINALDI: 2028.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: There's two years  
9 left on --

10 MR. RINALDI: There's two years  
11 left, yes.

12 MR. MIKOLACZYK: It's two years.

13 MR. RINALDI: So the availability,  
14 right now Council meets the first and third  
15 Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. We usually come  
16 in a little bit earlier, discuss some things  
17 between the members, our manager, our  
18 solicitor, and then sometimes we have executive  
19 sessions, there's committees that we are all  
20 put on.

21 So your availability throughout the  
22 month, throughout the weeks, throughout the  
23 year, are you able to dedicate your time,  
24 energy and effort to those?

25 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Totally flexible.

1 I work for PennDOT, I'm in charge of the senior  
2 civil engineer from Philadelphia in Allentown,  
3 I leave at 5:00 in the morning, home usually by  
4 1:30, because with the State, my four hours of  
5 travel every day is deducted from my seven-hour  
6 day.

7 So I'm home very, very early, and  
8 all the work I do for NASA on 2050 Mars landing  
9 project and 2032 Davinci Venus Probe is done  
10 usually while I'm either home on the weekend or  
11 actually at some PennDOT places where I'm at.  
12 So, no problem with availability 24/7.

13 MR. RINALDI: Sounds good.

14 Councilman Lettieri?

15 MR. LETTIERI: Dale, what is your  
16 greatest strength and how will it help you in  
17 being an effective councilman?

18 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Well, I think  
19 people management. I manage people usually all  
20 my life, as you all know, and I'll spare you  
21 the details because you can probably tell my  
22 dossier better than I can, but for 28 years I  
23 ran the networks in New York City, satellite  
24 engineering.

25 I have a degree in rocket dynamics

1           propulsion systems engineering as well as  
2           aerospace engineering, so what it means is  
3           basically control the communication satellites  
4           in orbit.

5                       Eight years at CBS, eight years at  
6           NBC, four years at MSNBC in Secaucus, New  
7           Jersey, four years at CNBC in Englewood, New  
8           Jersey, and I left PennDOT for the second time  
9           six years ago to run Fox News for three years  
10          in charge of their orbital fleet.

11                      So, that basically, managing people,  
12          managing a department which is an extremely,  
13          extremely high tech department of flying space  
14          craft 23,297.5 miles in orbit is a pretty  
15          detail-oriented deal.

16                      Because for the past ten years I've  
17          been with the State and very lucky to get in at  
18          my age, I had three years with the DER, three  
19          years with the regional traffic monitoring  
20          center in Harrisburg, and then the last four  
21          with PennDOT, again, in Philadelphia and  
22          Allentown.

23                      So, a lot of the problems, a lot of  
24          the upcoming -- not problems -- a lot of the  
25          upcoming projects, actually, in this town have

1 to do, as we mentioned the last time I was  
2 here, with the street scape, with the Connell's  
3 Patch flooding, with the Old Forge bore hole,  
4 which I'm pretty sure that I'm going to be  
5 appointed to the Old Forge bore hole as soon as  
6 they get the land totally acclimated from the  
7 old keyhole burge breaker site to do the  
8 holding lagoons for the line, and the basic  
9 engineering for -- you're going to have to put  
10 a totally segregated sewer system in this town  
11 very soon, storm water and sanitary.

12 So, a lot of my engineering actually  
13 helps with a lot of the projects that you would  
14 probably have to get a second or third party to  
15 actually, you know, get these projects either  
16 signed off or underway and supervised.

17 So, not only the people part but  
18 actually knowing the town and being born and  
19 raised in the town over Cora's Gift Shop on Oak  
20 Street, lived here in this town three different  
21 times, but I think the people management, the  
22 people skills, and, again, the people that I  
23 deal with in all different facets of life, I  
24 think that I could probably help this town a  
25 lot better than somebody off the street who

1 doesn't have a highly technical background.  
2 That's my strengths.

3 MR. LETTIERI: Thank you so much,  
4 Dale. I appreciate it.

5 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

6 MR. KOMENSKY: Thanks for coming in,  
7 Dale.

8 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Sure. Thanks,  
9 Mike.

10 MR. KOMENSKY: What professional or  
11 personal skills and abilities do you possess  
12 that would be a real strength for us to  
13 consider appointing you to this position?

14 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Total engineering.  
15 Although my background is 50 years in aerospace  
16 engineering, as I said, the last ten, which is  
17 very closely related, is civil engineering.

18 I do highways, bridges and dams, and  
19 when I was with DEP out of Harrisburg, I guess  
20 my goal in life is just always to commute four  
21 hours a day like I do now, but I was in charge  
22 of the clean water division, which would not  
23 only help your sanitary and your storm water  
24 output in this town, but, again, going back to  
25 the Old Forge bore hole, the flooding, a lot of

1 the actual processes which are going to be put  
2 into place for the Old Forge bore hole.

3 And I know we've been talking  
4 about -- this is 1961 when my father put me on  
5 his shoulders when they were drilling the bore  
6 hole, but it's going to happen, and a lot of  
7 the actual fixes for the Old Forge bore hole is  
8 going to benefit the town because it's going to  
9 raise a lot of the levies on that side of the  
10 low spot of Connell's Patch.

11 So, we're gonna kill two birds with  
12 one stone on that deal when this comes to  
13 fruition.

14 What I understand, the land is  
15 already acclimated for that. You know, we're  
16 talking football field size of holding lagoons  
17 with calcified lime, different types of  
18 treatment.

19 I think that the biggest problems,  
20 or the processes in this town, is street scape.  
21 We need electrical engineering to run this from  
22 the old Ghigiarelli's up to the corner,  
23 familiar with the processes here, and just  
24 basically the overall civil engineering  
25 required with this town.

1 I think I could save a lot of money,  
2 again, from a second or third party contractor,  
3 because contractors and consultants, as you  
4 well know, charge a lot. Mike.

5 MR. KOMENSKY: Thank you very much.  
6 I appreciate it.

7 MR. MIKOLACZYK: You're welcome,  
8 sir.

9 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Butler?

10 MR. BUTLER: I was going to ask your  
11 qualifications, but you pretty much answered  
12 that. What do you consider problems in town  
13 that you would like to fix?

14 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Well, I think some  
15 new problems have arisen, I think, and, you  
16 know, people tell me things before I was  
17 contacted for this position. I was here last  
18 time. And I think there's a lot of ancillary  
19 cosmetic pluses for the town.

20 The street scape is a big deal. I  
21 worked with Mike Lombardo in Pittston with the  
22 1920 teardrop cast iron street lights and the  
23 whole deal. He used to be a guest on my  
24 television show for ten years for ECTV in the  
25 area.

1 I think the only real problems with  
2 this town -- again, they're not problems.  
3 Again, I said last time, this is the most well  
4 organized, well run town for its size that I've  
5 ever seen, and I've worked out of town my whole  
6 life. I still work out of town.

7 This town has everything you  
8 possibly need, and almost every single national  
9 franchise from Dunkin Donuts to Burger King to  
10 McDonald's to you name it. This town has  
11 everything.

12 This is a self-supporting,  
13 self-sufficient town where if you can get a job  
14 in town, you wouldn't even need a car.

15 So, to say that there's problems, I  
16 don't think there's any problems, but I think  
17 there's a lot of money available to do some  
18 things that perhaps a lot of folks maybe don't  
19 think are problems.

20 A big problem, as I said, people  
21 come to me and say, You know, if you ever get  
22 this appointment, this position, you have to  
23 look at all -- and this did not come up the  
24 last time, but a lot of the blighted properties  
25 in this town.

1                   You have the Walter Stocki deal on  
2                   Keyser Avenue, you have the Schuback's junk  
3                   yard deal, and I would run up the hill most of  
4                   my life on Lawrenceville Hill, and you don't  
5                   see the forest through the trees sometimes.

6                   So, they're not problems, but I  
7                   think they could be addressed very easily. I  
8                   don't know what the pushback is on a lot of  
9                   these projects, because you know what, we're  
10                  not putting somebody on Mars. That's my job.  
11                  I'm going to put four people on Mars by 2050.

12                  This is an easy deal if you have the  
13                  support and the interest from folks like who  
14                  are in control of this town. These are not big  
15                  deals. These are small deals, but in the  
16                  perception of the people in this borough, they  
17                  are big deals. That's my answer, Andy.

18                  MR. BUTLER: All right. Thank you.

19                  MR. RINALDI: Councilwoman McCawley?

20                  MS. McCAWLEY: Hi. How do you think  
21                  you can make a positive impact in Old Forge?

22                  MR. MIKOLACZYK: I can make a ton of  
23                  impact. For 53 years I am the go-to name from  
24                  being Rusty Fender to Shadow Steel, and right  
25                  now since 2008, my partner and I, who's the

1 chairman of film at Wilkes University, and I  
2 have put together countless documentaries.  
3 We're hired by Channel 16. All of our  
4 documentaries are online.

5 The promotion and the publicity in  
6 this town that I have done and I could do, and  
7 everybody, especially Russell Rinaldi, would  
8 know that the Glynn Lunney naming project was  
9 only -- I've been trying this for 54 years. It  
10 took Scranton 54 minutes to name the Central  
11 Scranton Expressway the Biden Expressway. It  
12 took me 54 years to get this named after a  
13 flight director of 60 years who put man on the  
14 moon back on July 20, 1969.

15 And you know, Russell, that with the  
16 help of all you folks here, finally we made  
17 that happen.

18 Right now I'm working on more great  
19 press, which only a few people know. I'm  
20 trying to get a Keystone historic marker, and  
21 that is not an easy feat, even with -- luckily,  
22 I was working for NASA and still do, we needed  
23 NASA for the permission to use the NASA logo,  
24 and we needed PennDOT, who I had contacts with  
25 in Harrisburg, to get the portion of this

1 street where Glynn Lunney lived renamed Glynn  
2 Lunney Way.

3 You cannot name a street that is a  
4 state highway, and this is a state route, you  
5 cannot name that after anyone. However, you  
6 can affix and attach the name of somebody who  
7 is, I'm quoting here, historical and/or  
8 cultural significance to the community, the  
9 state and the country, and Glynn fit by then.

10 Now I'm working on a marker, which  
11 they're very, very, very interested in, for the  
12 famous bowler Frank Clause. Frank was born on  
13 Drakes Lane. He not only ran AMF, which is the  
14 name on every single automatic bowling alley  
15 that you see in the country, he was the  
16 president of the company, but he was also one  
17 of the top bowlers in the world.

18 With the right publicity and  
19 promotion, we can make this town, with my  
20 connections with all the television stations,  
21 you know we had television stations out here  
22 for the Glynn Lunney thing from Philadelphia,  
23 that's pretty unbelievable.

24 You couldn't get Channel 16 to come  
25 for a fire in town. People didn't even know

1           who Glynn Lunney was. However, with the Frank  
2           Clause thing, I think that the promotion and  
3           the publicity involved will make this town a  
4           lot more than just the pizza capital of the  
5           world. And you have to know, it's not that you  
6           can get it done yourself, but you have to know  
7           where to go, and that is a big plus.

8                   MS. McCAWLEY: Thank you.

9                   MR. MIKOLACZYK: Thanks, Allison.

10                  MR. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

11                  MR. HOOVER: Well, everybody's  
12           talking about your strengths, what about your  
13           weaknesses? Do you have any weaknesses?

14                  MR. MIKOLACZYK: Well, I think --  
15           you know what, my strength is my weakness. My  
16           weakness is I'm a workaholic and I'm detail  
17           oriented, I'm OCDA, and I could not do the  
18           seven day a week job that I do at 69 years of  
19           age if I was not detail oriented in everything.  
20           Everything has to be exactly the way it is.

21                  And I've said this all the time, I  
22           was a professor at Wilkes University for eight  
23           years, at the same time a professor in  
24           aerospace engineering for Marywood, so I worked  
25           from four in the morning until nine doing

1 traffic as Rusty Fender, four a.m. until nine,  
2 and I was off from nine until four, went back  
3 at four and worked traffic until 6:30 at night  
4 for 28 years for the radio station.

5 In between that time, I taught  
6 either three or four courses at both Wilkes and  
7 Marywood at the same time depending on my  
8 schedule.

9 I used to tell my students at that  
10 time is that the biggest strength you can have  
11 is also a weakness. You can look at it two  
12 different ways, my workaholism and getting  
13 things done right. I always used to tell my  
14 students that it takes ten minutes to do  
15 something done wrong and eleven minutes to do  
16 it right, and the worst thing you could do is  
17 to do it wrong.

18 When I did traffic for all those  
19 years, helicopter and on the ground, we would  
20 get some information in from listeners on the  
21 road that said there's this massive accident on  
22 Interstate 81 northbound, it's terrible,  
23 tractor trailers overturned northbound. Okay.  
24 You sure it's northbound? Yes, it's  
25 northbound.

1                   So we'd go on the air and say it's  
2 northbound and be followed by 100 phone calls  
3 that said, You moron, it's southbound, not  
4 northbound.

5                   Because inherently people will  
6 always give the information of the way they're  
7 traveling instead of the other side of the  
8 highway where it was.

9                   So, with that in mind, reverting  
10 back to your question, Jim, the thing is to go  
11 back and take an extra second to do it right,  
12 it's only a few seconds, and if you have a few  
13 seconds in radio and TV where money is hundreds  
14 of dollars, to do the things right one time  
15 does not let you lose face in the eyes of your  
16 peers and also the town's people, Jim.

17                  MR. HOOVER: Thank you. That's it.

18                  MR. RINALDI: Dale, I have two more  
19 questions. They're short. My first one is the  
20 Borough, throughout the years, the last two at  
21 least, but, I mean, throughout the years in  
22 general, we're always prioritizing projects and  
23 areas in town that we're looking to do, and I  
24 know you already touched a little bit on it,  
25 but the Borough right now is working on

1 flooding issues, street scape issues, we're  
2 working on sewer issues, and we're working on  
3 community center, discussing which ones we're  
4 looking to do first, second, third, prioritize.  
5 Out of those four, what would you, if you were  
6 sitting here, what would your first one be?

7 MR. MIKOLACZYK: As I said the last  
8 time verbatim, word for word, the flooding  
9 situation. So, the flooding situation is  
10 paramount because the same people get affected  
11 by the same problem. This is like groundhog  
12 day. This is a circle. And the people are  
13 affected the same time.

14 Now, it's apples and oranges. The  
15 street scape, that's a cosmetic thing, and it's  
16 a great cosmetic thing, and most of it's  
17 granting. It's a wonderful cosmetic thing.

18 The other issue is a safety issue.  
19 So, I would prioritize the flooding, and then I  
20 would go with the divided storm and storm water  
21 and sanitary sewer system. It's gonna have to  
22 be done. It's gonna have to be done.

23 So far this borough, and, again, I  
24 was in charge of clean water in Harrisburg,  
25 clean water is the division that handles water

1 and waste water, everything from lime treatment  
2 right down to reverse osmosis and ultraviolet  
3 sterilization. So I handled that whole deal  
4 for District 8, Harrisburg.

5 The thing is here is that when this  
6 goes into effect, we already skated, and I  
7 don't know how this was done, I'm the least  
8 political person you're gonna have up here, but  
9 we skated around being on the banks of the  
10 Lackawanna River and didn't adhere -- what I  
11 had to do when I lived in Duryea is pay this  
12 \$156.56 that I had to pay on Foote Avenue about  
13 this rain tax.

14 Now, I understand it's a very  
15 necessary thing, they sweep the streets, they  
16 vacuum the storm drains. Granted, this town  
17 doesn't, and yet it borders on all sides the  
18 Moosic Road right down to Connell's Patch on  
19 the discharge point of the outfall into the  
20 Lackawanna River, so I think the storm sewer  
21 system and the storm water system is gonna be  
22 very integral.

23 And I'm pretty sure the federal  
24 government is gonna pay a lot toward that.  
25 That has to be done. You cannot discharge

1 storm water and sanitary water these days  
2 anywhere.

3 So, I think that is number two. I  
4 think that the community -- and people keep  
5 saying about the community center, I guess I'm  
6 old enough to be involved in the elderly  
7 community center. I look at that, again, below  
8 the street scape.

9 So, I'm talking about safety issues  
10 first, and I'm talking about beautification and  
11 cosmetic areas down near the end.

12 I want to get people, you know, it's  
13 not that I have a cape on that says Superman on  
14 it, but I want to try and help people when you  
15 have the answers that keep going through the  
16 same type of problems again and again.

17 I've never been flooded. We're on  
18 high ground. We didn't get a drop of water in  
19 the basement during the '72 Agnes flood when I  
20 lived on Foote Avenue. However, I can imagine  
21 what these people go through every time there's  
22 high water, and there's high water right now  
23 from the rain in Connell's Patch. That's a big  
24 problem.

25 And, again, I think that problem

1           should be addressed first because the last  
2           time, not only the safety standpoint, but also  
3           for future planning for that area. Russ.

4                   MR. RINALDI: Okay. Dale, my last  
5           question will be whether appointed tonight or  
6           not, the seat is available for election in  
7           November, would you consider putting your name,  
8           whether you were appointed or not tonight?

9                   MR. MIKOLACZYK: Yes, sir, I would.

10                   ATTY. RINALDI: Okay. I have no  
11           other questions. I'll go down the table and  
12           see if any of the other members do. Councilman  
13           Komensky?

14                   MR. KOMENSKY: I'm good. Thank you  
15           very much for your time.

16                   MR. MIKOLACZYK: Thank you.

17                   ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Lettieri?

18                   MR. LETTIERI: No. Dale, I  
19           appreciate your time. Thank you.

20                   MR. MIKOLACZYK: Thank you all.

21                   MR. RINALDI: Borough manager, any  
22           questions, Marylynn?

23                   MS. BARTOLETTI: No.

24                   ATTY. RINALDI: Okay. Councilman  
25           Butler?

1 MR. BUTLER: I have nothing. Thank  
2 you.

3 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilwoman  
4 McCawley?

5 MS. McCAWLEY: I don't have  
6 anything. Thank you.

7 ATTY. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

8 MR. HOOVER: I'm good.

9 ATTY. RINALDI: Dale, before we call  
10 Mr. Borthwick, do you have anything for us, any  
11 questions of us or anything you have to ask?

12 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Nothing else. I  
13 want to thank the Council once again, and thank  
14 you, as well, Russ.

15 MR. RINALDI: You're welcome. Thank  
16 you, Dale. We appreciate you coming and  
17 applying.

18 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Yes, sir.

19 MR. RINALDI: Thank you.

20 Mr. Borthwick. Hi, Tom. Good evening.

21 MR. BORTHWICK: Good evening.

22 ATTY. RINALDI: Do you want to just  
23 give your name for her?

24 MR. BORTHWICK: Tom Borthwick,  
25 B-O-R-T-H-W-I-C-K.

1 MR. RINALDI: Tom, as you heard me,  
2 but I'll just repeat it real quick just so you  
3 know, we'll go through a series of questions,  
4 we'll go down the table, I'll ask you a few,  
5 the Council members will ask you a few, borough  
6 manager if she has any.

7 We'll give you a few moments at the  
8 end before we stop the public interviews if you  
9 have anything for us.

10 So, my question will be -- and I'm  
11 going to ask you the same questions I asked  
12 Dale, as well, and in the same order. So, my  
13 first question is according to the Borough code  
14 1006, have you been a registered elector in the  
15 borough for one year?

16 MR. BORTHWICK: Sure.

17 ATTY. RINALDI: And have you been a  
18 resident of the borough for one year prior to  
19 tonight?

20 MR. BORTHWICK: Sure.

21 ATTY. RINALDI: Okay. That's just  
22 two of the questions that I ask. My next  
23 question would be, as I stated when I asked  
24 Dale, availability. As you heard me say,  
25 Council meets twice a month, we're on

1 committees, we have those throughout the  
2 months, sometimes we meet on a weekly basis,  
3 daily basis, your availability to put towards  
4 your time and efforts towards the Council?

5 MR. BORTHWICK: No problem. I run  
6 my own business, I can make my own hours, so  
7 I'll be available every day.

8 ATTY. RINALDI: So, your  
9 availability has no --

10 MR. BORTHWICK: Yeah, yeah. No  
11 problem.

12 ATTY. RINALDI: Okay. I'll go down  
13 the table and I'll start first with Councilman  
14 Lettieri.

15 MR. LETTIERI: Tom, thanks for being  
16 here. Second, I'm going to ask you the same  
17 question I asked Dale. So, what is your  
18 greatest strength and how will it help you in  
19 being an effective councilman?

20 MR. BORTHWICK: Probably people  
21 skills. I deal with all kinds of personalities  
22 in music at the studio. I also used to be  
23 chief steward for the union Standard Steel when  
24 I worked up there, so I have that kind of  
25 background as far as managing people and

1 getting along with all different kinds,  
2 diversified groups of people.

3 It's just the nature of the  
4 business, music, you know, everybody's  
5 different, their music styles are different and  
6 their ages are different.

7 We had Dominick DeNaples was in, 85,  
8 playing the mandolin, and then we have some  
9 kids that are coming in doing stuff for school.  
10 So, I deal with all those people and get along  
11 with them and make it work.

12 MR. LETTIERI: Thanks, Tom.

13 MR. BORTHWICK: Sure.

14 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky.

15 MR. KOMENSKY: Thank you for coming  
16 in, Tom.

17 MR. BORTHWICK: Thanks for having  
18 me.

19 MR. KOMENSKY: We appreciate you  
20 applying. So, my question would be what skills  
21 and abilities, professionally or personally, do  
22 you possess that we should consider you for  
23 this position on Council.

24 MR. BORTHWICK: Well, I have a  
25 bachelor of science and music education, but

1           that's also a teaching certificate. So, I'm  
2           good at teaching things to people and also  
3           organizing the classroom, things that, like,  
4           I've done it for LCCC for many years. I was an  
5           adjunct down there.

6                         So, again, it's part of the whole  
7           people set. The background in music education  
8           helps me to understand how to communicate  
9           better with all different kinds of people.  
10          Again, more communication stuff.

11                        MR. KOMENSKY: Okay. Thank you very  
12          much.

13                        MR. RINALDI: Councilman Butler.

14                        MR. BUTLER: Same question I asked  
15          Dale, what do you consider a problem in this  
16          town that you would like to take care of?

17                        MR. BORTHWICK: Well, I don't see  
18          huge problems in this town. I like this town.  
19          I mean, my grandparents were on Moosic Road, my  
20          family grew up there and I've been here  
21          forever, went to Old Forge High School a little  
22          bit.

23                        I think the biggest thing that I see  
24          when I look around town is I'd like to see it  
25          more attractive to outsiders to come in. Now,

1 most people that live in Old Forge deal with  
2 Old Forge people, people at Old Forge  
3 businesses and all that stuff, and that's  
4 great, but we need to bring outside people in.

5 My kids have a cafe up by Keystone  
6 College and they did a little spot on the  
7 Facebook about it, and people from all over  
8 came.

9 So, a little bit of PR for the town  
10 would probably be a good thing because it has a  
11 lot to offer.

12 MR. BUTLER: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. BORTHWICK: Sure.

14 MR. BUTLER: I'm good.

15 MR. RINALDI: Councilwoman McCawley.

16 MS. McCAWLEY: How do you think you  
17 can make a positive impact in Old Forge?

18 MR. BORTHWICK: Just by being able  
19 to assess the situation on Council and try to  
20 interject my opinion from my background of  
21 building businesses and helping my kids run  
22 their businesses, helping them rehab their  
23 businesses in Scranton, things like that.

24 That kind of background would help  
25 with any kind of project that's going on here.

1 I mean, I used to be an industrial electrician  
2 at Chamberlin, I have that kind of background,  
3 besides, you know, the music background and the  
4 recording studio.

5 MS. McCAWLEY: Thank you.

6 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover.

7 MR. HOOVER: Tom, what are some of  
8 your liabilities and weaknesses?

9 MR. BORTHWICK: Okay. So, again,  
10 being able to organize projects and get them  
11 done is what I'm for. I'm all about completing  
12 things and getting them -- if somebody else is  
13 supposed to do it and they don't, I do it. So  
14 I make sure things get done.

15 Weakness, I'm a sucker for somebody  
16 in need. You know, I help people all the time,  
17 and not for monetary gain, just to help people.  
18 It's probably not a weakness but -- it's a good  
19 quality to have, I guess.

20 MR. HOOVER: How do you deal with a  
21 disgruntled resident over, say, something in  
22 their yard, flooding?

23 MR. BORTHWICK: Well, if it's  
24 something that we're working on, I would help  
25 them to understand it's gonna get better.

1                   If it isn't being worked on, we  
2                   gotta find out why we're not working on it and  
3                   what we can do to correct the situation if it's  
4                   in our power. Sometimes things aren't in our  
5                   power to fix. But if they are in our power to  
6                   fix, then we have to help with solutions.

7                   MR. HOOVER: Okay. I'm good.

8                   MR. RINALDI: Tom, my last two  
9                   questions will be out of the four things right  
10                  now that the Council has before them and as we  
11                  had throughout the years, but the last few  
12                  years we're really working on, as you heard me  
13                  say, we're gonna try and begin the street  
14                  scape, our sewers and sanitation, our flooding,  
15                  and community center, out of those four, how  
16                  would you prioritize those and what would you  
17                  like to add to it?

18                  MR. BORTHWICK: I think probably  
19                  what Dale said is right, any of the safety  
20                  issues should come first. So, flooding is  
21                  definitely something that should be looked at.

22                  Now, some of those things I believe  
23                  can be corrected. Some of them may not be able  
24                  to be corrected. You know, you can't just put  
25                  up a wall that's ten feet tall and stop the

1 water from coming through, but safety's  
2 probably the right thing.

3 Second thing is I think I'd like to  
4 see the town look a little bit nicer. When you  
5 drive through Pittston now, it's beautiful.  
6 They have really done a great job down there.  
7 They're very encouraging to the businesses to  
8 get them to take old buildings and rehab them  
9 and make new kinds of businesses there, and  
10 then the streets look great.

11 I'd love to see something like that  
12 when I drive down Main Street in Old Forge.  
13 It's good, it's not dirty or anything, but we  
14 could spruce it up a little bit. But that  
15 wouldn't be the priority over safety.

16 MR. RINALDI: Okay. And then my  
17 last question is whether appointed this evening  
18 or not, the seat is up for general election  
19 this November, would you consider running for  
20 that seat?

21 MR. BORTHWICK: Yeah. I'm planning  
22 on it, yep.

23 MR. RINALDI: Okay. That's all I  
24 have. I'll go down the table, I'll see if any  
25 of the members have anything. Councilman

1 Lettieri?

2 MR. LETTIERI: No. I'm good. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Komensky?

5 MR. KOMENSKY: No. I'm good. Thank  
6 you. I appreciate it.

7 MR. RINALDI: Marylynn, borough  
8 manager?

9 MS. BARTOLETTI: No. I'm good.  
10 Thank you.

11 ATTY. RINALDI: Okay. Councilman  
12 Butler?

13 MR. BUTLER: I have nothing. Thank  
14 you, Tom.

15 MR. RINALDI: Councilwoman McCawley?

16 MS. McCAWLEY: I'm good. Thank you.

17 MR. RINALDI: Councilman Hoover?

18 MR. HOOVER: No. I'm good. Thanks,  
19 Tom.

20 MR. RINALDI: Tom, we're going to  
21 break now and we're going to go into a brief  
22 executive session. Do you have anything for  
23 us, any questions or anything?

24 MR. BORTHWICK: Just a little  
25 snippet, my grandfather used to work in the

1 mines, lived on Moosic Road, drank at Salerno's  
2 to get the dust out of his throat, so I love  
3 the town. A lot of history here.

4 MR. RINALDI: Okay. Thank you  
5 again. I appreciate you coming in.

6 Dale, Tom, we're going to break into  
7 a brief session, just discuss a little bit of  
8 the interview process with the members and the  
9 borough manager and the solicitor. We'll call  
10 you back in when we're ready.

11 Once again, thank you for applying.  
12 We appreciate you taking the time and the  
13 effort.

14 MR. MIKOLACZYK: Thanks, ladies and  
15 gentlemen.

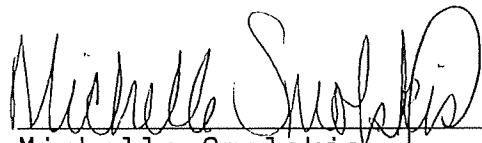
16 ATTY. RINALDI: You're very welcome.

17  
18 (Meeting adjourned.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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