

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

NEW HOPE BOROUGH COMMUNITY ROOM  
123 NEW STREET  
NEW HOPE, PENNSYLVANIA 18938

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022

COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- CONNIE GERING - PRESIDENT
- LAURIE MCHUGH
- TINA RETTIG
- DANIEL DOUGHERTY
- PETER MEYER
- LOUISE FEDER
- KENNETH MAISEL

ALSO PRESENT:

- LAURENCE KELLER - BOROUGH MAYOR
- PETER GRAY - BOROUGH MANAGER
- JOHN FENNINGHAM, ESQ. - BOROUGH COUNCIL SOLICITOR
- CHRISTINE SZABO - BOROUGH TREASURER
- MARY STOVER - ZONING OFFICER
- MICHAEL CUMMINGS - CHIEF OF POLICE
- MATTHEW DECKER - AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNICIAN

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PRESIDENT GERING: I would like to call the

meeting to order. Please stand up for the Pledge of

Allegiance. Thank you.

Pete, if you can take roll, please.

MR. GRAY: Certainly.

Ms. McHugh?

MS. MCHUGH: Here.

MR. GRAY: Ms. Rettig?

MS. RETTIG: Here.

MR. GRAY: Ms. Feder?

MS. FEDER: Here.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Dougherty?

MR. DOUGHERTY: Here.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Maisel?

MR. MAISEL: Here.

MR. GRAY: Mr. Meyer?

MR. MEYER: Here.

MR. GRAY: Mayor Keller?

MAYOR KELLER: Here.

MR. GRAY: Ms. Gering?

PRESIDENT GERING: Here.

How many people do we have online tonight?

MR. DECKER: Three.

PRESIDENT GERING: Three people. That is

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three for the Zoom attendance.

Mayor's report.

MAYOR KELLER: Sure. I will keep it

brief, Phillies are on tonight. One thing I want to

share, I know we have through some of the last six

meetings or so, people are concerned that they don't see a

police officer or how come they are not doing this and how

come they are not doing that but I just want to share a

few things.

And for the month of September we had 240

traffic stops. 240. That is an average of eight a day.

We wrote 72 citations, tickets and the rest were various

warnings for whatever. They could have been someone

didn't have a registration sticker showing. There are a

lot of things going on, but they are out there. And I

just wanted to point that out and it is not always about

just writing tickets and nailing every person that is

doing something wrong with their vehicle.

And I just want to make that -- it is more

about safety and compliance. And a couple myths I want to

squash too. So you know if you get a speeding ticket and

it happens to be \$165, just so you know, this Borough

receives \$12.50 of that.

So to think that maybe towards the end of

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1  
 2 the month the Chief says hey guys/girls, we have to write  
 3 tickets. It is against the law. We can't have quotas in  
 4 Pennsylvania. Maybe in other states. I know in  
 5 Pennsylvania it is absolutely against the law.  
 6 And another thing that I have observed  
 7 myself, we had a situation a couple Saturdays ago, right?  
 8 Its been packed on weekends and we had three officers on  
 9 and they were all on -- we will say a suspected DUI, a  
 10 young girl in the back of a car. So one officer has to  
 11 stay with that car and the parent has to come out and go  
 12 through a sobriety test.  
 13 And in a situation like that, when it is  
 14 someone in the area -- from the area, the other officer is  
 15 observing. That person failed the test, allegedly. And  
 16 it is a situation that takes a minimum of an hour and a  
 17 half and that person, the suspect, has to be transported  
 18 to the hospital to get blood taken. It takes up a lot of  
 19 time. So that is a perfect example on a Saturday  
 20 afternoon. You think why aren't they doing that.  
 21 So Sunday, I just happened to be going from  
 22 the south end of town coming to my place to open at one  
 23 and I was delighted and we had an officer -- we only had  
 24 three officers, it is the most we have on a weekend day.  
 25 And it was packed this weekend. Anybody that was out

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1  
 2 especially on Saturday and Sunday we try to but there is a  
 3 lot -- it is very crowded downtown and that is -- I think  
 4 we probably lean towards trying to have more of a presence  
 5 down there.  
 6 But I just wanted to get all of that out  
 7 there so everybody understands that there is -- what you  
 8 see is not always what it is and that is it. Thank you.  
 9 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you.  
 10 Peter Gray, if we can have Mr. Tom Carroll  
 11 come up here.  
 12 MR. GRAY: Certainly.  
 13 MR. CARROLL: Nice tie, Pete. Liking the  
 14 tie, Pete.  
 15 Its been real and its been fun. Okay. But  
 16 we have floods, storms, blizzards. Okay. Many trees  
 17 down. So it hasn't been always real fun. All right. But  
 18 you know it is my life. I chose to do this position and I  
 19 am passing the reins on to Matt and Matt is fully capable  
 20 of jumping right in.  
 21 I wanted to share with you when I was a  
 22 young child, I guess 12, 13 years old, I had a wonderful  
 23 idea. I said Tom, you're going to get your wagon and  
 24 you're going to go and pick raspberries and you will sell  
 25 them to the tourists in New Hope. So I got my wagon and I

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1  
 2 knows it was jammed.  
 3 We had an officer -- I noticed we had an  
 4 officer on foot patrol on South Main, we had an officer in  
 5 a patrol car at -- right next to -- just north on the  
 6 north side there of Parry Mansion on the corner of Ferry  
 7 Street and Main Street.  
 8 Think why there? You have a lot of  
 9 pedestrian activity there between the Playhouse, show  
 10 starts at whatever, 1:30. That is just -- there is a lot  
 11 of activity with Logan Inn, Salt House, Martine's,  
 12 Stella's and the Playhouse. And it is a good police  
 13 presence to see the car there. It helps to dissuade some  
 14 of our motorcyclists to maybe not get silly.  
 15 And the third officer just happened -- and  
 16 he was parked next to the railroad tracks on Bridge  
 17 Street. So we have these three spots being fulfilled in  
 18 some way and that is about -- they are not going to stay  
 19 in any of those spots for the entire day, they move  
 20 around. But the fact is we are out there, we are seen and  
 21 we are writing.  
 22 So I just had to share that because I know  
 23 a lot of people are always saying they never see a police  
 24 car.  
 25 Now patrolling, it is a different issue and

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1  
 2 went down and across the bridge and I had the little  
 3 baskets, you know the strawberry baskets when it was  
 4 really a basket.  
 5 I climbed up on the hill down here by  
 6 Waterworks and I'm picking raspberries and this and that.  
 7 I come walking through town and sure enough people are  
 8 saying hey those are nice; \$0.75 , \$0.50 you can have them.  
 9 So I sold all of my raspberries and I had  
 10 an epiphany as I am walking back to Lambertville, the  
 11 city. People asked me, I say the city and they are like  
 12 New York, Philly? No, Lambertville.  
 13 So as I am walking I am thinking to myself,  
 14 my goodness, looking at these trash cans and there is ice  
 15 cream dripping out of them, bees flying all over the  
 16 place. And I said to myself, I hope I never -- who the  
 17 hell is going to clean this stuff up and guess what?  
 18 That is what I have been doing.  
 19 And I just would like to thank everyone for  
 20 your support over the years and its been a ride. Its been  
 21 a ride but I am ready to move on. And I am ready to relax  
 22 a little bit and not be on call 24 hours a day; right,  
 23 Chief? This man has been a very good supporter of the  
 24 Public Works Department. And I just wanted to thank him  
 25 for helping us out and having our backs when we needed it.

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1 By the way, we need this traffic control on Sugan Road. I
2 just thought I would throw it out there. We are all busy
3 and I didn't want that to slip through the cracks.
4 Anyway, thank you everyone and --
5 MR. GRAY: Could you hang on for a second,
6 we would like to present you with something.
7 MR. CARROLL: My wife called me -- I am
8 surprised I even left the house dressed like this when she
9 wasn't there to help me.
10 MR. GRAY: For your years of service to the
11 Borough. Best of luck to you in the future.
12 MR. CARROLL: Okay. Thank you.
13 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you, Tom.
14 MS. McHUGH: Thank you, Tom. You will be
15 missed.
16 PRESIDENT GERING: Next on the agenda is
17 can I have a motion to approve the Holiday Parade for
18 December 4th. It will be hosted by the Chamber of
19 Commerce.
20 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.
21 MR. DOUGHERTY: I will second.
22 PRESIDENT GERING: Is there anyone here
23 from the Chamber? Yes, Mary.
24 MS. BRASHIER: Mary Brashier.

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1 PRESIDENT GERING: Any from the public?
2 All in favor?
3 MS. FEDER: Aye.
4 MR. MEYER: Aye.
5 MS. McHUGH: Aye.
6 MS. RETTIG: Aye.
7 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.
8 MR. MAISEL: Aye.
9 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Good luck.
10 MS. BRASHIER: Thank you very much.
11 PRESIDENT GERING: Next can I have a motion
12 to authorize the Civil Service Committee to proceed with
13 the selection of a corporal?
14 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.
15 MR. MEYER: Second.
16 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from
17 Council? Any from the public?
18 All in favor?
19 MS. FEDER: Aye.
20 MR. MEYER: Aye.
21 MS. McHUGH: Aye.
22 MS. RETTIG: Aye.
23 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.
24 MR. MAISEL: Aye.

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1 PRESIDENT GERING: I thought you were one
2 of the teenagers.
3 MS. BRASHIER: B-R-A-S-H-I-E-R.
4 So the Chamber of Commerce would want to
5 once again like to have our holiday parade, bring some
6 fabulous people to the Borough, celebrate the holiday
7 season and get the community involved; kids, other
8 organizations, some outside big bands. Looking for
9 sponsorships, if any one is available.
10 But that is the -- December 4th -- we just
11 put out a question -- we had a big huge discussion about
12 keeping this the same day as the tree lighting or moving
13 it to a different day and the Chamber -- the Board decided
14 to give it a shot going on a different day this time. And
15 the idea there was to give people another reason to come
16 back to town rather than lots of reasons on one day.
17 So we are going to give that a shot this
18 year, see how it goes. Give it our best and then convene
19 afterwards and figure that out.
20 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from
21 Council?
22 MS. McHUGH: Nothing other than looking
23 forward to it. Are we allowed to be in it again?
24 MS. BRASHIER: Yeah.

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1 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.
2 Can I have a motion to include funding for
3 the 2023 budget for the New Hope Solebury Library?
4 MS. RETTIG: I will make that motion.
5 MS. McHUGH: I will second.
6 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. The request
7 has been for a \$10,000 donation for the library. And
8 right now the library from New Hope Borough receives
9 \$33,885 in tax money and then we also give them parking
10 spots and parking permits for a total of \$30,452 which is
11 in kind that the Borough has done for years here.
12 Any questions from Council giving the
13 \$10,000 donation?
14 MS. McHUGH: We already give them \$30,000
15 in kind and then another --
16 PRESIDENT GERING: We give them tax money
17 which is built into the tax base that comes out of the tax
18 dollars, that is \$33,885. That comes from the Borough
19 through the tax dollars paid.
20 What we do in kind is we give them six
21 parking spots and ten volunteer passes for parking and
22 that is what comes out to be \$30,452 cost to the Borough
23 in lost revenue for parking.
24 So this is what they get and right now what

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1  
2 is on the table is to give them a \$10,000 donation.  
3 And any questions from Council members?  
4 MS. McHUGH: Does anybody know what  
5 Solebury gives?  
6 MS. RETTIG: No. Solebury gives also -- I  
7 believe this year, Deidre, was it the same 10,000?  
8 I think they also give them \$10,000. And  
9 Solebury has also given them money over the years also  
10 from their taxes. It goes -- there is money to the  
11 library and then in the last couple of years that we have  
12 not built anything into our budget and this is  
13 specifically going to help pay for the health plan for the  
14 workers at the library.  
15 So the library instituted a healthcare plan  
16 for their people last year and they are looking for us to  
17 just help pay for the healthcare plan. And that is what  
18 this is a donation for.  
19 MR. MAISEL: This is for the 2023 budget?  
20 MS. RETTIG: For the 2023 budget.  
21 MR. MAISEL: The only issue that we are  
22 confronted with is a precedence set for going forward  
23 because if that is the purpose of those dollars to offset  
24 medical contributions for the employees, then that is not  
25 going to go away next year so it becomes an embedded

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1  
2 I would much prefer to frame this as an ad  
3 hoc contribution that is not tied to -- because in future  
4 years it would be the Borough has decided to cancel health  
5 insurance for the library employees, which is not  
6 something we have the ability to do one way or the other.  
7 I don't think we can give them money -- we  
8 can tell them how they should spend it. And so I just  
9 would much prefer if I could vote for this if it is not  
10 framed in any way linked to a specific -- a specific  
11 obligation, such as employee health insurance of any sort.  
12 PRESIDENT GERING: How about if we say that  
13 it goes to a donation to the library for their general  
14 fund and we will not earmark it for anything other. It is  
15 their choice what they do with the donation.  
16 MR. DOUGHERTY: Yes.  
17 MR. MEYER: I am fully in favor of that.  
18 There is something else that concerns me. Since I have  
19 been on this Council I have had a number of presentations  
20 made by the Borough -- by the library of which by the way  
21 I am a member, in which we get contrasted to the amount of  
22 money that is given to the library by Solebury.  
23 Every time I have seen this comparison it  
24 is very systematically -- maybe hand waved about the fact  
25 that we gave them a certain number of parking spaces. No

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1  
2 potential obligation.  
3 MS. RETTIG: It is not something that is  
4 promised every year. We have not done a donation to the  
5 library in the last couple of year's budget and we  
6 discussed doing something this year to help them with  
7 this.  
8 Solebury has funded them the last few  
9 years, given them extra money donations. New Hope Borough  
10 hasn't. We have done the in-kind which they have  
11 acknowledged publicly and at a meeting and continue to  
12 acknowledge publicly at meetings. And personally I just  
13 feel that at this point in time it is something that we  
14 should think about doing and giving the library an extra  
15 donation.  
16 PRESIDENT GERING: Dan?  
17 MR. DOUGHERTY: I think -- my feeling is  
18 that -- two-fold on the direction of the money. The  
19 \$10,000 doesn't concern me as much as -- because we have  
20 an ability to pay this at this particular time.  
21 I would prefer not to see -- or for us to  
22 espouse that this is to pay for an employee benefit of  
23 some sort for that -- tying back to what Mr. Maisel said.  
24 This is not an obligation of the constituents to provide  
25 health insurance to the library employees.

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1  
2 value has ever been placed on that.  
3 I would like to request that the New Hope  
4 Solebury Library acknowledge publicly the dollar amount  
5 that was just mentioned and -- as a contribution from the  
6 Borough in the future. That comes from the fact that we  
7 gave them those parking spaces and continue to give them  
8 those parking spaces, which by the way we can take away  
9 tomorrow.  
10 Let's recognize that that is a donation  
11 from you and us, the taxpayers of the Borough of New Hope.  
12 There is nothing wrong in that, I don't want to stop doing  
13 it. I would like to have the library acknowledge the fact  
14 that we are doing it. At the moment by not putting a  
15 dollar figure on it, they are not acknowledging and that  
16 bothers me.  
17 MS. McHUGH: They might not have known  
18 what the dollar figure was.  
19 MR. MEYER: We have given -- just given  
20 them a number.  
21 MR. MAISEL: I think last week -- last week  
22 was it the workshop, they made a very clear appreciation  
23 and understanding without identifying the dollars of how  
24 valuable that was.  
25 So I do think short of coming up with the

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1  
 2 exact number, which hasn't been made public until tonight  
 3 I think, I don't know. So they can't be -- they can't be  
 4 considered remiss for not having identified it.  
 5 MR. MEYER: I am only requesting that they  
 6 include that number going forward. I am voting in favor  
 7 of this. To be very clear here, that is not the issue.  
 8 PRESIDENT GERING: Anyone else from  
 9 Council? Any one from the public?  
 10 All in favor?  
 11 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 12 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 13 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 14 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 15 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 16 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 17 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Good luck with it,  
 18 folks.  
 19 Next on the agenda is a Certificate of  
 20 Appropriateness for 19 North Main Street. This  
 21 certificate needs to have a little adjustment to it  
 22 because the way the certificate is written, it is for the  
 23 installation of -- sorry.  
 24 Apparently what they did is they did all of  
 25 the improvements and never went to HARB so they came back

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1  
 2 have previously, with problems with submissions from and  
 3 the work of Ralph Fey in this Borough. Thank you.  
 4 PRESIDENT GERING: Any other comments?  
 5 All in favor?  
 6 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 7 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 8 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 9 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 10 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 11 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 12 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Your building is  
 13 beautiful. Take care.  
 14 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
 15 for 57 Buttonwood Street replacing decking over which is  
 16 the front porch and the skirting and -- can I have a  
 17 motion for approval?  
 18 MS. FEDER: I will make that motion.  
 19 PRESIDENT GERING: Second?  
 20 MS. McHUGH: I will second it.  
 21 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions?  
 22 All in favor?  
 23 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 24 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 25 MS. McHUGH: Aye.

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1  
 2 to HARB and got approval. So what this is for is the  
 3 installation of planters along the front of the building,  
 4 installation of a stone wall around the front of the  
 5 courtyard, installation of a brick patio in the courtyard,  
 6 installation of a brick walkway along the building. I  
 7 know all of the work was done and HARB gave them approval  
 8 on this.  
 9 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 10 MS. FEDER: I will make that motion.  
 11 MR. MAISEL: Second.  
 12 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from  
 13 Council? Any --  
 14 MR. MEYER: Yes.  
 15 MS. McHUGH: You almost got away.  
 16 MR. MEYER: The architect/engineer for  
 17 this proposal was Ralph Fey. Ralph Fey does a significant  
 18 amount of business in this Borough. Ralph Fey has to have  
 19 known, given the amount of business he has done in the  
 20 historic district, that this required a permit. I find  
 21 this very, very discomfoting that in fact this went  
 22 forward without the permit.  
 23 I think the job that was done is beautiful.  
 24 I have no objection to it. Okay. I will vote for the COA  
 25 but I want on the record we are dealing once again as we

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1  
 2 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 3 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 4 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 5 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
 6 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
 7 for 15 West Ferry Street for a sign installation.  
 8 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 9 MS. RETTIG: I will make that motion.  
 10 PRESIDENT GERING: Second?  
 11 MR. MEYER: Second.  
 12 PRESIDENT GERING: The only question I  
 13 have is they're also placing signs in the windows on top  
 14 of the sign that will be hanging on the street.  
 15 Does that meet code for three signs?  
 16 MR. MEYER: Two.  
 17 PRESIDENT GERING: Two in the window and  
 18 one is hanging, if I read it correctly.  
 19 MS. STOVER: They can do it provided the  
 20 window signs don't add up to more than 12 square feet.  
 21 MR. DOUGHERTY: Is the applicant present?  
 22 PRESIDENT GERING: Come up. You have to  
 23 identify yourself.  
 24 MS. ADDIS: Lauren Addis, A-D-D-I-S.  
 25 Window vinyls have been questioned, they

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- 1  
2 are 12 inches wide each.  
3 PRESIDENT GERING: That meets code?  
4 MS. STOVER: How high?  
5 MS. ADDIS: They are 12 by 12.  
6 MS. STOVER: They are one square foot each.  
7 They are not very big.  
8 PRESIDENT GERING: Okay. So they can do it  
9 -- that on the windows on top of the street sign?  
10 MS. STOVER: Yes.  
11 MR. DOUGHERTY: So it says two 2 by 12  
12 signs for window is what I am reading in Exhibit A. Two 2  
13 by 12 --  
14 MS. ADDIS: Two 12 by 12.  
15 MR. DOUGHERTY: This thing says two 2 by --  
16 so is it two 12 by 12?  
17 MS. ADDIS: They are one foot, so 12 inches  
18 by 12 inches.  
19 MR. DOUGHERTY: Two of those?  
20 MS. ADDIS: Two of those in two different  
21 windows.  
22 MR. DOUGHERTY: That is inside the window  
23 and the one that is outside of the post is replacing -- is  
24 the same size as the one next door?  
25 MS. ADDIS: Yes.

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- 1  
2 MS. ADDIS: Thank you very much.  
3 PRESIDENT GERING: Next is a Certificate  
4 of Appropriateness for 125-127 South Main Street to  
5 replace a roof.  
6 Can I have a motion for approval?  
7 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.  
8 MS. FEDER: Second.  
9 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from  
10 Council?  
11 All in favor?  
12 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
13 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
14 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
15 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
16 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
17 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
18 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
19 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
20 for 10 West Mechanic Street for a sign.  
21 Can I have a motion for approval?  
22 MS. RETTIG: I will make that motion.  
23 MS. McHUGH: Second.  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Any  
25 questions?

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- 1  
2 MR. DOUGHERTY: So there is two -- three  
3 signs, two in the window and one on the lawn?  
4 MS. ADDIS: Yes.  
5 MR. DOUGHERTY: How is it -- do you  
6 aggregate the dimensions of those three signs to see if it  
7 --  
8 MS. STOVER: There is a limit to 12 square  
9 feet for the freestanding sign.  
10 MR. DOUGHERTY: For the first hanging sign?  
11 MS. STOVER: Outside and then there is a  
12 limit -- you can have two window signs as long as they  
13 total less than 12 square feet when added together. She  
14 is only at two square feet.  
15 MR. DOUGHERTY: Okay. So that is it then.  
16 PRESIDENT GERING: All right. Thank you.  
17 All in favor?  
18 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
19 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
20 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
21 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
22 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
23 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Good luck with  
25 your business.

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- 1  
2 All in favor?  
3 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
4 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
5 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
6 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
7 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
8 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
9 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
10 Next is Certificate of Appropriateness for  
11 122, 124, 126 South Main Street for replacing a roof.  
12 Can I have a motion for approval?  
13 MR. DOUGHERTY: I will make that.  
14 MS. McHUGH: Second.  
15 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Any  
16 questions?  
17 All in favor?  
18 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
19 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
20 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
21 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
22 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
23 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
25 Next is 96 West Bridge Street for a

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1  
 2 replacement of a roof.  
 3 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 4 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.  
 5 MS. RETTIG: Second it.  
 6 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions?  
 7 All in favor?  
 8 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 9 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 10 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 11 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 12 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 13 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 14 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
 15 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
 16 for 17 West Ferry Street for a sign installation.  
 17 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 18 MR. MEYER: So moved.  
 19 MR. McHUGH: Second.  
 20 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Any  
 21 questions?  
 22 MR. DOUGHERTY: This -- I am sorry, Connie.  
 23 PRESIDENT GERING: 17 West Ferry Street is  
 24 a sign installation.  
 25 MR. DOUGHERTY: This is 42 inches by

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1  
 2 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Good luck.  
 3 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
 4 for 83-85 South Main Street. And what the certificate  
 5 states is this is to replace windows and doors and this  
 6 needs to be modified because the plans that they submitted  
 7 also includes a roof and siding. So they need to modify  
 8 the Certificate of Appropriateness.  
 9 Can I have a motion for approval?  
 10 MR. MEYER: What is the Certificate of  
 11 Appropriateness going to say?  
 12 PRESIDENT GERING: The --  
 13 MR. MEYER: I will also move.  
 14 PRESIDENT GERING: Okay. Second?  
 15 MS. McHUGH: Second.  
 16 PRESIDENT GERING: John, we can just say we  
 17 are amending the certificate to include everything that  
 18 was approved that was left off the certificate?  
 19 MR. FENNINGHAM: Correct. It is an  
 20 oversight. HARB approved all of those elements.  
 21 PRESIDENT GERING: Okay.  
 22 MR. DOUGHERTY: They recommended it.  
 23 MR. FENNINGHAM: Recommended for approval.  
 24 PRESIDENT GERING: All right. Do I have  
 25 to redo your motion? Is it okay since I mentioned that?

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1  
 2 42 inches.  
 3 MS. STOVER: It is three foot by four foot.  
 4 MR. DOUGHERTY: This says 42 which is three  
 5 and a half by three and a half.  
 6 MS. STOVER: They modified it in order to  
 7 get down to the 12 square feet so there is a drawing at  
 8 the end of --  
 9 MR. DOUGHERTY: That is where I was going.  
 10 MS. STOVER: Okay.  
 11 MR. DOUGHERTY: Thank you.  
 12 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from  
 13 Council?  
 14 MR. DOUGHERTY: It will be the new  
 15 dimensions is three by four?  
 16 MS. STOVER: Correct.  
 17 MR. DOUGHERTY: All right. Thank you.  
 18 PRESIDENT GERING: Any other questions?  
 19 All in favor?  
 20 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 21 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 22 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 23 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 24 MR DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 25 MR. MAISEL: Aye.

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1  
 2 MR. FENNINGHAM: That is fine.  
 3 PRESIDENT GERING: Okay. I would like to  
 4 have a motion of approval for 83-85 South Main Street for  
 5 replacement windows, doors, roof and siding.  
 6 MS. RETTIG: I will make that motion.  
 7 MS. McHUGH: I will second that motion.  
 8 PRESIDENT GERING: Any questions from  
 9 Council?  
 10 All in favor?  
 11 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
 12 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
 13 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
 14 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
 15 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
 16 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
 17 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
 18 Next is a Certificate of Appropriateness  
 19 for 34 West Mechanic Street for a storm door.  
 20 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.  
 21 MS. FEDER: I will second.  
 22 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Any  
 23 questions from Council?  
 24 MR. DOUGHERTY: The only thing I would  
 25 suggest is an --

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1  
2 PRESIDENT GERING: We have the owner here.  
3 How are you?  
4 MS. FACCHINA: Susan Facchina,  
5 F-A-C-C-H-I-N-A.  
6 MR. DOUGHERTY: And I am fine with this  
7 style door. So according to Mr. Fenningham, our approval  
8 of this door does not necessarily beget a blanket approval  
9 so in other words -- the applicant has included pictures  
10 of various storm doors throughout town, some of which --  
11 many of which had never gotten approval so -- but this  
12 storm door is a clear-view storm door.  
13 And basically it is very different than say  
14 a crossbuck (sic) door that has the horse and carriage on  
15 it for example that were very popular in the 1950s and  
16 1960s.  
17 So where I am going with this is I want to  
18 clarify that our approval of this storm door doesn't  
19 create a precedent that -- because the package that the  
20 applicant and the following applicant for the next storm  
21 door that wants to get approved have -- both have storm  
22 doors that I would approve but -- so what kind of  
23 precedent are we setting, if any?  
24 MR. FENNINGHAM: Well what you're raising  
25 in clarifying is that there was illustrations as part of

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1  
2 Next we have the Certificate of  
3 Appropriateness for 36 West Mechanic Street for an  
4 installation of a storm door.  
5 MR. MEYER: So moved.  
6 MS. RETTIG: Second.  
7 PRESIDENT GERING: All in favor?  
8 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
9 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
10 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
11 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
12 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
13 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
14 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
15 Can I have approval of the meeting minutes  
16 for August 1st workshop, September 6th workshop,  
17 September 20th Council meeting?  
18 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.  
19 PRESIDENT GERING: Can I have a second?  
20 MS. RETTIG: I will second it.  
21 PRESIDENT GERING: Any comments from  
22 Council?  
23 All in favor?  
24 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
25 MR. MEYER: Aye.

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1  
2 the package and there should be and must be a definitive  
3 selection of the storm door that you are actually  
4 approving on the recommendation of HARB.  
5 MR. DOUGHERTY: And there is the storm door  
6 that this applicant is looking to place on their house is  
7 present in the package, is that true?  
8 PRESIDENT GERING: Correct.  
9 MR. FENNINGHAM: So the other contents are  
10 just mere illustrations, but the definitive selection by  
11 the applicant is part of the package.  
12 MR. DOUGHERTY: Okay. I just wanted to  
13 make sure we weren't giving carte blanche to designs of  
14 storm doors and -- so I appreciate the clarification.  
15 PRESIDENT GERING: Any other questions from  
16 Council?  
17 All in favor?  
18 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
19 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
20 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
21 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
22 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
23 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Good luck with  
25 your door.

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1  
2 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
3 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
4 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
5 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
6 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye.  
7 Can I have a motion for approval of  
8 accounts payable in the amount of \$514,001.04 and the  
9 September 23rd, September 27th and October 7th payrolls in  
10 the amounts of \$90,579.75 and \$4,373.28 and \$74,037.21?  
11 MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.  
12 PRESIDENT GERING: Second?  
13 MR. MAISEL: Second.  
14 PRESIDENT GERING: All in favor?  
15 MS. FEDER: Aye.  
16 MR. MEYER: Aye.  
17 MS. McHUGH: Aye.  
18 MS. RETTIG: Aye.  
19 MR. DOUGHERTY: Aye.  
20 MR. MAISEL: Aye.  
21 PRESIDENT GERING: Aye. Committee reports  
22 for the Parks and Rec.  
23 MS. FEDER: Two things; we had -- our most  
24 recent meeting had to be canceled because we didn't have a  
25 quorum due to Rosh Hashana. And there was a request by



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1  
2 certain members of the committee that going into the next  
3 year we can take a closer look at when those holidays fall  
4 so we don't have the conflict so we can have a quorum for  
5 our meeting.

6 But also we had a really wonderful story  
7 telling event out on the green roof and on -- it was  
8 really well attended. We had between 40 and 50 people  
9 come to the green roof and it was well lit and there was  
10 donated food, three story tellers and it was a beautiful  
11 night. We had a really nice time.

12 So some really nice feedback from community  
13 members that these types of events are what people are  
14 looking for for rec in town for residents, so we are  
15 hoping to do more of that going forward. We are excited.

16 The committee is also really -- you know  
17 proud of the work that Tom Carroll did in his career and  
18 we are so excited to work with Matt going forward.

19 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Shade Tree?

20 MS. McHUGH: Shade Tree. Last month they  
21 were out divining all of the trees. This is a lovely  
22 group of people. They are very hard-working, very  
23 efficient. We have a meeting tomorrow and that is it for  
24 now.

25 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Parking

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1  
2 MR. GRAY: That is correct.

3 MR. MAISEL: So there will be some  
4 discussion during the workshop in two weeks and then more  
5 formal discussions in November.

6 MR. GRAY: Correct.

7 MR. MAISEL: So it is a very positive  
8 report. I think you know there is -- I specified and we  
9 specified a few items that didn't -- you can get your arms  
10 around because the enabling taxes and fines and parking  
11 make up a significant portion of our revenue and  
12 offsetting it are wages and police and all of that has  
13 been very predictable and right on schedule with our  
14 budget.

15 So there is a report out there that is  
16 available. It will also be online tomorrow presumably and  
17 that is where we stand.

18 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you.

19 You're next, do you have a HARB report?

20 MR. MAISEL: We have -- we are getting  
21 close on our fee schedule for developments. People will  
22 recall, we have been saddled with some significant  
23 expenses as it relates to the HARB reviews, particularly  
24 from developers that require a significant amount of  
25 resources. So we are working on a schedule that will

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1  
2 Facilities Committee. There is no report.

3 Finance Committee. Ken?

4 MR. MAISEL: Okay. So as of -- we had  
5 promised we were going to -- our Treasurer is here tonight  
6 to help me through this, if necessary.

7 But we -- through nine months and with the  
8 projected three months going forward, I think we are in a  
9 very strong position to say that we are going to have a  
10 very positive revenue surplus. Specifically attached to  
11 three items; the enabling taxes have been significantly  
12 higher than what was budgeted, the fines and parking are  
13 significantly up primarily because things have normalized  
14 in town.

15 And the additional parking revenues are  
16 based on increases insofar -- and have made for a  
17 normalized parking situation that I think we can better  
18 predict going forward providing we don't have another  
19 COVID situation or shutdown of any kind.

20 So those three items significantly offset  
21 an expense overage as it relates to -- but still creating  
22 a very positive surplus through the year on a projected  
23 basis.

24 So with that, I think starting in November  
25 we will start seeing a review of the budget.

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1  
2 attempt to offset those fees and those expenses that we  
3 have over the last couple of three years, we have  
4 unfortunately had to eat ourselves and should be shared by  
5 an applicant.

6 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you.  
7 Planning Commission?

8 MR. MEYER: Planning Commission met last  
9 night. We continued to polish a couple of ordinances  
10 coming forward.

11 Last night we spent most of our time  
12 dealing with the ordinance having to do with the  
13 preservation of historic resources outside of the historic  
14 district within the Borough. We are also working -- and  
15 that was something that Council had voted on previously  
16 and then got sent on to the Planning Commission and the  
17 Bucks County Planning Commission for approval.

18 Bucks County Planning Commission came back  
19 with a whole series of suggestions and modifications,  
20 which the Borough commission dealt with last night. That  
21 will be revised and resubmitted to Council. Presumably  
22 that issue will have to go back out for advertising more  
23 generally and back to the two planning commissions as per  
24 the normal requirements.

25 In addition we got to work on the -- why am

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1  
 2 I blanking?  
 3 MS. STOVER: Signs.  
 4 MR. MEYER: We are also dealing with some  
 5 questions having to do with the signing. And the most  
 6 important thing that we dealt with with a great deal of  
 7 detail is the issue of the pools and hot tubs, which the  
 8 -- again is going to be something that will have to come  
 9 back to Borough Council, be revised -- it has been revised  
 10 and revised and will be coming back. And that is  
 11 something that will be coming back to Council presumably  
 12 for a workshop meeting, then go back out for advertising.  
 13 I think I have covered pretty much  
 14 everything we did last night.  
 15 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you, Peter.  
 16 Do we have a Manager's report?  
 17 MR. GRAY: Just a few items. I did  
 18 receive some e-mails for public comment.  
 19 First one is from Marsha Mazzei. Council  
 20 has seen many changes, the Cretella project being the most  
 21 recent, and large developments in town is both welcome and  
 22 worrisome to this longtime resident.  
 23 What is worrisome to me is that large  
 24 hotels and condo developments will require significant  
 25 changes and remediation to infrastructure, if not yet,

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1  
 2 shops, it is awful to be constantly approached and  
 3 harassed from the staff out on the sidewalk to try their  
 4 products.  
 5 They now occupy another space close to  
 6 Ferry Market and are doing the same to all locals and  
 7 tourists passing by. They certainly should stay in their  
 8 space and off our streets to market their products.  
 9 Please respond that this situation will be  
 10 addressed as many other friends and neighbors feel the  
 11 same way.  
 12 This will continue to be monitored by our  
 13 police department and also investigated.  
 14 Next e-mail is from Mr. Clapper.  
 15 Many residents continue to be concerned  
 16 about the lack of information from Borough Council about  
 17 the status of the parking garage project. We know a final  
 18 business plan is not possible at this time, as costs will  
 19 be dramatically affected by the Union Square settlement.  
 20 Inflationary pressures on construction costs will change  
 21 the economics and it appears that several prospects have  
 22 solved their parking space obligations through alternative  
 23 means.  
 24 As taxpayers, with over \$500,000 of our  
 25 Borough operating funds already invested, actually a form

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1  
 2 then soon. What considerations are being made to  
 3 determine if potential costs and benefits balance?  
 4 If the water supplies will remain adequate?  
 5 All of the straws are in one pool.  
 6 Will Lambertville continue to take our  
 7 sewage or a new system built here and what cost?  
 8 Will additional police and fire personnel  
 9 be needed? How will that be paid?  
 10 Will we need a new high school?  
 11 What dollar and cents profits does New Hope  
 12 make from allowing so much expansion?  
 13 Years back Council meetings and the  
 14 bi-monthly topics were covered in our local newspaper, The  
 15 Gazette. Would it be possible to have someone on Council  
 16 submit a summary to the Herald? The paper does not cover  
 17 local meetings but print is a better way than online notes  
 18 to pass along important information to taxpayers.  
 19 All aspects of this project will be  
 20 considered as it goes before Borough Council and  
 21 Commissions.  
 22 The next e-mail is from Erica Winebrenner.  
 23 I am writing to express my dissatisfaction  
 24 of a local business on the corner of Bridge and Main. As  
 25 a New Hope resident who frequents downtown restaurants and

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1  
 2 of tax, we would at least appreciate an answer to the  
 3 following questions:  
 4 Number one; when do you anticipate the  
 5 business case for the parking garage will be completed?  
 6 Not yet determined. It is in progress.  
 7 Number two; what individuals will  
 8 participate in preparation of the business case including  
 9 the financial analysis?  
 10 Depends on the financing.  
 11 Number three; would you define the process  
 12 for a go/no go decision?  
 13 The project will be addressed by Council.  
 14 Finally, also another e-mail from Mr.  
 15 Clapper.  
 16 We request that the monthly accounts  
 17 payable or unpaid bill list be published along with the  
 18 Borough Council meeting agenda. The current practice is  
 19 to publish the list after Council's approval precluding  
 20 the residents from offering comments or questions to the  
 21 Council that may be of value.  
 22 Publishing after the fact is only  
 23 informational and does not encourage public participation.  
 24 And that is all I have.  
 25 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you so much.

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1 Any Solicitor comment?  
 2 MR. FENNINGHAM: None.  
 3 PRESIDENT GERING: Okay. Thank you.  
 4 Any public comments?  
 5 Mr. Clapper, you have three minutes.  
 6 MR. CLAPPER: I have never spoken less than  
 7 three minutes in my life. I do appreciate the opportunity  
 8 however to speak, Ms. Gering.  
 9 I must say that I am continued to be  
 10 disappointed and at a loss to understand why we don't  
 11 receive anything on the parking garage project.  
 12 I think as this moves forward without  
 13 definition, it concerns more and more people and makes  
 14 more and more difficult the possibility of getting the  
 15 town behind this project and I think that is a major  
 16 concern.  
 17 It has been over two years since we have  
 18 had any appreciable information on this project from a  
 19 design or financial standpoint. Perhaps we are not on the  
 20 same page as what I am talking about when I say a business  
 21 plan.  
 22 A business plan to me is the first part, is  
 23 the beginning of the definition of what kinds of revenue  
 24 do we expect out of this project? And second comes well  
 25

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1 obligation is paid off. And that doesn't even take into  
 2 account that -- you think inflation is hitting us now,  
 3 five years from now it will be double what we have. The  
 4 money system in this country is heading in that direction.  
 5 Better beware of it.  
 6 So that is an interesting story how people  
 7 started out with a great objective and ended up where the  
 8 town is now -- or the Township of Solebury has a potential  
 9 financial risk going forward for the next ten years.  
 10 And I, just like you, care so much about  
 11 New Hope that I don't want to see that situation occur  
 12 here. And I think we should be able to look at the  
 13 financial plan that Solebury did, the financial plan for  
 14 this project so that we can all get behind it and get on  
 15 board if it makes sense for the Borough of New Hope. And  
 16 I would like to see us produce this report.  
 17 And my three questions still remain  
 18 unanswered.  
 19 PRESIDENT GERING: Your three minutes were  
 20 way past, but go ahead.  
 21 MR. CLAPPER: May I request an extension of  
 22 one minute?  
 23 PRESIDENT GERING: Go ahead.  
 24 MR. CLAPPER: Thank you. So my three  
 25

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1 can we afford it or what are the costs?  
 2 I see this project proceeding just the  
 3 other way. We are working on the cost without considering  
 4 whether the revenue will be there to make it a positive  
 5 return on investment.  
 6 Let me call your attention to our neighbor,  
 7 Solebury Township, and what they have gone through in a  
 8 similar but different concept. So a couple years back  
 9 they had the idea, as you all may be aware of, that we  
 10 need to have a conservation program here, land  
 11 conservation program.  
 12 And their idea and the concept was really a  
 13 good one; we want to prevent or reduce the development of  
 14 Solebury so we can preserve its rural nature. And to that  
 15 extent, they went out and borrowed \$40 million for this  
 16 fund to preserve land -- either preserve land or buy land.  
 17 Do you know that next year's budget that  
 18 their monthly -- or excuse me, their annual budget  
 19 includes payment for principal and interest equal to  
 20 55 percent, 55 percent of their revenues from property  
 21 taxes. That is horrendous.  
 22 Even the financial manager of Solebury  
 23 Township said we have no room to increase our operating  
 24 expenses for Solebury Township until 2029 when this  
 25

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1 questions were -- straightforward is when are we going to  
 2 see a business plan that defines the revenue/expenses of  
 3 the -- recognizing that is a dynamic document that moves  
 4 forward and changes as you learn new things.  
 5 Number two; who is going to prepare the  
 6 business plan for us? Who has -- who is going to be  
 7 participated in that? Who has the experience to forecast  
 8 the revenues, identify the risks?  
 9 And third; and in the end, how is this  
 10 project going to be approved? That has never been clear  
 11 to me or to any other people in New Hope Speaks. I get  
 12 that question all of the time.  
 13 Is this a vote of Council and say okay we  
 14 are going to go ahead or is there going to be some form to  
 15 be identified of resident input? Could you answer that  
 16 for me?  
 17 PRESIDENT GERING: Mr. Clapper --  
 18 MR. CLAPPER: Yes.  
 19 PRESIDENT GERING: John, I will let you  
 20 answer maybe the question as to why they are not getting  
 21 information. I think we have been really clear that when  
 22 the time comes, there will be public meetings, there will  
 23 be public reports about how the finances are done.  
 24 We have a very competent staff. That is  
 25

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1  
2 what we will utilize and any other experts that we use,  
3 when that time comes it will all be public knowledge.  
4 Unfortunately we are not there right now.  
5 MR. CLAPPER: Why haven't we said this all  
6 along?  
7 MS. McHUGH: We have.  
8 PRESIDENT GERING: We have.  
9 MR. MEYER: I would like to answer that  
10 question because John and I have discussed this issue.  
11 First of all, as you yourself know in your  
12 comments, Mr. Clapper, there is the matter of settling  
13 Union Square. Until that is done, in other words, the  
14 possibility of our actual building a garage depends on  
15 what gets settled with Union Square. There is no schedule  
16 possible for completing the business case.  
17 In any event, let me point out to you that  
18 there is no basis we are expecting a business case. There  
19 is an expectation and there is a requirement that the  
20 Borough and the counsel representing the Borough develop a  
21 public case.  
22 MR. CLAPPER: I am sorry, I missed that  
23 last part.  
24 MR. MEYER: A public case, not a business  
25 case. A business case might take into consideration only

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1  
2 such things as returns on investment and other purely  
3 financial matters. All right.  
4 A business case might take into  
5 consideration only the finances. A public case takes into  
6 consideration some of the issues that come up before this  
7 Council, some issues of the quality of life of people  
8 within the Borough and a whole variety of other things.  
9 MR. CLAPPER: That is clearly understood.  
10 MR. MEYER: If I may --  
11 MR. CLAPPER: And at the end of the day --  
12 MR. MEYER: We let you speak, sir, I would  
13 appreciate it if you would let me speak.  
14 MR. CLAPPER: Sure. Go right ahead.  
15 MR. MEYER: Thank you.  
16 I would appreciate not being interrupted.  
17 Okay.  
18 Okay. The issue of a return on investment  
19 is only but one of a number of considerations counsel will  
20 have to examine. The individuals involved in any  
21 determination of the final public case or proceeding, that  
22 is to say the ones who are going to develop that public  
23 case is going to have to include whatever parties we  
24 engage with that are party to finances on this particular  
25 project if we go ahead with it. We don't know who they

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1  
2 are yet so how can we provide a business case or a pure  
3 public case?  
4 And finally, again the government structure  
5 under the Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
6 Pennsylvania; the go/no go decision that you are asking  
7 about is something that will be decided by vote of the  
8 Borough Council.  
9 Let me be very clear -- now let me go back  
10 and repeat something that I have said in this room  
11 practically monthly for well over a year. We will not go  
12 forward with a construction of a garage unless we have the  
13 capacity to handle the debt service without any additional  
14 taxation or any burden on the general budget of the  
15 Borough prior to when we build the garage.  
16 I have said that over and over and over  
17 again and I am getting tired of having to say it. I think  
18 that says that we are not going to go anywhere near the  
19 kind of situation that you're describing in Solebury  
20 because Solebury went out and borrowed the money with no  
21 idea how they were going to pay for it. We are not going  
22 to do that.  
23 I have said that over and over and over  
24 again and I am not sure I understand why it is that you  
25 insist on badgering us. Thank you.

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1  
2 MR. CLAPPER: Thank you.  
3 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you, Mr. Clapper.  
4 Next public comment. Pam.  
5 MS. KERR: Pamela Kerr, K-E-R-R.  
6 I just wanted to thank you for supporting  
7 the library. I think we are very lucky to have a library  
8 in the Borough as opposed to somewhere in the Township  
9 where everyone has to drive to and Borough residents get  
10 to walk to so I say thank you.  
11 I would also like to -- New Hope Arts has a  
12 new sculpture in the Borough just up from the library in  
13 the Judge Baldi Building by Cathy Begg and we will keep  
14 having more so that there is more and more of the outdoor  
15 sculpture projects but for now we have one more in town.  
16 Thank you.  
17 MS. McHUGH: Can you send me a picture of  
18 that?  
19 MS. KERR: I would be glad to. And if you  
20 can e-mail me and remind me.  
21 MS. McHUGH: Thank you.  
22 PRESIDENT GERING: Mr. Balderston. Thank  
23 you.  
24 MR. BALDERSTON: Joe Baldeerston. I will  
25 side step away from my original comment due to the

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1  
2 discussion about the parking garage.  
3 If there is litigation going on, why was  
4 the parking garage started while this litigation was going  
5 on? How much money has been spent to the engineers, the  
6 attorneys, everybody that has been involved in the project  
7 so far?  
8 And can you answer those two questions for  
9 me, please.  
10 PRESIDENT GERING: John?  
11 MR. MEYER: That is not something -- the  
12 dollar amounts I cannot expand to. I don't have them.  
13 MR. BALDERSTON: Can you tell me why you  
14 started the project with litigation going on?  
15 MS. McHUGH: Parking is a problem in New  
16 Hope, that is why.  
17 MR. BALDERSTON: Excuse me.  
18 MS. McHUGH: Because parking is a problem  
19 in New Hope.  
20 MR. BALDERSTON: Parking has been a problem  
21 in New Hope for years. You don't even know what parking  
22 was in New Hope. Back in the '70s this town was  
23 gridlocked with cars back down to Washington Crossing  
24 Park, out to 202 at Indian lakes. That is when there was  
25 a parking problem.

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1  
2 and that was going to be taken care of.  
3 Why hasn't that been done yet? Eight  
4 months ago we had a discussion about that, Peter.  
5 MR. GRAY: Yes. We do routinely go through  
6 the Borough looking for signs. If there is anything that  
7 is non-compliant, we address it and make the property  
8 owner aware of it.  
9 MR. BALDERSTON: It is eight months ago and  
10 that building still is a disgrace.  
11 MR. GRAY: We will take a look at it again.  
12 Maybe something has to be readdressed and we will be out  
13 there.  
14 MR. BALDERSTON: What about all of the  
15 people that comply? It is not fair to us that you allow  
16 that to go on.  
17 MR. GRAY: We will take a look.  
18 MR. BALDERSTON: It is not a good image for  
19 our town. Thank you.  
20 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Yes, Steve.  
21 MR. FIALA: Steve Fiala, F-I-A-L-A. I am  
22 not here on behalf of Riverwoods or anything in case -- I  
23 used to be on the board up there.  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Can you use the  
25 microphone?

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1  
2 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. This is -- I  
3 will repeat this, this is public comment. This isn't when  
4 you come up here and you try to get into a discussion with  
5 us. Okay.  
6 It was very nice that your answers -- you  
7 got your answer but this is not something that was on the  
8 agenda and it seems to be the same thing. So this is  
9 public comment. That is what it says on the agenda.  
10 MR. BALDERSTON: Thank you for that  
11 clarification.  
12 PRESIDENT GERING: Yes.  
13 MR. BALDERSTON: I am sorry. Are my three  
14 three minutes up?  
15 PRESIDENT GERING: No, you probably have  
16 another minute.  
17 MR. BALDERSTON: Thank you. Eight months  
18 ago I installed two temporary signs in the window of North  
19 Main Street. Two days after that I was told by the  
20 Borough I had to take them down.  
21 And after a long discussion I went and I  
22 bought the permit and I was allowed to leave them up. At  
23 the time that I had discussions with the Borough in  
24 regards to all of the illegal signs that are -- some of  
25 them pretty disgusting in town, mainly on Bridge Street

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1  
2 MR. FIALA: Sure. I am here on behalf of  
3 myself and numerous walkers in Riverwoods. Larry did a  
4 pretty good preemptive strike on what I was going to talk  
5 about but that is another subject.  
6 I am here to talk about speeding and what I  
7 would say is probably a 50 to 60 percent lack of stopping  
8 at stop signs in Riverwoods and Village II.  
9 Just this morning I watched a car drive up  
10 on Chief Cummings' rear end. The white car on Lakeview,  
11 did you see that one coming up behind you? Its about ten  
12 cars behind you, ten houses behind and all of a sudden  
13 riding on your bumper. They didn't know it was the  
14 Chief's car.  
15 Last week -- it was my fault, my dog got  
16 away from me and in the morning, he was struck by a car  
17 and was probably doing at least 40 miles an hour coming  
18 down Riverwoods Drive. I had a bright red sweatshirt on,  
19 I was in the middle of the street trying to stop them. He  
20 was busy looking down, have to assume that he was on his  
21 telephone or God knows what. The guy that lives across  
22 the street was jogging by, he was also in the street  
23 trying to stop him. He did stop. He hit the dog.  
24 Luckily he is an 80-pound strong as an ox  
25 Doberman. He was knocked over, he rolled three times and

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1  
2 three summersaults in the street. He's okay. If that had  
3 been a kid, he would be dead.

4 For those of you that live in Riverwoods;  
5 Dan does, Tina does, Peter does, Connie does. It is very  
6 good that we now have a lot of resurgence of young  
7 children up there. Good, bad or different, they play in  
8 the street.

9 They now have these what I would call a  
10 luge that they play on where they sit on these things that  
11 are about that big, laying on the ground and they shoot  
12 down their driveways into the street.

13 Tina, you have seen it.

14 MS. RETTIG: Yep.

15 MR. FIALA: At the -- during the spring and  
16 the fall, this time of year the sun is very low in the sky  
17 when you are coming home at four or five o'clock in the  
18 afternoon, you literally have to drive like this with  
19 sunglasses on. Someone is going to get hit.

20 When I was -- the last four years and I  
21 know Dan has been there, Tina has been there and Peter has  
22 been at some of the annual meetings. It is the number one  
23 topic of conversation. It is speed and the stop signs.

24 The vast majority of the people don't want  
25 speed bumps but the board is considering that right now I

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1  
2 But I also want and I know this is public  
3 comment and I am not asking you to answer it, but I want  
4 to go on record as saying I do hope that the Council  
5 supports the police department when it -- and if they do  
6 enforce the laws and the first time a lawyer who lives up  
7 there drives through a stop sign because he thinks his you  
8 know what doesn't stink, and he makes a big stink, that  
9 you don't throw the cops under the bus for doing their  
10 job. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Yes, Frank.

12 MR. DeLuca: Frank DeLuca. I had sent an  
13 e-mail last night, I didn't make the deadline, regarding  
14 the intersection of South Sukan and Old York and --  
15 regarding the road needing repairs and accidents happening  
16 there.

17 I happened to help an elderly man out of  
18 the car. His car fell in the ditch between the roadway  
19 and the guardrail. And I had sent pictures, I didn't know  
20 if the Borough got those or if you wanted to comment on  
21 when we can expect to see some repairs from PennDOT.

22 MR. GRAY: We did receive that last month  
23 and we did review it. I can meet with Mr. Carroll in the  
24 morning and we can follow up tomorrow.

25 MR. DeLUCA: Thank you.

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1  
2 am told because the residents speed and it is the  
3 residents. I know who most of them are. You see them all  
4 of the time.

5 The board -- just in case you're not aware  
6 of it or not, back umpteen years ago and as late as 2020  
7 -- I have copies here if anybody wants it. The board  
8 reiterated and gave the police carte blanche to do  
9 whatever they want on the streets, enforcing all of the  
10 traffic laws, rules and regulations.

11 And I know Chief and I had several  
12 conversations about it. It started out as pull them over,  
13 embarrass them, leave the lights flashing for 20 minutes.  
14 You have had enough time, word would get out. I haven't  
15 seen it. I have seen -- I talked to one officer one day  
16 when he was sitting on Deerpath and I asked him did you  
17 stop anybody yesterday? No, but I am enjoying seeing  
18 their necks snap when they realize he's there and they  
19 slam on the brakes. Again no citations, no lights.  
20 Nothing was done.

21 I am again mentioning that the police have  
22 the board's full support. The board couldn't be here  
23 tonight, their meeting is tonight. I did talk to them  
24 though, they are totally on board with enforcement of stop  
25 signs, speeding, whatever.

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1  
2 PRESIDENT GERING: Any other public  
3 comments? Yes, Mr. Duffy. Three minutes, Mr. Duffy.

4 MR. DUFFY: Well maybe you can spare me a  
5 couple more. I will try to do something for the Borough.

6 PRESIDENT GERING: If this is in regards  
7 --

8 MR. DUFFY: Ed Duffy, 23 Arden --

9 PRESIDENT GERING: If this is in regards  
10 to what you put here for Council to review, this is  
11 something that needs to be put on the agenda. This is not  
12 a public comment.

13 MR. DUFFY: It is just for your  
14 information.

15 PRESIDENT GERING: We are well aware of  
16 this. Okay. And I know you have met with Mr. Gray and  
17 Tom Carroll and I am not sure who else and they are all  
18 working on this. So I will save you the time. We will  
19 all keep this in our pockets but it is not public comment.

20 MR. DUFFY: It is not public comment?

21 PRESIDENT GERING: No. We have been  
22 working on it. This -- what you have got here is an  
23 agenda item.

24 MR. DUFFY: No, it isn't. It is  
25 information.

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1  
2 PRESIDENT GERING: We are well aware of it.  
3 MR. DUFFY: You had -- for you and so that  
4 when I make a comment you have something that -- to look  
5 at. But anyway, it is the usual treatment.  
6 The first thing I want to talk about --  
7 just a couple -- two comments.  
8 PRESIDENT GERING: Microphone please.  
9 MR. DUFFY: Sorry about that. There is a  
10 new thing happening that has been ungraded quite  
11 dramatically downtown. It is called tagging and it is  
12 tagging the poles, it is tagging the signs, the telephone  
13 poles, bridges throughout New Hope -- or downtown I should  
14 say.  
15 It is also being extended along the canal.  
16 When I walk down there I see the canal, I see tags there.  
17 Also painting, they are starting to do spray painting.  
18 The other day I was walking down the canal, all the way  
19 down over to Solebury where they have the cross -- the  
20 walk bridge, they were taking paint off of that because  
21 there was spray painting but nevertheless downtown has  
22 gotten so bad that I will leave this for your purview. I  
23 don't want to show it to everybody because it is vulgar  
24 tags.  
25 Okay. They are starting to pop up all over

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1  
2 MAYOR KELLER: So they attach this to the  
3 pole?  
4 MR. DUFFY: Yes, they place it like that.  
5 MAYOR KELLER: Besides the pole they are  
6 doing it more on the back of signs, any sign that you see  
7 -- this sign you will see anywhere from five to fifteen  
8 slapped stickers on it.  
9 MR. DUFFY: But they are upgrading what  
10 they are saying on the tags.  
11 MAYOR KELLER: Sure. Sure.  
12 MR. DUFFY: We need to chase these people,  
13 tell --  
14 MAYOR KELLER: It is not easy. It is about  
15 a seven second move, they are walking down the street.  
16 MR DUFFY: I am not asking for your excuse,  
17 let's take --  
18 MAYOR KELLER: I want you to give me a  
19 solution. How do we address that? Tell me how we do that  
20 when we have maybe 50 signs in town.  
21 MR. DUFFY: Officers walking the streets.  
22 Even they can prevent than rather have it happen.  
23 MR. MEYER: Are we looking --  
24 PRESIDENT GERING: Guys, this is public  
25 comment. We got into a big dialogue thing. This needs to

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1  
2 town. I have been walking in town as part of my exercise  
3 and pulling these things off but they seem to be coming  
4 back. So I don't know what -- how we can handle that but  
5 it is really taking the town down to have stuff like that  
6 on the poles and all over the place. There must be a  
7 thing -- there must be a way to handle that.  
8 MAYOR KELLER: For me anyway, as far as  
9 signage, Ed, I have seen it. They are just dropping signs  
10 on someone's lawn.  
11 MR. DUFFY: I don't think you have seen  
12 this, Mayor.  
13 MAYOR KELLER: You're talking about three  
14 different things. So which one do you want to talk about,  
15 the signs?  
16 MR. DUFFY: Tagging.  
17 MAYOR KELLER: If you want to talk about  
18 tagging when they slap the tag on the back of a sign, a  
19 speed sign or a stop sign or whatever.  
20 MR. DUFFY: Or telephone pole.  
21 MAYOR KELLER: Cell phone poles, it is a  
22 slap or did they tie something on there? Is it just a  
23 sticker?  
24 MR. DUFFY: You see it right there. What  
25 does it look like? It is a sticker.

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1  
2 be addressed, I wasn't aware of it. I think we can have a  
3 discussion about this.  
4 MR. DUFFY: I will discuss it now because I  
5 am downtown all of the time. It is part of my exercise.  
6 PRESIDENT GERING: Let people know -- I am  
7 not sure if it is a police matter or public works matter.  
8 This is public comment.  
9 What else do you have, Ed?  
10 MR. DUFFY: Yeah. The second item is  
11 number 1 West Bridge Street, that bodega, the windows. I  
12 am not sure what is legal there but they got posters  
13 hanging on the window on the outside. They also recently  
14 on one of the windows cut out the window. I don't know  
15 what they are using that for. Is that legal?  
16 It is really -- that place is a mess. Its  
17 been a mess, doesn't seem to be addressed so I am bringing  
18 it to your attention.  
19 Okay. And anyway I will be taking the  
20 information on the parks to the Park and Rec meeting so I  
21 will see you there.  
22 PRESIDENT GERING: Thank you. Any other  
23 public comment before we close down here?  
24 Yes. Jay.  
25 MR. FREEO: Yes. Jay Freeo. I promise I

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1  
2 will be very brief. Two items; I have heard probably  
3 about speeding at numerous meetings and I meant to bring  
4 it up in the past and just resurrected today with this  
5 latest issue with Riverwoods. And that is how -- I find  
6 very effective personally when I am driving, these warning  
7 signs you get that -- they must be solar operated and it  
8 tells you your speed as you enter.

9                   Personally it is very effective for me  
10 because if it is 25 and I am going 28, I better slow down  
11 sort of thing. My question is what is the process to get  
12 those; whether it be Main Street, you know Ferry or  
13 Riverwoods? What is the process to get those installed?  
14 I am sure there is a cost associated with them. I don't  
15 know. I just think that could be a very effective means  
16 of compelling people to slow down.

17                   Any initial comments on that?

18                   PRESIDENT GERING: That would have to be  
19 the Chief, even though it is public comment.

20                   MR. FREEO: That is fine. And the other  
21 quick question was I was curious if there was any outcome  
22 of the independent third party structural analysis of  
23 Cintra.

24                   MR GRAY: We anticipate receiving that  
25 report shortly. We haven't received it just yet.

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1  
2 public comment. That is why we give you the opportunity  
3 to send your questions in and Mr. Gray can answer them so  
4 he will have a prepared answer.

5                   MR. CLAPPER: When there is not an answer  
6 to the question, how do we participate in that?

7                   PRESIDENT GERING: I think Mr. Gray usually  
8 answers your questions. Some of them he answers you  
9 personally, unless you want all of your questions that you  
10 submit to be public, we can do that.

11                   MR. CLAPPER: I'm sorry.

12                   PRESIDENT GERING: I know there are times  
13 that Mr. Gray when you e-mail a question, he personally  
14 answers them for you and they are not put on the agenda.

15                   MR. CLAPPER: That is correct.

16                   PRESIDENT GERING: If you feel that those  
17 questions should all be made public, we can do that.

18                   MR. CLAPPER: Okay. So I can make that  
19 notation?

20                   PRESIDENT GERING: Correct.

21                   MR. CLAPPER: Thank you.

22                   PRESIDENT GERING: All right. Can I have  
23 a motion to adjourn?

24                   MS. McHUGH: I will make that motion.

25                   PRESIDENT GERING: Take care, guys.

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1  
2                   MR. FREEO: Okay. This was the report the  
3 inspector -- the third party inspector. Thank you.

4                   PRESIDENT GERING: Any other comments  
5 before we close down? Yes, Mr. Clapper.

6                   MR. CLAPPER: Yes. I had submitted a  
7 question that wasn't addressed in the public comment. I  
8 saw on the website that there were only two projects  
9 listed for the Borough; the Bridge Street project which I  
10 think is finished and the parking garage project.

11                   Are there any other projects the Borough is  
12 working on?

13                   PRESIDENT GERING: Did you submit this to  
14 Mr. Gray?

15                   MR. CLAPPER: Yes.

16                   MR. GRAY: We have no other projects at  
17 this time.

18                   MR. CLAPPER: There are no other projects.  
19 Okay. Great.

20                   And may I ask the difference between public  
21 comment and when we follow through the procedure you  
22 established of submitting to public comment where there  
23 were questions.

24                   PRESIDENT GERING: Mr. Clapper, public  
25 comment I think is self-explanatory, you just make a

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3 (The proceedings were concluded.)

4  
5 - - -



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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me in the above cause and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Karen W. Browndorf, RPR  
Official Court Reporter

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