

**Meeting Minutes**  
**State College Borough Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, April 15, 2019**

The State College Borough Council met in a regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2019, in the Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street, State College, PA 16801. Mayor Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and dedicated the evening's Moment of Silence in memory of Osaze Osagie.

**Present:** Donald M. Hahn, Mayor  
Evan Myers, Council President  
Jesse L. Barlow  
David J. Brown  
Janet P. Engeman  
Daniel Murphy  
Theresa D. Lafer

**Absent:** Catherine G. Dauler

**Also Present:** Terry J. Williams, Borough Solicitor; Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Thomas R. King, Assistant Borough Manager for Public Safety; John A. Gardner, Chief of Police; Roger A. Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager; P. Rick Ward, Director of Parking; Douglas Shontz, Communications Specialist; Dwight Miller, Finance Director; Deborah A.S. Hoag, Director of Public Works; Sharon K. Ergler, Assistant Borough Secretary; media and interested Borough residents.

Mayor Hahn acknowledged that Mr. Myers, Council President, wished to make an announcement considering recent events.

Mr. Myers stated that Council pledged last week to begin looking at the significant issues and challenges discussed three weeks after the shooting of Osaze Osagie. He reiterated that the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and the Centre County District Attorney (D.A.) must be as transparent and forthcoming with information about the investigation as possible. He said the Borough turned the investigation over to the PSP and the D.A. for several reasons including the desire for a fair investigation. He outlined several items that Council, the Mayor, and the Manager felt the Council and community could do to begin to heal and to bring up the issues of mental illness and racism in the community and understand how that impacts local institutions. He mentioned that during last week's meeting, when several protestors came in, he said the Borough would go down this road together to resolve it. He said these struggles and issues were hard to talk about, but the Council, the Mayor, and Borough staff would continue to move forward and work closely together with the community, Pennsylvania State University (Penn State), Centre County and law enforcement. He said they were committed to examine the overall response to those suffering from mental illness, the role that police play, and the relationship between police and communities of color. He said the collaboration between all stakeholders currently involved organizing two groups: one focusing on mental health services and police response, and the other will build upon the work stated by the Task Force on Policing and Communities of Color completed in 2016. He stated key stakeholders were Penn State administrators, students and faculty leaders. He said the Borough was currently evaluating the creation of an Office of Equity and Inclusion to help the Borough achieve its goal of a diverse workforce and police department. He said Council will hold public work sessions to discuss these issues and examine how the Borough will continue its commitment addressing diversity and equity in the community.

Mr. Fountaine commented that one of the commitments the Borough worked on following the events of March 20 was reaching out to community organizations to address issues of race and diversity. He said the Borough met twice in the past three weeks with the Campus and Community in Unity (CCU) group where they continued to converse about numerous issues. CCU will meet again in April and extend its regularly scheduled meetings into May and into the summer. He said that the Community Diversity Group (CDG) and Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) recently held meetings in the last three weeks. He said

Mayor Hahn and Tom King, Borough Assistant Manager, attended the SURJ meeting where they spent time working within that coalition to discuss these issues. He stated SURJ planned for a follow-up meeting later that week. He said the Task Force on Policing Communities of Color that issued its final report in 2016 was another organization that the Borough spoke to about the continuation of conversations on these issues. He said several Borough officials and staff continued to meet with community organizations and individuals including student leaders and others at Penn State.

### **Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens**

Karry Carr, a resident of 45 Ash Street in Bellefonte, stated she came to the meeting to talk about the death of Mr. Osagie and what it meant to the community. She said her head hurt for his family and friends. She said she had a 17-year old son with autism and the mental health issues. She stated she worked for 25+ years with people living with development disabilities in Centre County with Strawberry Fields and Skills and had extensive experience working with people living with mental illness. She said she was also a Site Manager for Out of the Cold, a local emergency homeless program. She urged Council and the Borough to remain transparent in the following weeks because the community must hear the truth and work together on solutions.

Jennifer Black, a resident of 100 Grandview Road, said she dedicated much of her professional life to studying the patterns and effects of police misconduct, use of force, and racialized policing on marginalized and targeted communities. She said she worked for a prison justice organization and spent ten years teaching these issues at Ohio State University. She said, as a long-term resident of State College, she experienced demoralizing and unnecessary harassment by the State College Police Department (SCPD) and University Police. She said she was stopped and questioned while simply walking down the street and while riding in a vehicle with other black people. She said her experience fitted the national pattern of how groups of young black people were patrolled and policed. She said that the national issues of targeting, criminalizing and pathologizing black people still occurred in State College. She suggested that the recent police shooting of Mr. Osagie must be seen and understood within the context of racialized police patterns. She stated while recognizing that State College's problem with racialized policing; transparency in the process; token recruitment; rigorous, mandatory bias training; requiring and implementation body cameras; and taskforces were all good first steps or subsequent steps, they were ultimately not enough. She said the only thing that will work to prevent another tragic event were repercussions. She stated that police must be held accountable for their actions and not permitted to kill people with impunity. She urged Council and the Borough to ensure that police officers will be held to a higher standard of decency; standards which reinforced civil liberties, human rights, and dignity. She stated that every resident of State College had the right to feel safe in their homes and to go about their business. She said she expected law enforcement to contribute to their safety and not threaten it. She said if the Council and Borough were not committed to this, they were wasting their time, breath and resources while ensuring the likelihood of future tragedies.

Melanie Morrison, a resident of 134 W. Main Street in Millheim, stated that she was a long-time resident of Centre County. She said her two sons of color experienced unequal treatment, discrimination and slurs, and felt disappointed by the lack of support and advocacy as well as outright denial of her reality from alleged friends and allies. She received disrespectful comments from people in the community about her family, which continued to silence her family's accounts to insert their desired narratives. She stated that attitude and action gave way to perpetuation of the idea that racism in Centre County was in no more than a convenient excuse rather than the truth. She said it was always a pervasive and underlying constant. She feared that one of her sons would fall victim to bodily harm due to bias and judgement based solely on the color of his skin. She said she had "the talk" with her boys about if and when they were stopped by a police officer to please follow certain steps, so that the police officer would have no "justifiable" reason to shoot them. She said despite the sighs and eyerolls, she will revisit this often in hopes it will be deep in their minds and it will ultimately keep them alive. She said the shooting of Mr. Osagie at the hands of those sent to protect and service him shook her and others to their cores, touching on real fears and experience. She said the lack of transparency and guarded speech by those in power gave them minimal hope for anything remotely resembling justice, but she will not go away and continue

to act and raise her voice. She said it was also currently difficult to get body camera and dash camera footage.

Phoebe Nussbaum and Michelle Mistler from Movin' On made an announcement about the sound pollution that will occur on next Friday, April 26, for the Movin' On Penn State- student-sponsored music festival. It will take place on the Blue Band IM Field and will be a free outdoor music festival. She said they will make every effort to adhere to their schedule and thanked the Borough for their continued support.

Akash Belsare, a resident of 1166 Oneida Street and current Penn State graduate student, reiterated the need for accountability. He stated that the community was not ready to heal at this point and urged Council to fire the officer that shot Mr. Osagie and also charge him.

Sabrina Evans, a resident of 850 Toftrees Avenue and a Penn State graduate student, reiterated transparency regarding the event and support for the Osagie family.

Leanne, a resident of 424 Waupelani Drive, wanted to second all of the statements made by previous speakers. She added that State College needed to reckon with the responses to mental health crises. She called for a mobile crisis response team made up by mental health professionals. She said by sending armed police officers for mental health emergencies criminalized mental health and puts people of color in danger. She urged Council to examine the reports by Mental Health America about alternative response methods.

Pat Vernon, a College Township resident, thanked the Council and community for remaining calm on last Monday evening. He said the tone set by remaining calm changed the whole situation. He congratulated the candidates running for Borough Council and welcomed the new University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) representative, Genevieve Miller. He said the previous UPUA representative, Tom Dougherty, was running for Council. He said Tom Dougherty was the third UPUA representative to run for Council after Dean Philips and Dan Chafee. He said Mr. Dougherty did an excellent job as the UPUA representative and wished him good luck along with the other candidates. He noted that the first student to fill the position was a former student of his, Ben Pugh.

## **Special Business**

C-NET – Cynthia Hahn, Executive Director of C-NET, updated the Council about C-NET's activities for the past year. She recognized Mr. Myers as the representative to the C-NET Board of Directors and she said C-NET benefited from his wisdom. She gave some highlights for 2018: C-NET staff and interns produced 460 programs; 2018 was the second year of implementation of C-NET's 2017 Strategic Plan; the State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) became a C-NET member in 2018 and the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority voted to become a C-NET member, effective in January 2019. She said C-NET covered other events like the two Women's Cultural Empowerment seminars in March and October, the AAUW Booksale highlights; the Central PA Festival of the Arts; the 2018 United Nations Day Dinner, and the "Progress on Climate Change in D.C." lecture, which were funded by the Borough through a longstanding community programming grant. She said the average number of online hits for Borough Council was 80 and the median was 65.

Mr. Myers praised Ms. Hahn for her leadership, professionalism and management skills at C-NET. He said he appreciated how much she accomplished with her excellent staff.

Mr. Barlow asked Ms. Hahn if any Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decisions affected C-NET's finance or operations. Ms. Hahn stated they had not yet impacted them, but the FCC put out a second notice of proposed rulemaking on a damaging piece of federal legislation that would reassign franchise fees. She explained that any and all support from cable companies to local access stations could possibly be deducted from the franchise fees paid to a municipality. She said there was congressional legislation that would not allow that rule to go forward, but she was unsure of its status. Mr.

Barlow commented that the National League of Cities (NLC) advocated on these issues during a meeting with FCC representatives. Ms. Hahn agreed it was a big threat if it happened.

Resolution in Support of Restore Pennsylvania – Mr. Fountaine presented the resolution to Council for their consideration. The resolution would support the Restore Pennsylvania Program, a piece of legislation introduced by Governor Wolf that calls for \$4.5 billion in investments for developing infrastructure for broadband, assistance for floods and natural disasters, for local communities to establish land banks and demolish blighted properties, expanded opportunities to remove lead and other contaminants, and other opportunities for environmental projects like infrastructure, parks and water systems.

Mr. Myers motioned to adopt the resolution. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

Mr. Myers commented that he was contacted by the Governor's office to talk about the resolution. He said the resolution focused on areas neglected by the state like economic development and infrastructure, broadband in rural areas, roads and bridges, and green infrastructure, acknowledging the occurrence of climate change.

Mr. Barlow fully agreed with Mr. Myers and expressed he would like for Governor Wolf to go a little bit farther.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lafer stated she had special business about recent news articles actively explaining the problems of the lack of internet access for the community, the state and the nation. She said it was the effect of corporations literally refusing to include representatives from Comcast, Xfinity, Verizon and others because it was not economically feasible. She stated that it was too late to do broadband because tomorrow 5G will be the new thing and the Borough will need to reinvest all over again. She requested that Council and the community stop looking at the issue in short-term and take everyone to 5G because of the economic need. She suggested that Council add an agenda item about 5G and putting money in to the budget for new technology.

Mr. Barlow commented that 5G is normally built off fiber, noting that this country was notoriously slow to change because of the cable monopolies. He recommended two books: Captive Audience and Fiber by Susan Crawford. He said both books explained the roles that fiber networks played in countries like South Korea and Sweden.

Stacy Garbrick, a resident from Madisonburg, PA, said the internet out in Madisonburg was one step above dial-up. She said it was not even broadband or was satellite on the roof or a box on the roof. She stated it was not good internet and that Verizon will not come out that way in Penns Valley.

Ms. Lafer stated a major political problem right now was the repetition of the rural/urban divide, a manufactured but real division regarding services. She said it was extremely important for that divide to disappear so that the Borough and Council would become able to provide the community with better services.

Mr. Brown said, at the risk of sounding inappropriate and politically incorrect, that Council, the Borough and community must consider the formidable resistance. He said he went through the campaign contributions to Pennsylvania State Senator Jake Corman and noticed that Senator Corman received \$10,000 from Comcast in 2018. He said it was critical to consider the obstacles and the amount of political money invested in supporting the other side. He encouraged Council to consider that too.

### **Consent Items**

Mayor Hahn noted someone requested Item 6A be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- Approve the closing of a portion of the 400 block of East Fairmount Avenue and a portion of Elk Alley, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., for the Alpha Phi Delta Block Party, on Saturday, April 20, 2019.

Ms. Engeman motioned to approve the following Consent Items. Mr. Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approve the closing of the 100 block of South Allen Street, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for the annual Rotary Ice Cream Festival, on Saturday, June 1, 2019.
- Approve, with conditions, the use of Sidney Friedman Park, on Saturday, April 20, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., for the Chinese Popular Music Association's Concert.
- Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable vouchers for the month ended March 31, 2019, totaling \$2,494,337.85.
- Award a contract for professional auditing services to Maher Duessel for the years 2019 through 2023, with options for 2024 and 2025.

### **General Policy and Administration**

UPUA Representative to Council – Mr. Fountaine stated on October 18, 2010, Council adopted Resolution 1030 approving the appointment of a non-voting Student Representative to Council. Resolution 1030 was amended in April 2019 at the request of the UPUA with Resolution 1206. The UPUA met in early April and voted to nominate Genevieve Miller, a representative from the student government, to serve as the Non-Voting Student Representative to Council. UPUA Student Body President, Laura McKinney submitted a letter requesting Council to approve their nominee, Ms. Miller. He stated staff recommended that Council approve the resolution approving UPUA's nomination of Ms. Miller to serve as the UPUA representative to the Council for a term effective May 1, 2019 and ending May 1, 2020.

Ms. Lafer motioned to approve the resolution and appointment. Ms. Engeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

National Citizens' Survey (NCS) of State College Borough Residents – Mr. Fountaine stated staff provided Council with an overview of the 2018 National Citizens' Survey from surveying of Borough residents in 2018. He said staff will periodically provide Council with an overview of the survey results of specific components or sections of the report. He stated Mr. King would review the Mobility section of the report and no action was required of Council at this point.

Mr. King explained there were eight different components of livable communities in the survey: safety, mobility, natural environment, built environment, economy, recreation and wellness, education and enrichment, and community engagement. He said the three pillars of livable communities included community characteristics, governance, and participation. In 2018, staff surveyed 5,000 randomly selected residents and received 898 responses. He said the Borough ranked higher than the national average for mobility in terms of community characteristics and participation. He explained that the area the Borough did the best was ease of walking. He added the Borough trended up in ease of walking and overall ease of travel but trended down in street repair and in sidewalk maintenance. He said the Borough exceeded in the bus and transit services area as well as higher in snow removal and street cleaning. He explained that the Borough did not do well with traffic flow and public parking but continued to trend down. He said bus and transit services continued to increase over the last several years. He said more people were carpooling and walking instead of driving. He explained that in terms of quality of life under each of the eight components, the only category the Borough did higher in was mobility and everything else matched the national benchmarks. He said the survey responders expressed the greatest interest in the categories of natural environment and economy. He pointed out that the pass and walkaway trails were above benchmarks. He stated the lowest overall scoring areas were traffic flow on major streets and ease of public parking.

Mr. Murphy asked how traffic flow was defined in the survey. Mr. King stated he did not know but will follow up with the survey contact person and pull out the exact questions.

Mr. Murphy encouraged people to complete the Bike Share Survey on Engage State College. He stated his Penn State colleagues discussed with him about the Ride for Five program, which incentivized individuals to take the bus, had increased its costs over the past couple years and had put more vehicles on the road each morning. He said the Borough needed further conversations about traffic flow and commuter traffic.

Mr. Brown suggested asking the consultant about the variance of the traffic flow accounted by the Atherton Street construction.

Mayor Hahn asked Mr. King to describe what was suburban in the survey. Mr. King stated it was everything south of the Parkway all the way out to Branch Road and University Drive into the Greentree and Tusseyview neighborhoods. Mayor Hahn noted that some of the numbers were higher there than other places. Mr. King stated the suburban area was geographically half of the surveys.

## **Planning and Zoning**

Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) – Mr. Fountaine updated Council on the recent meetings on LERTA. The LERTA District will provide the phasing-in of an increased assessment resulting from projects in the District based on parameters established by the authorizing ordinance. He asked Council to consider adopting the legislation to allow for a graduated increase in tax payments on improvements to properties in the historic downtown core of the community. He said the requirements of LERTA included taxing authorities to pass resolutions or ordinances for this to be a full implementation of the ordinance, which was scheduled for a vote during the May 6, 2019 meeting. He stated the LERTA District was also proposed by the State College Area School District (SCASD) and Centre County. He asked Council to consider the proposed LERTA District Ordinance for adoption, followed by a Public Hearing and further review meetings held by Council prior to final consideration. He explained the ordinance proposed for the Borough would only apply to adaptive reuse of properties that are within the ordinance and that were identified as historic properties in the Centre County's 1982 Historic Resources of the Centre Region survey. He suggested that Council set the Public Hearing date for April 29 and direct staff to provide the proper notice of the hearing. He mentioned that himself and Mr. Myers met with the SCASD representatives the previous week and discussed the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Myers proposed that Council accept what Mr. Fountaine suggested and set the date of the Public Hearing for April 29 at noon. Ms. Engeman seconded the motion.

Mr. Myers stated he believed the ordinance will accomplish and serve many strategic goals that Council and the community established for the Downtown area. He said it would help strengthen Downtown by creating more diversity in use and will ensure historic properties will be used and preserved. He said it would cut back on the dense housing that does not contribute to the diversity in Downtown. He reiterated the LERTA was in the public interest.

Mr. Brown asked if Council's approval of LERTA co-varied with the approval by the SCASD. Mr. Fountaine answered that the ordinance could be enacted by any or all the subsets of three taxing jurisdictions. He explained the largest impact by the LERTA proposal would require the SCASD to participate, but it could be adopted with or without the SCASD. Mr. Brown asked if Council approved it and the SCASD did not, would the Borough's approval continue, or would it fall unless the Borough rescinded the ordinance. Mr. Fountaine said the LERTA would continue unless Council rescinded the ordinance.

Mr. Vernon commented that he was not familiar with LERTA. He asked if the LERTA meant relieving some taxes on historic buildings in the Downtown area. Mr. Fountaine explained the LERTA phases-in the increased values for commercial historical properties that were redeveloped in Downtown, but it does not relieve taxes and would encourage taxes to flow to the SCASD.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Works**

West Campus Steam Plant – Mr. Fontaine said the Borough received notice of a plan approval application submitted by Penn State to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) on March 20, 2019. He said the application process allowed for a thirty-day comment period commencing from when the Borough received notice requiring comment submission by April 19, 2019. He said the application contained changes to the West Campus Steam Plant (WCSP) located at College Avenue and Burrowes Road. He explained the ongoing project shifted from coal to natural gas the WCSP in which the proposed modification would shift from boiler technology to a natural gas-fired combustion turbine with a heat recovery generator and associated duct burner. The newer technology would allow for electricity generation. He explained the Borough staff received an electronic copy of the complete plan approval and completed a cursory review. He stated staff recommended Council provide comments and ask that PA DEP address these four points:

- the overall impact of the air quality from the initial condition prior to the recent changes as though the group of changes were all proposed simultaneously;
- the review of total emissions on an annual basis for all regulated contaminants;
- the requirement for dispersion modeling to review the localized emissions for the same contaminants resulting from the reduction of the stack height; and
- the overall public health impacts of the combination of the WCSP projects.

Mr. Fontaine recommended Council authorize the officers of the Borough to file a comment letter with PA DEP requesting they address the identified issues.

Ms. Lafer motioned to authorize the Borough to file a comment letter regarding the WCSP. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Ms. Lafer commented that diesel fuel was going backwards. It was one step better than coal and two steps back from natural gas. She said it did not use the same burners and the diesel would leave more garbage in the air without any more warning. She requested the section with the use of diesel fuel be removed and taken out of the discussion and denied because it undermined previous efforts. She expressed her unhappiness with Penn State proposing the change.

Mr. Myers asked if there was anyone from Penn State available to answer any questions. Mr. Fontaine stated the Borough did not ask anyone to come to the meeting.

Mr. Myers commented that he opposed the location of the steam plant since the modifications were suggested and still opposed it. He said the steam plant was a clear and present danger to those living in that area. He asked Penn State to consider looking elsewhere. He said Council asked about air emissions and problems, but Penn State did not adequately answer their questions and the people who presented the study were proven by other folks that also testified that they did not investigate the dangers of the changes. He pointed out the use of diesel fuel as a backup and issue of the steam plant operating all year-round. He said the Penn State folks said it was permitted to year-round but did not indicate they were going to use the steam plant for year-round generation. He added that he did not know the impact it would have but based on studies on pollution and emissions it would likely be averse to the community.

Mr. Barlow suggested going beyond the commenting and demand that PA DEP hold a Public Hearing at nighttime on a weekday evening and invite the public. He said the comment period should be extended for 60 to 90 days. He said if the Borough asked it, they will have to do it.

Mr. Barlow motioned to amend the item. Ms. Engeman seconded the amended motion.

Mr. Fontaine clarified if the amendment included all three items or just the Public Hearing. Mayor Hahn suggested they start with the one amendment about adding the Public Hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Hahn stated that Ms. Lafer's diesel issue was distinct but admitted that Mr. Myers had an expansive list of issues.

Mr. Brown asked if the vote held for the Public Hearing warranted it must be held in the Borough. Mr. Fontaine was unable to answer the question because the air quality standards the state enforced were not local standards and there were no staff with expertise on air quality. Ms. Hoag stated the Public Works Department could make the request for the Public Hearing where the Borough would like the hearing, but the state did not have to adhere to the request. Mr. Brown stated it was a critical variable to discuss.

Mr. Myers proposed an amendment about the safety of the diesel fuel and impact of the steam plant's year-round operation. Ms. Lafer seconded the motion.

David Stone, a resident of 539 East Foster Avenue, supported Council's action for the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fontaine said that procedurally Council voted to approve the amendment to the amendment, but the amendment itself was not approved. Mayor Hahn clarified that the votes for the two amendments were separate, but the primary motion was not voted on at that moment.

Mr. Stone, a member of the Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition and the Highlands Civic Association, stated he met with Mark Huncik and Ms. Hoag about getting the two studies in front of PA DEP done by the developer and the Borough for conditional use for monitoring. He said it will hopefully peak PA DEP's interest in the location and would be helpful before the Public Hearing.

Mr. Williams noted there had not been a motion to expand the comment period beyond 30 days to allow that to happen. Mr. Barlow motioned to add the amendment to expand the comment period to 60 days. Mr. Myers seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Fontaine explained that submitting the reports from the separate project was not part of the consideration when staff reviewed the letter from Mr. Huncik earlier and stated the transmittal of those two reports should be included in the motion to provide as a comment.

Mr. Myers motioned to approve the amendment. Mr. Barlow and Ms. Engeman seconded the motion.

Ms. Lafer added it was one of many things that Council discussed and believed important to part of the comments that they send.

The motion for adding the comment period expansion amendment passed unanimously. The primary motion with the four amendments passed unanimously.

### **Official Reports and Correspondences**

Mayor's Report – Mayor Hahn discussed three items. He noted that sunset on April 19 will mark the start of Passover celebrating the exodus and freedom of slavery of the children of ancient Egypt following the Ten Plague. He said Passover ended on April 27. Next, he noted that April 21 was Easter when many Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Finally, he stated April 28 was Easter for Eastern Orthodox churches as dictated by the Julian calendar.

President's Report – Mr. Myers expressed his appreciation for all the comments made within the community comments for the last three and one-half weeks regarding the tragic shooting. He said the

outcome will hopefully began to address the evils of racism in our society then some parts of the incident would not have happened in vain. He believed that the community had started down that path.

### Regional Liaison Reports

*Executive Committee* – Mr. Myers stated the next meeting was tomorrow, April 16, and the Committee would plan for next COG General Forum meeting.

*Finance Committee* – Mr. Myers said the Committee discussed the approach to the COG 2020 Budget and the Committee voted on taking same approach as last year. He explained that the approach focused on each area examining what they believed would be necessary to operate for the future. He said the Committee discussed the need for a strategic approach over the next five years about fire protection rather than relying on the current volunteer force. He said those services would cost a considerable sum, but the Borough would need to plan for that change.

*Human Resources* – Mr. Brown stated the Committee did meet to discuss two issues: the new personnel policy handbook, which will need General Forum approval, and the procedural changes to how public comments were handled at meetings, which the Committee did review and refine.

*Parks Capital* – Ms. Engeman stated the Committee met on April 11 in which they discussed the regional park study and the addition of new playground equipment for Whitehall Regional Park. She said the Committee discussed moving the Musser Gap Trail and the extension of the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center lease from 40 years to 90 years. She said Penn State could close the lease off with a one-year notice, which is problematic because if the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center put up a building and Penn State closed the lease with one-year notice, Penn State would own the building. She said it was an unfair way of doing things.

*Public Safety* – Mr. Brown filled in for Ms. Dauler and noted the Committee marked the passing of Walter Wise, who was an influential mentor on the Committee. He said there were two major reports from Centre LifeLink and the Penn State EMS Group, both of which concerned the lack of meaningful reimbursement and the path toward critical financial issues. He said the reports discussed the shrinking volunteerism and the future of both agencies. Mayor Hahn noted that Walter Wise was a former Patton Township Supervisor and a member of the Finance Committee. He said Mr. Wise was a level-headed individual and significant force.

*Public Services* – Mr. Barlow attended the meeting on April 4 in which the Committee discussed the refuse and recycling bid that will cover the Centre Region. He said the other members of the Committee voted to put out a request for bid. The other item the Committee worked on was a presentation from Jim May on the Act 537 Plan, which examined the capacity of Borough sewer lines.

*Transportation and Land-Use (TLU)/Municipal Planning Organization (MPO)* – Ms. Engeman attended the TLU on behalf of Ms. Lafer. The first item the Committee discussed was an amendment to the outdoor illumination in Harris Township, which required no action. She said Jim May presented a comprehensive plan about the CHIP program. The presentation discussed unnecessary nitrogen capacity and an update to the housing report focusing on workforce housing and capacity for affordable housing. She said the Committee agreed to leave the plan for Meeks Lane Pump Station alone and they updated the Act 537 Plan. Ms. Lafer stated the MPO meeting will be later this month to discuss various traffic, roads and bridges projects.

*Ad-Hoc Facilities* – Mr. Murphy thanked Tom Brown for assisting him at the last meeting. He said the Committee prepared an RFP for a COG building space evaluation, received four bids and they rejected all of them. He said they will adjust the scope of the RFP because one of the proposals suggested a potential expansion of the COG building, but options for expansion were limited. Adjusting the RFP will address space needs for Centre Region Parks and Recreation and open space for Codes Administration.

*Centre Area Cable Consortium (CACC)* – Mr. Fontaine stated the CACC did not meet.

Manager/Staff Reports – Mr. Fontaine stated the Year-To-Date Financial Reports were included with the agenda and Dwight Miller was available for questions. There were no questions.

Student Representative Report – Ms. Miller thanked Council for confirming her and she expressed excitement to work with everyone. She hoped to work on incentivizing students, especially students of color, to stay in State College after graduation.

**Adjournment**

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Sharon K. Ergler  
Assistant Borough Secretary

Prepared by: Melissa J. Krug, Administrative Assistant