

## REGULAR MEETING

WENESDAY

7:30 P.M.

JUNE 7, 2023

This regular meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance by President Mark D. Tortorice with the following Members of Council present:

RC-1           **PRESENT: BRANDON HALE, GREG LOMBARDO, MARK TOTORICE  
DEBORAH THOMAS, ROBERT BETTERS**

**ABSENT: DOUG JUNECKO, KENNETH HRESKO**

Also present were, Solicitor Falco A Muscante, Malisa Migliori, Borough Manager, Don Glenn, Engineer, Chief David Petruski, Mayor Hranics.

Executive was held to discuss personnel and legal issues.

**MOTION: Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting on May 3, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

RC-2           **Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried**

**MOTION: Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, "To amend the minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 3, 2023 to adjust Ordinance No. 2023-655 to 2023-656 to 2023-657 and 2023-658."**

RC-3           **Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried**

### **COMMENTS FROM CITIZEN:**

1. Jim Borkowski-Secretary at the Fire Company here this evening to discuss the Firemen's Fair on August 26, 2023. He said there will be a parade at 5:00 p.m. just like last year with the same parade route. He asked Council permission for the fire company to use the basket ball courts as a secured area to let off fireworks. He said he has the insurance policy for the Borough and the fireworks permitting is through the state. He also said he has the contract for the band, Dallas Marks secured for the fair and asked if Council would consider making the donation towards the cost of the band. He said the band discounted rate for Port Vue is \$1,000.00.
2. Ed Jones: 413 Pasadena Drive, is here this evening to let everyone that there will be an official flag ceremony. He thanked Bob Betters and the road crew for doing a great job at the war memorial and also hanging all the veteran flags. Mr. Tortorice thanked Ed for doing a great job with the flags at the cemetery. He said he's having some health issues right now. He announced, "Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day and the Legion will be having a flag burning ceremony." He invited everyone to come. He discussed Fun To Be A Kid Day and the items they have for their booth.

3. Pauline Bryner-1623 New York Avenue, said she's working with Senator Brewster's officer to get handouts for the kids for the FTBAKD event. She asked if we could supply the tent.

She also asked Council to enforce high grass at the vacant 1619 New York Avenue lot next to her. She said it can't just be cut because it's so high. She said there's animals and garbage in the alley too and the address is 1608 Trimble Avenue in the alley is where the garbage and rats are.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:**

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** Gave his report at the caucus meeting.

**MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Hranics gave the following statistics:

The Mayor had the following report for May, 2023. The police had 93 calls, 15 non-traffic citations, 18 traffic citations, 12 assisting other departments and 8 calls assisting E.M.S., the balance of the calls were for various reasons such as animal complaints, disabled vehicles, disturbance, etc. The Mayor also 2019 Ford Explorer was 829 and expenses were \$232.30, the mileage on the 2021 Ford Explorer was 2,191 and expenses were \$200.91.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** Mr. Glenn gave his report at the Caucus Meeting.

**SOLICITORS REPORT:** Solicitor Muscante reported there are several ordinances in different stages that Council is working on. There will also be motions made to advertise other ordinances with the intent to adopt.

**CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC SAFETY, FIRE AND AMBULANCE:** Mr. Hale gave the fire report for May 2023. He also announced the Fire Company will be having a bingo this Sunday at 1:00 and the tickets are \$20.00.

Mr. Hale gave the garbage collections for May: Current Garbage collections report for \$3,795.40 and delinquent garbage collections were \$348.00.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, "To add to the agenda and to advertise for the Emergency Services Ordinance #2023-660, providing for cost recovery."

RC-4 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To adopt Resolution No. 2023-008, with the exception of Tortorice Auto in the amount of \$20.91 and Mark Tortorice for \$50.00"

RC-5 Yeas: Mr. Hale, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Betters, Mrs. Thomas,

Abstain: Mr. Tortorice - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To adopt Resolution No. 2023-008, with the exception of Jennifer's Cleaning Service in the amount of \$800.00."

RC-6 Yeas: Mr. Hale, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Tortorice, Mrs. Thomas

Abstain: Mr. Betters - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To adopt Resolution No. 2023-008, with the exception of Howell Rescue Systems in the amount of \$1,540.00."

RC-7 Yeas: Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Tortorice, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Betters

Abstain: Mr. Hale - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, "To adopt Ordinance No. 2023-658, of the Borough of Port Vue, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Ordinance No. 409 Section 227-11 adding language to Building Inspector their designee or an Arborist or any other qualified individual."

RC-8 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, "To advertise Ordinance No. 2023-659, of the Borough of Port Vue, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Section 287-3, Section II, authorizing the Code Enforcement Officer or designee the authority to determine when a limb, tree branch, or foliage is impeding the safe usage of a street, sidewalk, curb or alley."

RC-9 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To accept and ratify the 2022 Audit, financial statements and legal advertisements by Mark Turnley CPA."

RC-10 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Betters' "To accept the monthly reports for May, 2023 as presented."

RC-11 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, "To advertise Ordinance No. 2023-660, recovery of costs for the Fire Department."

RC-12 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**CHAIRMAN OF RECREATION:** Mr. Betters gave the following report. He announced and reported on the Fun To Be A Kid Day meeting and event. FTBAKD will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2023 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Betters reported on the repairs at Kennedy Square. He stated the public works and Mr. Tortorice did the restoration and saved the Borough over \$15,000.00 and Mr. Tortorice just volunteered his services. He said the memorial Izzy Steiner stone has been replaced and the old one moved to the lot

over across from St. Joseph's. He also mentioned the war memorial has been repainted, cleaned and the landscaping redone including new mulch. He also thanked Don and Joe with their technical assistance. He announced the demolition projects have been awarded and should be starting very soon. He asked residents to be alert and careful when driving, the Borough will be out painting yellow and white lines.

**MOTION:** Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To adopt Ordinance No. 2023-657, of the Borough of Port Vue, County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania amending excavation Ordinance 306 of 1978"

RC-13 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo: "To authorize Steel Rivers Council of Governments to award and authorize the Blight Project 2021-GEDTF-050 to Dave Woodhouse in the amount of \$75,000.00 and Borough share of \$3,300.00 as recommended by Don Glenn Engineering."

RC-14 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, "To ratify payment to Dive Rescue International for the Diver Communication Box in the amount of \$2,400.00 from the Fire Fund."

RC-15 Yeas: Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Tortorice, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Betters

Abstain: Mr. Hale

**MOTION:** Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, "To approve Resolution No. 2023-009, Slums and Blight for vacant and dilapidated structures located within the Borough of Port Vue and whereas, ACED through the Community Development Block Grant Program has funds available for the removal of such structures."

RC-16 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Betters moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To authorize and ratify Resolution No. 2023-011, the Borough of Port Vue requesting funding through the Greenways Trails Recreation Program in the amount of \$250,000.00 and \$143,471.00 Borough match for flooring and air condition at the Recreation Center."

RC-17 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE:** Mrs. Thomas, gave the following report:

May 2023 current real estate collections: \$217,200.04

Delinquent: April 2023 delinquent collections \$17,561.63

Delinquent: May 2023 delinquent collections \$17,965.51

Lori DiMarco is requesting tax software. The tax software is \$1,299.00, (a one-time fee). The maintenance and support are an additional \$1,200.00 annually. This is the tax software used by some of the surrounding municipalities.

Real Estate taxes are now due at the Face amount.

Malisa is in the process of the State pension audits, uniform and non-uniform by the PA Auditor General's office.

Mr. Tortorice will report on the Borough Audit exit conference on May 22, 2023.

Please refer to the binder for reports from the auditor.

The close out reports for the Utility Terrain Vehicle, Vibratory Roller and reimbursement for the steel garage were submitted and approved by the Community Trust Board on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**CHAIRMAN OF STREET AND LIGHT COMMITTEE:** Mr. Lombardo reported the paving project is delayed until mid July.

He stated we have an excess of salt left over from last year's contract. The Borough will have to pay \$10.00 per ton on the excess by December 13, 2023.

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, "To authorize filing application for Act 152 concurring Resolution No. 2023-010, authorizing the filing of an application for CDBG Funds with Allegheny County Economic Development in the amount of \$40,500.00."

RC-18                      Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, "To hire seasonal employee Brodie Maksin, starting June 1, 2023 at \$7.25 per hour"

RC-19                      Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mrs. Thomas, "To approve new tax program, Tax Logix for Lori DiMarco Tax Collector in the amount of \$1,298.00 plus seven (7) month prorated maintenance training in the amount of \$700.00 with reimbursement of half the cost from South Allegheny School District."

RC-20                      Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, "To ratify removing 1801 New York Avenue, Lot and Block 464- A-095 from the condemnation list."

RC-21                      Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, "To ratify Rock Salt Contract for 2023-2024 winter season with Cargill Salt Inc."

RC-22                      Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried



P.O. Box 2798, Camden, NJ 08101

05/25/2023



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BORO OF PORT VUE  
1191 ROMINE AVE  
MCKEESPORT PA 15133-3515

**For Service To:**

Account Number: 1024-210039632431  
Service Address: 1191 Romine Ave  
Port Vue, PA 15133-3515

Dear Boro Of Port Vue,

We recently received several questions about rates and billing for wastewater service to Port Vue customers. We wanted to provide all Port Vue customers with some additional information related to the recent rate increase and its impact to your monthly Pennsylvania American Water wastewater bill. The PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) recently approved a wastewater rate increase, effective Jan. 28, 2023. Pennsylvania American Water operates under single tariff pricing, meaning that most customers, except for recently acquired systems, pay the same rate for our wastewater service across the Commonwealth. Since our company acquired the McKeesport wastewater system in 2017, your rates had remained below our regular wastewater rates due to a step-in process over several years. The new rates established by the PUC in January 2023 brought Port Vue s rates up to be consistent with Pennsylvania American Water s base wastewater rates for the first time post-acquisition. The average monthly residential wastewater bill for Port Vue customers increased by \$45.03 (73.1%).

When reviewing customer inquiries, we found that the second step increase from the new rates established by the PUC in 2021 was never implemented for Port Vue customers. Your rate of \$1.3297 per 100 gallons in 2021 was supposed to increase to \$1.500 per 100 gallons on January 1, 2022, but that increase did not occur due to a billing programming error. As a result, you were underbilled throughout 2022. We are not seeking to go back and collect this underbilled amount; however, when the latest rate increase went into effect in January 2023, it made the charges on your recent bills appear larger by comparison.

The new rates established by the PUC reflect the more than \$1 billion in water and wastewater system investments the company will make through 2023 to continue providing safe and reliable service. Over the past five years, Pennsylvania American Water has made approximately \$57 million in system and plant upgrades in the McKeesport area, including \$5 million in wastewater system upgrades in Port Vue Borough that s an investment of approximately \$5,400 for every local customer, including you as a resident or business in Port Vue.

If you need assistance paying your Pennsylvania American Water bill, we have programs that may help. Under our monthly wastewater discount program, income-eligible households can receive monthly bill discounts between 30 and 80 percent. We also offer hardship grants to customers who qualify and can work with you on a payment arrangement to pay off the balance of a past-due bill over time. For more information, visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com) and click Customer Assistance Programs under the Customer Service & Billing tab.



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Esto es un aviso importante sobre su servicio de agua / alcantarilla. Para la ayuda de la traducción, por favor llamas a Pennsylvania American Water al numero 1-800-565-7292.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania American Water Customer Service





WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR

# BILL PAYING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Learn about our H2O Help to Others program and other assistance available to you and your family. We hope you can join us.

For more than 30 years, Pennsylvania American Water has been assisting low-income customers who qualify through its H2O Help to Others Program™ through grants, discounts and more.

**WHAT:** Pennsylvania American Water Community Resource & Assistance

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 8, 2023, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Food vendor will also be onsite.)

**WHERE:** Port Vue Borough Social, 1191 Romine Avenue, Port Vue

### **Pennsylvania American Water and Dollar Energy Fund team members on hand to discuss:**

- Bill payment assistance programs – overview and benefits
  - H2O Help to Others Program (emergency grants, bill discounts and conservation kits)
  - Payment arrangements
  - Budget billing
- Eligibility requirements
- Application process
- Tips to reduce water usage and lower your bill

Not able to  
join us?



“Our customers are at the center of everything we do. We never forget that at the end of every water pipe there’s a family depending on us to provide this important and essential service.”

— **Justin Ladner**, President, Pennsylvania American Water

Scan the QR code or visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](https://pennsylvaniaamwater.com). Under **Customer Service & Billing**, select **Customer Assistance Programs**.



PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING™

To calculate the wastewater usage charge on your bill, we multiply the cost per gallon by the number of gallons of water you use.

Follow these simple tips. It's good for the environment, and helps save on your water and wastewater bill.

## SAVE WATER

# REDUCE YOUR WASTEWATER BILL

### CHECK & FIX LEAKS

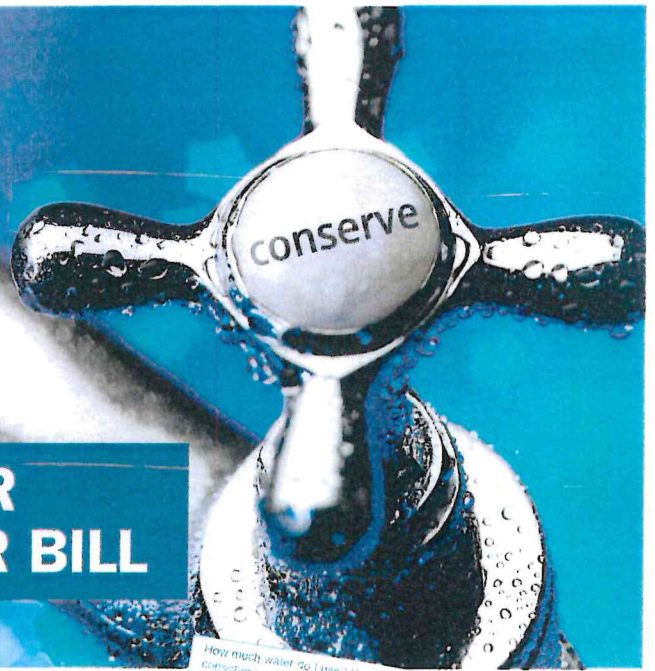
Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day, and not fixing them is like throwing money down the drain. Check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems periodically for leaks. And, if you find any, fix them!

### TOILET & FAUCET LEAKS

- **Toilet leaks.** Leaky toilets can easily go unnoticed. To check for toilet leaks, remove the lid from your toilet tank, and drop a small amount of food coloring into the tank. Wait 10-15 minutes. If food coloring appears in the bowl, you have a leak. Repairs may be needed or the flapper valve adjusted. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)
- **Faucet leaks.** Faucet leaks are easy to detect. If your faucet drips, or worse, continues to keep running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is hot, it is also costing you money to heat the water. Water dripping from the showerhead when the shower is off, or running out of the bathtub spout when the shower is on, is usually caused by bad washers or seats that need to be replaced.

### LEAK KIT

The faster you can identify the source of a leak, the faster it can be fixed. If you suspect you might have a leak, our helpful and easy-to-follow leak detection kit can help you find it.



### HOW MUCH WATER DO WE USE?

**Every household is different.**

Pennsylvania American Water is a member of the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

Check out their online Water Calculator. This tool allows you to input water use information specific to your household and offers tips on where you can save water and energy based on that data. To access the calculator, visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com). Under Water Information, select Wise Water Use.





## Assisting customers in need for decades

### H2O HELP TO OTHERS™

For more than 30 years, Pennsylvania American Water has been assisting customers who qualify through its H2O Help to Others Program™.

### WASTEWATER SERVICE ASSISTANCE

- Grants of up to \$500 per household per year.
- A 30% to 80% discount on the total wastewater charges, which saves the average residential customer using 3,212 gallons/month \$42.00 to \$88.18 every month.

### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code or visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com). Under **Customer Service & Billing**, select **Customer Assistance Programs**.



## LOWER YOUR WATER BILL BY USING WATER WISELY

Follow these simple water-saving tips and start saving today!

### IN THE BATHROOM

- **Take shorter showers.** Bathrooms account for the largest water consumption percentage in homes. Showers alone use five gallons of water per minute. Consider installing water-saving showerheads.
- **Turn off the water while shaving or brushing teeth.** You can save eight gallons of water per day while brushing and 10 gallons per shave.

### IN THE KITCHEN

- **Wait for a full load of dishes.** This can eliminate one load of dishes per week and save the average family nearly 320 gallons of water.
- **Scrape, don't rinse.** Before washing dishes by hand or in the dishwasher, scrape them; don't rinse first.
- **Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the fridge** instead of letting the tap run until the water is cool.

### IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- **Wash only full loads of laundry** or use the appropriate load size selection. Wearing clothes more than once can also help to reduce laundry loads and save water.
- **Consider purchasing EnergyStar™ rated washing machines.** They use less water and energy per load.

### OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

- **No need to water every day.** Instead, only water as needed. Depending on the weather or type of plants/turf, you may find that you only need to water once or twice per week.
- **Water late in the day or early in the morning** when the sun is low to minimize evaporation.
- **Collect and store rainwater** in a rain barrel and use it to water your outdoor plants.
- **Use a broom** instead of a hose to clean patios and sidewalks.
- **Choose drought-resistant plants** or native plants. Plants native to the local conditions have the benefit of being able to thrive within them. And, they often require less maintenance and water.
- **Use a hose nozzle on your hose** to better control the flow you are using. Place hoses carefully to avoid watering unnecessary areas like sidewalks.
- **If you use a sprinkler, check sprinkler heads** to make sure they're not watering paved or unwanted areas. Be sure to turn them off when it rains.
- **Mulch plant beds to reduce weeds and preserve moisture.** NOTE: over mulching can stress plants. Only two to three inches are needed.
- **Use a bucket of soapy water** rather than leaving the hose running when washing your car or take your car to a car wash that recycles the water.
- **Bathe pets outdoors** in areas that need water.

Size of continuous leak	Gallons wasted per quarter (at 60 psi)
1/16"	74,000 gallons
1/8"	296,000 gallons
3/16"	666,000 gallons
1/4"	1,181,500 gallons



Interested in learning more about the assistance available to customers in Port Vue Borough? Join us for the Pennsylvania American Water Company Community Resource & Assistance Fair 1 PM to 3 PM at the Port Vue Borough Social located at 1191 Romine Avenue, Port Vue 15133.

Pennsylvania American Water has several wastewater bill paying assistance programs to help keep the water flowing for customers who qualify. Members of our team will be on hand to help determine your eligibility, assist you in completing the application and answer any questions. Not able to join us, but interested in learning about Pennsylvania American Water's assistance programs? Visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com). Under Customer Service & Billing, select Customer Assistance Programs.

Dollar Energy will be in attendance to assist in determining eligibility and PA American Water – H2O Help to Others. A food vendor will be available. Water conservation kits will be available on a limited and first come basis.

We hope you can join us.

Would you be interested in learning more about how to save on your wastewater bill?

Pennsylvania American Water is hosting a customer assistance program enrollment event at the Port Vue Borough Building at 1191 Romine Avenue, from 1 – 3 p.m., on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Pennsylvania American Water offers financial assistance for wastewater customers who qualify. Our team members will be on hand to help determine your eligibility, help you in completing the application and answer any questions. Not able to join us but interested in learning about Pennsylvania American Water's assistance programs? Visit [pennsylvaniaamwater.com](http://pennsylvaniaamwater.com). Under Customer Service & Billing, select Customer Assistance Programs.

Dollar Energy will be in attendance to assist in determining eligibility along with PA American Water – H2O Help to Others Programs. Complimentary food and beverages will be available.

We hope you can join us.

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, “To approve and award El Grande Paving of Block Alley in the amount of \$27,570.00 from the CDBG 48 with Borough share of \$7,570.”

RC-23 Yeas: Unanimous - Motion Carried

**MOTION:** Mr. Lombardo moved, seconded by Mr. Hale, “To ratify all Departmental and inter-governmental transfers during the month of May 2023.”

RC-24 Yeas: Unanimous-Motion Carried

Mr. Tortorice announced that this is the Borough’s 27<sup>th</sup> year of the annual Fun to Be a Kid Day event.

He relayed information we researched regarding the increase in sewer bills. He stated there was a computer glitch and Port Vue didn’t get the increase 2years ago. We had a conference call with the advocate with the Attorney General’s Office. They stated PAWC has done everything legally. Our increases hit all at one time. Several questions were asked and they said even though they didn’t increase it in increments can they put all the increases on the residents of Port Vue at one time. They said yes. Another point is outdoor water usage that is used. The residents are getting charged for the water that isn’t being treated by PAWC they said it’s legal and allowed to do it. We have to talk to our state and local representatives to help change these laws. Mr. Tortorice said because of the strict DEP regulations then you have to come into compliance. If the higher agencies are making the sewer companies to regulations and standards, then they should get funded and increases not be passed on to the rate payer.

The manager read a letter from PAWC regarding the rates and increases. (for the record attached is the letter).


Malisa also wanted to remind everyone about the utility assistance fair here at the Borough tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. this can also be done over the phone or online.

**MOTION:** Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Betters, “To Adjourn”

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Malisa M. Migliori  
Borough Manager

Approved by:

  
Mark D. Tortorice  
President of Council