The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday evening, December 12, 2023 by President of Council, Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present
Mr. Karkut – Present
Mr. Jones – Present
Mr. Kowalczyk – Present
Mr. Price – Present
Mayor Elaine Lello - Present

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2023 REGULAR MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE
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.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 BILLS FOR PAYMENT
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 APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM DECEMBER 12, 2023 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL: Bryan Besecker, Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Michael Sniscak
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 APPOINT OFFICER TAMBURELLO TO FULL TIME WITH BENEFITS (EXCLUDING MEDICAL) AS CODE ENFORCEMENT AND PATROL OFFICER (IF NEEDED CDL DRIVER)
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.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report: November 30, 2023 bank balances
General Fund - $159,793.06
Payroll Fund - $10,986.02
ARPA Fund - $101,284.08
Admin Debit Card - $ 233.37
Police Debit Card – $104.03
Refuse Fund - $114,286.94
Sewer Maintenance Fund - $357,376.95
Liquid Fuels - $217,101.97
Police Pension Fund - $1,109,295.74
Special Fund - $127,821.42

Tax Collector Report: Submitted by Susan Gregory Tax Collector
November 2023 Report: Check deposited into General Fund $ 1,111.08
Balance Collectable – Beginning of Month - $ 18,426.97
Face Collections for the Month - $ 1,004.13
Penalties - $100.41
Total Collected - $1,104.54 + $6.54
Balance collectable end of month - $ 17,422.84

Mayor's Report: None

Police Report: Chief Doran read the following statistical report: criminal arrests-2; traffic citations issued-64; non traffic citations issued-7; appearances in county court-2; appearances in magisterial court – 19; motor vehicle accidents-11; assist to ems/fire -8; assist to other police dept. – 7; alarms -6; burglaries -1; thefts -6; vandalism -1; disorderly conduct -5; PFA violations – 1; domestic reports -2; suspicious activity – 8; DUI arrest – 2; assault/harassment -1; miscellaneous calls – 41; building checks – 32; code enforcement notice – 19. Mileage: Car # 1 F-150 – 50,663; Car # 2 Explorer – 21,665; Car # 3 Explorer – 19,383. Magistrate Fines Collected: $850.34.

Solicitor's Report - None

Engineer's Report: Bob Naegele updated on the following: (1) Flood Control project is complete. The punch list items are done. We are waiting on the final payment request along with the testing results for the concrete. Once we receive that we will be able to close that project out. Bob asked Patty if there were any other issues reported, with Patty responding no. Bob stated we will keep an eye on the area of the washout that occurred. They do have a maintenance bond for two years so we have that if anything comes up. (2) Growing Greener Grant, Everhart, Holden, Almond – Stell is done for this year. The trench restoration is done, the stream and pipe work is done. Last month we talked about a change order to pave those areas. They will come back in the spring and do the top and repave those areas.

That will give those trenches the winter to see if anything settles. They are aware if any problems they will come back and fix the trenches if needed. Stan asked about the sewer line issue. Bob explained that is was definitely broken by the gas company. We found that. Then we think the as built drawings were incorrect, it doesn't come out the front of the property. It went all the way over to the manhole. We found that but it did not line up with what was on the sewer mapping. It was dry when we found it. That may have been their sewer lateral. So Mike Ford came out after the gas line issued was fixed. He was able to get to the inlet box at the corner. So Stell dug it up and tied it in directly to the sewer main. It still comes out the side across the alley and then 45 to the main. Bob stated the gas line break was two years ago and the problems just happened now. Stell did address the punch list items and that contract is closed. We have thirty days to close out the grant paperwork. Mike met with Stell Monday. Patty asked about the remaining grant funds. Bob mentioned no more extensions were approved or a few change orders that were submitted, such as using the funds for paving, or restoration on Collins creek near Florence and Heidi. Stan suggested doing more bank stabilization, Bob suggested possibly reaching out to state representative but it may be that the money goes back to DEP. (3) Quail Hill project is substantially complete, the paving is done. We are dealing with some maintenance issues on the shoulder backup. There have been some concerns from residents and we are looking at addressing their concerns. This time of year, I am not sure how much more we can do. I did talk with April Hannon today and she said as long as it is in that area of work we can use the money. So as we hear things from the residents we can add them to the list. Patty noted some of the comments were line painting, tar and chip or paving the shoulders. Bob said after looking at it, he may want to do additional ditch work along the side quail hill drive on the right looks like that ditch isn't as established as we thought it was when we first looked at it. That may be why some of the shoulder material is ending up on the road because the water is not getting into the ditch. (4) Playground equipment is done and in. Bob asked if it is satisfactory. Patty noted it is and the request for payment was submitted and that project will be closed out.

Code Enforcement Report: Joey reported 8 notice of violations, 9 non traffic citations at magistrate, 2 rental inspections, 14 cases were given extensions due to weather. The next week or two we will have some of the firefighters go out with Officer Tamburello to get a feel for the rental inspections and help us out with that.

Crime Watch Report: Bob Price reported that November's meeting was a planning session for the Christmas party which is set for this Saturday from 4 to 6. Kids are welcome. We have a present for each kid that comes through. We have a bunch of activities and crafts. Lots of cookies, one of the crime watch members loves to bake. I also want to thank our fellow council members who are helping with the characters, Chris Kalmanowicz who will be Santa yet again, and the fire department for bringing Santa to the event. Hope everyone has a good time. No meeting in December. The next meeting will be in January.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Don Hudzinski reported for November the following: incidents fire alarms-2, structure fire-1, motor vehicle accident-9; CO Alarm-1; wires down-1, tree down-1; open burn-1, EMS assist-2. Jurisdiction: Dupont-12, Hughestown-3, Avoca-3, Turnpike-1. Total incidents: 19. Paid staff responses-5, Volunteer responses-14.

Council President Report: Trash-82.24 tons; comingle-4.61 tons ; paper-8.14 tons. Mileage: Black 3500-8,279; Green pickup-7,275; Black 6500-497; Bucket Truck-1,085; F550-48,493; Recycling Truck-41,641; Mack Packer-3,368; international packer-69,509; Mack Dump-4,554; Backhoe-7,869 hours; Ventrac-22.6. We will readvertise the International packer for sale since it is no longer needed.

At this time, Stan introduced Mike Fiorelli for the audit presentation.
Mike began by handing out the reports to each council members. Then introducing himself as Michael Fiorelli from Fiorelli Associates. His office is issuing an unmodified or clean opinion of the governmental funds. Mike read the audit report and took questions from council and the residents. The full report is available for review in the borough office. Lou Posly asked the ending balance for 2022. Net fund balance, positive $ 236,000. Assets over liabilities is $236,000 to the good. Mike talked about the amount of grants in the report and the work it takes to get the grants. That is something the town should be proud of. He then reported the Assets over Liabilities for all funds $879,000. Every fund has a positive balance.

Mike talked about the grants on page 19 in the report - Summary of the grants: 1,163,970
ARPA – 141,302
LSA Compost – 128,050
LSA Police and DPW vehicle - $364,441
DCED Other – 368,080
OCD Building Ramp – 116,768
OCD Demolition – 27,600
Municipal Fire Relief – 14,095
Seat Belt grant – 950
Pension Program – 843
Growing Greener Grant – 1,250
Purta Grant – 591 Total $1,163,970
LLVSA Sewer – 25,000
Refuse – DEP – 3739
Liquid Fuels – 91,199

Lou asked the positive fund balance. Mike explained the beginning balance for January 2023 was $879,000. Mike explained each fund has specific purposes. Lou asked if there are funds to do projects that are necessary.

Mike stated the General Fund 178,000 paving project, unassigned for general purposes, 58,000; sewer maintenance committed 383,000; assigned refuse fund 76,000 just for refuse; restricted liquid fuels, received from PennDOT restricted 182,000 to be used for roads and bridges. $57,000 can be used for general purposes out of all that.

Mike was thanked for the audit report.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2022 BOROUGH AUDIT
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 ACCEPT THE REPORTS.
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.

MOTION TO OPEN, READ AND AWARD 2024 INSURANCE PACKAGE
Motion: Mr. Karkut
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.

Patty noted Joyce Insurance, the current agent, submitted a proposal. Assurred Partners was contacted for loss runs and was interested in submitting a proposal. At the last minute, Assurred stated they were not submitting a proposal since most of the markets were blocked for quoting.

Joyce Insurance – expiring premium - $59,208
Renewal quote offer - $75,158

Mr. Kowalczyk asked the reasoning for the increase. Patty noted the quote noted the following: Property values increased by 4% inflation guard; auto schedule had 2 new vehicles added with a schedule value from $1,030,549 to $1,286,928; the umbrella goes over the underlying GL, AL< POL< PPL< EPL; Workers Compensation – experience MOD went from 85 to 87.1; payrolls have increased by $180,494;

Pina questioned the insurance quote/ non quote.

MOTION TO AWARD THE 2024 INSURANCE PACKAGE TO JOYCE INSURANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF $75,158 PER PROPOSAL
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 CONTINUE SPLITTING A FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER WITH HUGHESTOWN BOROUGH AT A RATE OF $18 AN HOUR, FIVE DAYS A WEEK, EIGHT HOURS A DAY, EVERY OTHER WEEK AND TO HIRE PART TIME EMPLOYEES AS NEEDED. IF EITHER HUGHESTOWN BOROUGH OR DUPONT BOROUGH DECIDES TO STOP FUNDING THIS POSITION, A NINTY (90) DAY WRITTEN NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE OTHER MUNICIPALITY PRIOR TO TERMINATING SUCH POSITION.

Mark questioned the comment to hire part time employees as needed. Is that in addition to the 40 hours. Patty stated it is a total of 40 hours week.
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 APPOINT JOSEPH JONES AS DUPONT BOROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
Second: Mr. Karkut
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, Abstained, saying he (Bob) has been part of EMA for a while now; Mr. Jones, yes.
Motion Carried 4 yes/1 abstention.

MOTION TO READ THE 2024 BUDGET AND TAX ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION
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.

Patty read the Tax Ordinance as well as the Breakdown and Totals for the General Operating Budget for 2024, all funds. Mileage is 1.725 no increase. Sewer Fee – no increase. Refuse Fee increase $15.00. Full ordinance and budget available at the borough office. Total for all Operating Budgets for 2024 is $1,443,850.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2024 TAX ORDINANCE AND BUDGET
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.

MOION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF ALL BILLS VERIFIED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 ABSOLVE THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE 2023 DUPLICATE
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 CLOSE ALL BOOKS AND RECORDS OF DUPONT BOROUGH FOR CALENDAR AND FISCAL YEAR 2023 AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023
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 RETAIN FNCB BANK AS DEPOSITORY FOR ALL BOROUGH ACCOUNTS AND PNC BANK FOR COMPOST ACCOUNT
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 ISSUE THE 2024 REFUSE BILLS AS OF DECEMBER 12, 2023 AND SET HOURS FOR COLLECTION Mon-Fri 8 to 4 Sunday 9 to 11
Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk
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 REQUEST FOR HANDICAP SIGN FOR RESIDENT AT 201 SMITH STREET TO BE PLACED ON CURTAIN STREET SIDE
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.

ANNOUNCED THE REORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 2ND AT 7 PM.

Matters from Residents:

Lou Posly – Scranton Beltway Project - Feels the better solution is make Interstate 81 three lanes. Make it where you don't have to pay to go to Clarks Summit. Make the extension at the Wyoming Valley interchange to go from turnpike to 81. Taxpayer money being used for something that can be done a better way in his opinion. Stan stated we sent a letter to the senator and representative. All we can do is let them know. Lou asked about Michael Carroll. He has not gotten back to the Borough yet. Patty advised Lou to contact the turnpike commission, Nick Noss, express his concerns. What the turnpike will do is take all those comments received from residents and put it in a report and that report will be given to the Borough. There is also a petition in the back of the room on the table if you would like to sign the petition. Stan did pass out cards for Nick Noss. Mark agreed the more people that call the better. There is power in numbers.

Joe Cigan – Petition for Sound Barriers. The petition against the Scranton Beltway Project and the Petition for Sound Barriers a conflict or can both be submitted. He discussed the open house for Senator Flynn in Plains that he attended. They did get the borough letter. Last week Joe and Don spent time with Jim Haddock. One bit of information is that the only call Jim Haddock got was from a resident in Suscon. I feel it is a great idea to start the petition. One other thing brought up was I passed out a possible petition. Can I read it. Petition for sound barriers. Joe read the petition. There will be a public meeting in early 2024, plans will be finished in last half of 2024, construction 2029-2031. We have to do the right thing at this time. The conflict is the letter is great, the way you are approaching it is great, but I got the impression that the chances for cancelling this project are extremely slim. The chances of getting the best for the residents of Dupont are pretty good. Possible sound barriers, people properties taken will be treated fairly financially, the retaining basins, Joe said there will be one by his house, why can't they put the basin on the east side of 81 not west side. We can get a lot of things if we work together. Support council and council supports the town. Dupont has a lot more traffic here, but Clarks Summit has more criteria for sound barriers. Joe went on to talk about other areas and sound barriers, grant to hire a sound engineer to place monitors along 81, and the positive readings to get the grant. It is worth the effort to work on it. So would Council sign this petition. Lou talked about bridges are there for the third lane. Stan said it is going to be very hard to change their minds after spending all this money to do this beltway. Joel talked about widening the road. Stan added they are widening it as far as Moosic.

Joel Lipperini - Blasting issue - Ran the course of what he can do. Radon Testing and Levels, Damage to property, Looking to get the Insurance Company information for Stell to address his damages. Erik stated he spoke with the Planning Commission. It is their understanding that blasting takes place once or twice a month. Joel asked who is saying it is a mining operation. The blasting permit from the state says it is to remove overburden, not mining. Joel has spent thousands of dollars to have independent people come here already with equipment and a geologist that did a topical map of the entire area, someone is negligent for the damages done to homes and for the health issues they are creating. Obviously you all know what radon levels are in your home. At 4 that is like 100 chest xrays a year. Since they have been blasting and we purchased our home 9 years ago that was acceptable rate. We have a radon level of 26 in our house because of them. We had no cracks in our house, in our floor, since the blasting. If you say it is great, they are allowed to do what they are doing. Then give me their

insurance information. I asked for it, they will not give it to me. Let the insurance pay for the damages. I am not going to have lung cancer because of what they are doing or not supposed to be doing. So who do we talk to. You run the borough. It is happening. Joe Cigan asked if DEP came to his house. Joel paid to have them, the state, come set up in our yard. What they do is they know that, so they don't blast hard. They apologize, that time they did it hot. They got it wrong. Joe Cigan talked about 124 Main Street. The county said no junk vehicles there. You didn't get any action until you went to the Motor Vehicle Dept. in Harrisburg. Joe Cigan said he suggests go right to Harrisburg and bypass Pottsville. Joel asked if the borough has the insurance information being they operate in Dupont. Pina added it is a shame, we invested all this money into our home, DEP is supposed to be there to protect the homeowner, yet DEP is giving them the permit to blast. You call DEP to make a complaint and I have been dealing with them for three years now. Erik offered to give Pina the names. The last call he made to the state was this afternoon at 2pm. Stan stated that was there in the 60's. Erik explained what he was told as far as expanding the area. Joel asked who is the regulatory commission in our borough. Erik stated there was a state ordinance passed in the sixties. Prior to that you are locked in. The county won't do anything, so I went to the state. Joel asked so the borough won't do anything. Stan said we made all the calls, went to the county, we went to the state, they say they can do it.

Pina asked for the names. Erik gave the names of the blasting information and the inspector for Luzerne County.

Joe Cigan stated it is hard to believe that a business like this quarry can blast and they have the right to damage homes and it is up to the resident to prove that the home is damaged by the blasting and not the company to prove that they are not causing damage. Stan stated if you get damage, call your insurance company and they will investigate and go after them. Joel said so my rates would go up for something they did. Stan said if it is not your fault, your rates shouldn't go up.

Joel said what kind of business are they running. Are they running a quarry. Erik noted Mr. Albert owned it before Stell. He came in and said he was blasting and his plan was to build a high rise. Joel said they are clearly running a quarry. Joel cant understand how the borough cannot get them to provide their insurance. Pina said homeowners are on their own unless they want to spend thousands of dollars and hire an attorney. Erik talked about getting a group together to file an action against them for damaging their property.

Joel said it is frustrating and appreciates the time. The house is one thing, that is just property. But when the radon levels are 200 times or 400 times the level, we can't stop it.

Pina Hansen – Same thing with permits in quail hill, all the permits are backdated to the 90's, nothing updated, all the stormwater drain issues is another one. They are going back to 1990 verses 2023, 2022 and 2021. So if you are getting water damage, too bad.

Lou asked if you can prove that the radon or damage is since the blasting started, because your home is worthless. Nobody is going to buy your home. Joel said I don't want to sell the home. We cannot swim in our pool because all the lines are broke.

Joel added one more comment about the roads. Thank God the roads are paved. I am glad you listened to the tar chip thing. I had a contractor up there the other day and he said it is the most reasonable way to fix that gravel problem is tar and chip. Stan said we will wait til spring and once we do this tar and chip that people don't come back and drive on the shoulders and want us to clean the tar from their vehicles. Bob Naegele added the problem with tar and chip is overspraying. It was also suggested by Pittston Township to dig out the modified and put blacktop. Joel talked about people walking in the development and the rocks on the road. Pina mentioned the mailman going to the mailboxes. He runs over the soft modified material. Mrs. Lipperini mentioned someone that fell. Pina agreed with Bob that she thought it was someone driving on the shoulders, but it could be the drainage. Bob noticed a quad tire in the one area. He said there is a mixed bag of reasons why. He will monitor it for now, but in spring it will be addressed. Pina asked about the white lines and Bob noted Patty mentioned the lines and he talked to April from Penn DOT and she said we can spend the money if it is project related. We do have monies. Stan noted it is Pittston Township going up that hill.

Edward Romanko – Scranton Beltway Project – They are taking away land from landowners in town and now they are trying to put water basins in these proposed areas. I talked to the representative about it and he said in Clarks Summit, Dupont and Allentown the same thing is happening Clarks Summit is getting their own lawyer with the support of the Clarks Summit borough. Now, is there any movement other than this paper we signed tonight on the borough's part to see if they can propose something else. Perhaps take land on the west side, take land off the east side. I looked at the maps and they have right of ways from PP&L and the electric company. Stan stated the east side is ours, the 33 acres. There is a creek there. If we can get them to put it on the other side, I wouldn't have a problem with that. According to our attorney, the people that are fighting their homes from being destroyed, what do we have to d to prevent the turnpike and the 81 construction.. Stan said we shipped letters, we talked to them, our representative and our senator and I will do it again. Mr. Romanko asked what can the residents do. Mr. Knick said the petition is the best bet and calls to the representatives and senators telling them we are not happy with it. Is there any way to go public in the local newspapers, asked Mr. Romanko. Joey stated there will be a public hearing that everyone can attend to state their concerns. Mr. Romanko said as far as fair market value for your land, that is not true. Everyone of you know what you put into your home and property. Stan referred to a resident on Lidy Road whose home was taken and she held out to the very end. They found her a house comparable to what she had, same cabinets, colors and everything and she got what she wanted. Mr. Romanko noted he knows about ten people that did not get what they wanted. Again, you are not going to get fair market value. Mr. Romanko said we better start doing more, and it better start yesterday, because tomorrow is too late.

Michael Magda – Scranton Beltway Project – retention ponds. Can Council at least look into getting the basins at least on the east side not the west side. The initial study indicated that the retention ponds were not going to be there so a certain amount of homes were note affected. But recent plans show other homes are affected. Stan will call the Turnpike representative and start with him first, then go to the senators and representatives to do what we can.

Joel asked if there is a borough attorney, which one is he. Erik stood up. Joel asked if it would be more powerful like Clarks Summit is doing with getting an attorney? Erik said this project is so far along and millions have been spent on this project. Stan is hoping changing the retention ponds, and getting sound

barriers and continue until we get somewhere. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Stan noted at the meeting at the middle school the news stations interviewed him and he stated he cannot see people getting off 81 to pay tolls to get around. If there is an accident some place coming southbound maybe by Dunmore, once it backs up you are not going to get on the turnpike. It doesn't make sense.

Lou Posly talked about the bridges and an extra lane north and south.

Matters from Council and Mayor:

Joey Jones – I would encourage everyone to read the letter on the wall in the back of the room that was sent to officials. There is a lot of stuff in the letter addressing all the concerns. In addition to the retention ponds, Mr. Knick mentioned how is that going to affect our streams. Many items are addressed in the letter including quality of life. One other thing with regard to the paid driver, Hughestown Fire Department report – response times. Prior to the paid driver, if a volunteer was available the average response time to an incident was 4 minutes and 32 seconds to an incident. That is if someone was available. If there is a fire and no volunteers is available, you are looking at about 9 minutes after the third tone, go to a mutual aid department so realistically you are looking at 15 minutes. With a paid driver during the day, you are looking at 1 minutes 45 seconds. You are guaranteeing someone will be there. Partnering with Hughestown on this and other services they offer such as ambulance, bariatric unit and brush truck, I think it was a great idea. The return on the investment is limitless. It was a great year for that and for code enforcement program and rental inspections cleaning up the town. Merry Christmas.

Mark Kowalczyk – Turnpike Project – Encouraged everyone to call, sign petition, Stick together, power in numbers, reach out to the State officials, the Governor, the Turnpike, this affects their political future also. We are powerless like everyone else is. Keep calling. I feel bad for the residents close to this project. Like Stan said the lady at the end of Lidy got what she wanted. There are going to be people that are bought out, but also there are people that are going to be right next to this. Their property values are going down. I'm sorry, I don't want a drainage ditch right outside my front door. Everybody in town need to keep calling, sign petitions, whatever we have to do, tell your neighbors and friends, even if they are three towns over. It is not right what is going on. We have plenty of property on the other side of 81 and turnpike that can be used for this project. Like Stan said, I doubt it will be stopped but we need to make it so it is the best for Dupont. Everybody has to stick together. Call the Senator, Governor, Representative Haddock, Mike Carroll, we need to get the power out there with numbers. If they realize their future is going to be affected if they don't help the town out, put the fear in them. This town will stick together and vote you out of office unless we start seeing some results. If you are not directly affected, it will affect the town, all of us. It doesn't affect Mark but he is making sure they hear him. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. I am glad for the nice showing at the meeting tonight.

Stan Knick – Like Mark said, this project affects every resident. The more properties taken, the less tax dollars coming in to the borough, therefore the town will have to increase taxes. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This town runs on the taxes we get. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Joe Karkut – Encouraged everyone to call the representatives, express your opinion. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Elaine - The whole town needs to work as one. The whole town needs to get behind this project. Dupont is a little dot on the map. Write a letter. This project has been worked on for years. Maybe if we act as one we can make it better. She doesn't see them putting in three lanes of traffic because that is what little dupont says to do. That may be a good idea, but I don''t think they will scrap this project and start all over. Take the time, write letter, call Senator. Sign Petition. Merry Christmas and Healthy, Prosperous, and Happy New Year.

Bob Price – Again, the more people the better to express their concerns. The more we contact the representative and senator the more attention it will get. Reminded everyone the Childrens Christmas party is Saturday December 16th at 4 pm. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Joe Karkut - See them, call them. At a social event, bend their ear. Express your opinion. It can't hurt. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted	Adopted and Approved
Patricia McDonald	Stanley Knick, Jr.
Borough Secretary	Council President