The Regular Monthly meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday evening, April 12, 2022 by President of Council Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present	Mr. Kowalczyk – Present
Mr. Karkut – Present	Mr. Price – Present
Mr. Jones – Present	Mayor Lello – Excused

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL AND PLACE ON FILE.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE AS PRESENTED.
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT:
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM APRIL 12, 2022 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK: Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Robert Avvisato, Christopher Fargione, Thomas Rushak, Michael Sniscak.
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Albert B. Melone Co., Business Consultants

General Fund - $30,254.76
Payroll Fund - $6,954.38
ARPA FNCB Cash - $120,004.19
Admin Debit Card - $172.55
Police 2121 Debit Card - $ 239.81
Community Development Fund - $255.18

Refuse Fund - $ 127,786.94
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $317,641.35
Liquid Fuels - $215,581.34
Police PensioN Fund - $1,109,295.74
Town Clock - $ 87.19
Special Fund - $178,529.73

Tax Collector Report submitted by Susan Gregory, Tax Collector

Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $ 242,395.36
Less Face Collections for the Month – 81,756.07
Balance Collectable – End of Month - $160,639.29
Less Discounts: $1,635.18
Total Cash Collected - $80,120.89 deposited into general fund.

Police Report: Chief Doran read the statistical report for March 2022 as follows:
Traffic citations issued-125; non traffic citations issued-13; appearances in county court-2; appearances in magisterial court-12; motor vehicle accidents-9; assist to ems/fire-7; assist to other police dept. – 3; thefts-2; vandalism-1; disorderly conduct-4; domestic reports-2; suspicious activity-5; assault/harassment-6; miscellaneous calls-20; building checks-107; code enforcement-13. Mileage: explorer – 1,263.00; Taurus- 89,350; F150-35,818. Magistrate Fines Collected: $2,400.20.

Solicitor's Report – None.

Engineer's Report - Bob Naegele updated Council on the following: (1) We have been working with Patty on two grant applications, small community's recreation grant for playground equipment and a multi-modal grant which we are waiting on a decision as to whether council wants to put in for street paving or the culvert between Walnut and Everhart. It is our opinion that the culvert is a better fit for the grant application according to the grant guidelines. Patty explained the street paving for Everhart to Hemlock where gas lines were recently completed, the other is the culvert by Kuligowski property. Bob stated you have been pretty successful in grant applications. Stan Knick noted the culvert will be the last culvert to be done in town. We have monies for paving the street over there. Bob noted we have time, the grant is due June 30th. You technically have til the June meeting to decide but that is cutting it close. (2) Pioneer was working on the sidewalk by the bank. I am hoping when they are done there, they will flip over to the building or the walnut street stormwater project. Patty questioned the notice to proceed that was dated March 14th. Bob stated we can give them an extension if they show up and start working. If not here in the next two weeks, I would not recommend giving them an extension. (3) Working with easements on Almond Street and other projects for Growing Greener Grant. We have all the easements on the Everhart Street side. There is a question on Arturo's to move the pipe so their property is not affected but we technically have to go back to DEP with an amended permit application. Patty feels that is where she believes we need to go with that. Bob stated it is fine if council agrees to that. The other section where Lidy and Mill Creek come together, we don't have those easements yet. That is the final section that we would need. We can break up the projects and go out to bid on Everhart and Holden and Arturos side and hold that middle other section up. Or we can try to figure out how to get the easements done. They did come back with comments. Next step is to sit down with them and Erik and go over the easements. Erik suggested whoever made up those changes, their lawyer, we should meet with. Bob stated if it doesn't get done soon we are delaying the other projects for going out to bid. It is council's call on that.

Mr. Posly asked what about the steps here at the building. Bob and Stan responded the same company doing the sidewalk at the bank have this project and the drainage on Walnut. Lou asked how far they are with that project. Bob stated they formed the sidewalk and just have to pour the concrete and restore pavement. Lou asked how long? Bob stated he cannot speak for them but it should be a couple days. We do not have a definite schedule on which project they will move to next or will they do both at the same time. They have not answered that question yet. (4) We have the flood project H20 grant and remaining funds from the original grant. We got the bigger grant. Those plans are ready to go. We were hoping to stager our projects so we don't have too many going on at one point this summer, plus you have the bridge closure, not that it will affect the traffic that bad. Patty feels we are ready to bid. Bob stated he recommends it only because the other money runs out at the end of July about $18,000 so we have to get the project stated so we can spend that first $18,000. Patty stated by the time you advertise, the next meeting, award and get paperwork. Bob stated the demo work will probably use up the $18,000 pretty quickly. Patty stated we are ready for the motion on the floor this evening. That grant is $500,000. The other project on Everhart/Almond is $362,000. That is close to a million dollars in funded projects. (5) Collins Creek bank stabilization up from Ash Street culvert side. Patty stated there is also another section across the creek on Pine Street and then she will contact Mike Sames from DEP. Patty stated rear 300 Heidi Lane. Patty stated she will need cost estimates before she calls Mike Sames. Bob stated he will ask how is it being funded because he will need that in the paperwork for the emergency permit.

Lou stated Patty is almost ready with the computer projection system for next meeting. Patty noted she has not discussed it with Bob. Stan explained Bob would provide Patty with the paperwork and it will go up on the screen. Bob will bring his laser pointer.

Stan Knick asked the status of the street paving. Bob explained he is working with April Hannon from Penn DOT on these same grants for another municipality and it is a slow go. He provided information, and realistically he wants to see what she will require. He does not want to spend the borough money doing something, she has changed the other project 3 times. He wants to protect us from wasting money and his time doing it six times. It is frustrating. Stan stated we want to get moving and if you have a chance he would like to meet Bob on Gill Street to discuss the drains. He doesn't want to have problems after it is paved. Bob stated he should know after talking with April in the next few days because he does not want to waste time and money if it will be changed.

Crime Watch – Bob Price stated the March meeting was held and they discussed completing video link between pavilion and borough building. Once we get the bucket truck in operation it will make it easier. Also working with the Chief on getting teddy bears for the cruisers in case there are any dramatic scenes. The crime watch will fund that. Next meeting is April 26th at 7 pm and hope to see a crowd there. Stan noted the training on the bucket truck is set for the 22nd of April. Stan also noted Stephensen is also coming up for training on the new loader.

Code Enforcement – About twenty letters went out to residents that did not pay the refuse fee. Approximately fifteen came in to pay. However, in the meantime citations were already issued and those residents will have to go to court to present their case.

Council President's Report – Trash 69.12 tons; Cardboard 8.91 tons. Mileage: Packer, 65,527; Recycler, 34,244; Mack, 4,274; Green Chevy, 2554; New 3500, 253; New 6500, 395; Volvo 1944 hrs. , Roller 36 hrs. The recycler is back in service, the new engine was put in. Stan updated council on the

following: (1) April 5th letter from Luzerne County Elections agreement for Pittston Township to use the DPW garage for voting (2) New Packer – April 6th letter increasing $4000 from quote due to material surcharge bring price to $244,000. I called around and no one has a packer available. Peterbilt has one but the total is $297,000 and it is natural gas. Right now I feel $244,000 is the lower price and we have the grant money except for a few thousand dollars so I feel we need to move forward with this. Stan argued the increase but that is what it is now. Mack will not be available until November. If we order somewhere else we might not get it until April 2023. (3) Picture of the storm drain that collapsed on Coolidge. (4) Fortini proposal to fix the road depression on Simpson Street. There is a full report in the books for council to review.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS PRESENTED.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO OPEN, READ, AND AWARD THE BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT: Water Buffalo, Volvo Loader, and 2008 C3500 Chevy Dump with plow.
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

<u>Volvo Loader:</u>
Mike Veneziano, Bellefonte, Pa - $26,107.00
B & M Seasonal Services, Pittston Twp. - $38,101.00
LC Enterprise, LLC, Pittston Twp. - $26,678.00
Gary Kaszowski, Charlton, MA - $36,277.77

MOTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE VOLVO L35B LOADER TO B & M SEASONAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF $38,101.00.
Motion: Mr. Karkut
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

<u>C3500 Dump Truck with Plow</u>
Mike Veneziano, Bellefonte, Pa. - $ 5,107.00
Jeff Dunn , Pittston - $2,500.00
LC Enterprises LLC, Pittston Twp. - $6,138.00
Gary Kaszowski, Charlton, MA - $5,277.77

MOTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE 2008 C3500 DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW TO LC ENTERPRISES LLC, PITTSTON TOWNSHIP FOR $6,138.00
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

Water Buffalo
Gary Kaszowski, Charlton, MA - $ 1,577.77

MOTION TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE WATER BUFFALO TO GARY KASZOWSKI, CHARLTON, MA IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,577.77 UPON APPROVAL BY THE COMPOST COMMISSION MEMBERS AT THEIR APRIL 13TH MEETING.
Motion: Mr. Price
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE PROPSAL FROM FORTINI FOR ROAD REPAIR 420 SIMPSON STREET - $864.00
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE WALTER TYLUTKE FOR STORM DRAIN EMERGENCY REPAIR ON COOLIDGE STREET $3,200
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE SEWER BALANCE ACCOUNT ADJUSTMENTS FOR 237 CURTAIN, 201 LINCOLN AND R 201 LINCOLN.
1023700211 free and clear sale - -$7,276.44
3320104231 – uninhabitable commercial/residential duplex - $1,925.36
3320102011 - credit interest and penalties -$193.53
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO TABLE MOTION TO PROCEED WITH SITE CLEARANCE PROGRAM FOR 143 MAIN UNTIL SECOND QUOTE FOR REMEDIATION IS RECEIVED
Lou Posly questioned the motion and where the property is located. Stan stated across from Arturo's, the old Redicka property. Lou stated he has been asking for the past 40 years to get a house next door to him torn down. Patty stated the property owner did not consent to it. Stan added the building inspector was there and said the foundation is good and it is being used for storage.
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY ELECTIONS APPROVING PITTSTON TOWNSHIP ELECTION TO BE HELD AT THE DUPONT DPW GARAGE, COMMERCE ROAD (Approve Pittston Twp. To use the Building)
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Jones
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION APPROVING ENGINEER PREPARE BID SPECS AND BOROUGH ADVERTISE THE H20 GRANT PROJECT FOR MILL CREEK REPAIRS
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

MOTION TO APPROVE/ACCEPT THE $4,000 MATERIAL SURCHARGE INCREASE FOR THE PACKER PURCHASE
Motion: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Price
Roll call vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried: 5/0.

Matters from Residents:

Lou Posly – (1) Re: House being torn down for free or paid for by taxpayers because he agrees to it. If a house is condemned it has no legal standing if the owners don't want to tear it down. Stan explained the process and the income guidelines. Lou stated the house next door is condemned. Patty explained a letter from BHW who stated the house is used for storage, it is structurally sound. Lou disagrees. Patty will send the inspector up again. Lou agrees he wants the inspector to go back and requested a complete report on why he feels it is safe. Patty asked council if they agree to that. **MOTION TO REQUEST BHW DO A SITE VISIT AND REINSPECT AND PROVIDE A REPORT. SECOND BY MR. PRICE.** Mr. Jones asked the date of the last inspection. Patty noted it was when Pina was code enforcement. Mr. Price asked what the cost of the inspection was. Patty noted no cost and made the second. (2) Not every meeting but at meeting you call a recess to take care of legal problems. Why isn't it done before the meeting. Stan explained the Sunshine Law. When it deals with lawsuits or personnel it cannot be brought out in public it has to be done in executive session.

Pina Hansen – I know we don't have a code enforcement officer but now with spring time coming, 14 Bear Creek road is a disaster. There is a lot of trash piled up. Also 606 Main, those garbage bags that I complained about three years ago they are still buried and have bushes on top of them. Now there are new owners. Stan and Patty noted the new owners are remodeling and cleaning up the property. Patty will call the landlord to remind him. Pina said it is coming summer and it will be disgusting. There is a big area, you can see all the garbage bags. They are covered with leaves and bushes. There are piles of brush and wood in the back too. Stan stated if it is not cleaned up we will have to take him to court.

Alberta Warunek – Heidleberg bridge project – Noticed a lot of cars coming on Main Street going the wrong way. Why didn't they close the whole bridge down. Stan stated they should have, but we did not

have a say. It is a Penn DOT project. Our police have been there a few times. We can't ship a police officer over there to direct traffic.

Mark Kowalczyk noted he was going to bring it up under council comments. He knows officers spending time there, because his gate is right there. It is like private security. He asked the chief if he can estimate the number of hours our police are there. He knows it is a lot but that is our dollar. Chief stated they try to sit there during rush hours. Chief then talked about the incident with Mark and a school van. Chief added prior to the project starting he and Patty contacted the individuals and told them they need flaggers and issues with the signs. Mark explained the incident with the school van, he has the license plate, took pictures, he did not get name off the side. He took a distance picture of where the van was located and he almost hit him. Chief stated he talked to one of the workers and a woman he stopped prior to going through told him I don't care I am late for work. Mark stated one of his employees came back across the bridge to his property and one of our cops was sitting at the closed signs and somebody came across the bridge almost hit his employee. The cop put the lights on to pull them over, they pulled over to let the worker go through and two more cop cars were behind the cop. The worker asked them what they were doing and they said just following the cop. That is how bad it is. That is going to remain in that direction for 142 days, then the other side, the right side lane will be the one that is open. It will be worse when they switch sides. Lou said it is a Penn DOT project. Chief stated he voiced his concerns. There was an accident there already. Bob Naegele said go to a state representative and express concern and to put pressure on PennDOT to revisit their detour plan its not working. Chief stated they did put signs further down the bypass a lighted billboard stating bridge is closed. Joey Jones added there are Do Not Enter signs too. Bob Naegele stated a lot of the detour plans look good on paper. You are supposed to give it a week or two to see if there is a backlog of traffic. Part of that program they can retime the signals during the detour to allow traffic to flow. Bob referred to signals on Bear Creek to Chestnut. Mark stated he goes that way about five times a day and there is a little increase but not crazy. Bob stated some of the locals will figure a different way. Some not familiar with the other side of town use it. If it becomes a problem, It is in their permit to adjust the timing. Mark stated the worst part of the traffic going down the lane is they come to the traffic signal and the sensor for the signal is in the part that is closed. So they are sitting there blocking the bridge, waiting for the light to change and it is never going to change. Mark saw Kuharchik there today and they had to be doing something with the signal. Chief stated there is no reason they should leave it on green. Bob agreed it should be continuous through. Mark stated the arrow comes on to turn left over the bridge from Dupont side to stop the traffic coming from Avoca. Bob stated being there was an accident and police presence there and cite public safety and put pressure back on Penn DOT.

Pina asked if Avoca is helping with traffic because she has not seen an Avoca car since this happened. Chief stated Avoca was actually complaining because we are pulling cars over.

Danielle Perrins, Hemlock Street – Thanked Bob, the kids at the basketball courts tampered with the electrical box and shut the lights off to the basketball courts. She made two police reports and reported it to Patty that they broke the lock off it. Bob closed it. Is there protocol in place to fix those things because I called Patty Thursday and on Sunday it was tampered with again. PP&L was out there and they won't touch it because it is the Boroughs. Stan stated we will have to get a couple prices and see if we can replace that with a better box. Patty stated she has Dave and Walter looking at it. Bob noted the P& responsibility ends at the meter. From the meter down is the Borough. He went over Sunday after hearing the dispatch for the police and PP&L taped the cover on. Bob tacked it so it is safe for time being.

One other question Danielle asked was about the money received for the equipment are there plans for that currently. Stan stated it goes back into the accounts.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Joseph Jones – Thanked Stan and Joe Karkut for helping out with garbage because we are short handed. Mark for bringing your guys out to the yard here today. It looks good out there.

Mark Kowalczyk – Thank you to anyone with the Lions Club and volunteers who came out for park cleanup. It was light rain, cold, damp but it came out really good. All the leaves were picked up out of the playground and the little league. We were soaked at the end but it all came together. There was the bridge issue and one other thing but he can't remember so go with the rest of council and maybe he will remember.

Mr. Price – Echo Mark and thank for bringing your equipment. Thank you Joe and all the volunteers and Lions Club cleaning the park. It was not the best day to do it, but with the Easter Egg Hunt coming up so we came out despite the weather and got it done. It looks good over there. The Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday at 1 pm. We filled 500 candy bags last night. Fun filled day for the kids over there.

Mr. Karkut – Happy Easter everyone and the Mayor is not here so he will say what he says that if anyone has a free hour or two for the food giveaway you will not be turned away.

Mr. Knick – Happy Easter everyone, I have my Easter shirt on. Thank all of council for everything they do. Thank you Mark for shipping workers here to get this cleaned up for the holiday and Memorial Day coming after that.

Mr. Kowalczyk - Thanks to the Lions Club. The Easter Egg Hunt is one of the best events in this town for the kids for the entire year. It is such a good showing and strong showing. The bags are always there. They put a lot of time into it. They work hard. I wasn't able to help with the bags this year but they work hard. Happy Easter.

Mr. Knick also stated he wasn't around for the easter bags or the cleanup but appreciates all they do. He was with the Lions Club and Mark got him involved. Happy Easter.

MOTION TO ADJOURN. UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia McDonald
Secretary

Adopted and Approved

Stanley Knick Jr.
Council President