



**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE
SPECIAL SESSION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AUGUST 15, 2018, 7 P.M.
PHILLIP L. PITTORE JUSTICE CENTER
25 SOUTH UNION STREET
MINUTES**

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

Mayor DelVecchio called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. and he read the following statement of compliance into the record: This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act with the meeting notice provided to the Democrat, the Times, the Bucks County Herald, and to the list serve on Friday, August 10, 2018, to department heads on Monday, August 13, 2018. The meeting agenda was posted on the Bulletin Board at City Hall on Friday, August 10, 2018.

ROLL CALL.

Members present: Councilwoman Asaro (phone), Councilman Sanders, Councilwoman Warner, Council President Stegman, Mayor DelVecchio.

Absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor DelVecchio led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

The City Clerk led the public in a moment of silence in honor of those serving in the United States Armed Forces in Country and Abroad.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor DelVecchio welcomed Amanda Burd back to Lambertville. He nominated Amanda to serve on the Office of Emergency Management. Councilman Sanders made a motion to confirm the Mayor's nomination. Council President Stegman seconded the nomination. An affirmative roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor DelVecchio addressed the members of the public and said, it was Ok to be passionate, but be respectful of different opinions.

CLASS 3 OFFICER.

Mayor DelVecchio welcomed the public and introduced Dominick Puzio, a friend of Councilwoman Warner who is a State Law-Enforcement Officer and Active Shooter Instructor and Dr. Lou Muenker, Superintendent of Schools.

Dominick Puzio (State Law-Enforcement officer Active Shooter Instructor.)

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Mr. Puzio gave the following overview to the members of the public present: He has 18 years plus experience in law enforcement and has been teaching active shooter for 10 years, instructs, Somerset SWAT, Monmouth County, is Nationally certified through Department of Home Security, FEMA for home civilians, companies on active shooters, handles threat assessments for the state and for private companies

He commented that he is not here to sway anyone but instead to provide information to make their own information.

Mr. Puzio reviewed the Bill that created Class III Police Officers, a position created just for schools, class III police officers are not for other activities, have police powers to and from, and assigned at the facility, 9 – 5 or 7 – 3. The Bill is to alleviate the cost by posting a full-time police officer(s), offers no benefits. There are 65 officers throughout the state. The salary range is \$17 - \$35 per hour.

What is a class III police officer? The precertification requirements were reviewed and include: separation of service by 3 years (no more), governed by the Attorney General, qualify every 6 months, subject to policies and procedures of Attorney General, go through a psychological, medical review, and drug testing. After hired, submit waiver to PTC to obtain approval. Mandates: cannot carry concealed weapon, must be presented. Authority of police department, check list was reviewed.

Qualifications Handout was reviewed: authority for job, boundaries, performance objectives that must be met – 32 performance objectives. Whatever training academy those are the ones that are required to make sure they meet the performance objectives.

Question from the public: specifically, to be in school – any training to be with the children? Mr. Puzio responded: Yes, reviewed the training performance. Diversity training, opposite sex, transporting females, cover

Question from the public: middle school high school, elementary school, children different. Needs to be different types of training. More about training for elementary school. Mr. Puzio commented that training is up to individual academy. EDPs – class that academy creates to make sure the officers met objectives. For instance: they have classes to teach how to address a large ESL population.

Question from the public: Hours of a police officer are they from 9 – 5 – does that mean they will have police officer type duties while in school? Mr. Puzio commented no other job assignment they are there to work in the school. While they are in the school will they be doing anything other than looking out for active shooters; like checking ids, looking out for suspicious minorities? Mr. Puzio commented they would do whatever the police department assigns to them. Maybe their responsibility is to check ids – patrol the parking lot.

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Mayor DelVecchio asked the Police Director if he had any conversations regarding this with the school? The Police Director responded: No – nothing specific but they are not there to snoop or be a police officer to that extent, they are there to provide security, uniformed presents which is a deterrent, they are not there profiling.

Mayor DelVecchio asked Dr. Lou if he had any thought where that person will be located. Dr. Lou indicated that he did not.

Question from a member of the public: we have an immigrant community, does that officer have the right to question if I am a citizen? The Police Director commented that the Attorney General's office has directed the police to not ask, no one can check any one's status.

Mayor DelVecchio, Councilman Sanders and the Police Director met with the public to discuss that the City police doesn't do ICE work. We wanted them to understand that our police are nothing to fear. If they see criminal activity then they have to do something. If a child feels comfortable with a police officer, he is going to tell them something, building report is important.

Marsha O'Connell: Q research suggests that idea, necessary that police officer is from that community, critical that that person be from the community,

Mr. Puzio responded that it is not required but he lived in this town for years, now resides in Raritan Township.

Council President Stegman asked what the uniform would look like for a Class 3 Officer. The Police Director responded it is a regular police department standard order uniform. Dr. Lou added that they are allowed khaki pants, badge, contains class 3 patch.

Council President Stegman commented that because there are three different schools, what specific training is available currently for a police officer to get training with k 1 -2 -3. Mr. Puzio responded that through general police training, different aspects and different training. I take classes with sexual – I'm not going to make up things, not sure what each individuals police academy handles it. Don't know specific.

Council President Stegman asked to your knowledge there is no specific training/discipline for k – 1 -2 – 3 and that's all you deal with all day long.

The Police Director commented that it probably covers a spectrum of ages, generally with young people. DARE – doesn't exist anymore. Mayor DelVecchio asked the Police Director if he could find out from local academy?

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Lauren Braun Strumfels asked about ACTIVE SHOOTER and who prepared it? Puzio. Second – experience and knowledge with existing officers. Size – small school – three hallways, not compact - how are they stationed in a school? BC – not in one specific location. We have PD going through the school on a daily basis – stop in check in with the staff walk around – part of our daily security visits. Can’t guarantee we can do that. PD interact with children daily.

JoAnne DelVecchio asked if they have videos of curriculum taught in classes to share with the members of the public so we have a better sense of what is taught. Children in Elementary School may be nervous and want to know “why are you here, why do you have a gun, was I bad?” Kids process differently, so how are questions being addressed. We don’t want the kids to not want to go to school and it may be an issue dependent on their nationality. This is an age group that questions. Mr. Puzio responded that the trainings are confidential so that the bad guys don’t understand the training being received.

Councilwoman Warner asked the Police Director if there is any way for us to determine where candidates obtained their certification from and what curriculum they were trained in. The Police Director commented that he would know, and can have a member of council look at it as part of the hiring process. The main training provided by the police academy is the same training received by all candidates. A review of their certifications will show the curriculum they are trained in.

Jim Gallagher commented that he thinks class II trained officers have the required training. It is probably likely that someone who applies may not have been trained yet. The Police Director commented that the city would hire first and then train. Councilwoman Warner asked if we recommend they go to a certain academy based on the curriculum. Mr. Puzio commented that performance objectives are universal.

A member of the public asked for the definition of a juvenile? Mr. Puzio responded that a juvenile is defined as a person under the age of 18.

Council President Stegman asked if an adolescent is the same. The Police Director commented that it was probably students in grades 2, 3, and 4.

The Council President asked if this meant they complete SRO training within 12 months of training and then come into our school without training? Mr. Puzio said that is why most districts hire 3 officers, send 1 to training while the other 2 are on the road. Mayor DelVecchio commented that the City is talking about hiring 1.

Question from the public: the we should be more focused on looking into the person we are hiring. Real world experience. 18 years of law enforcement – something I haven’t seen, the state can’t train me to see that, need where with all, comes with the hiring who we are going to hire, that’s where we should be focused. 25 years, they have a record. During a background check if

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you submit to that, we would be able to see any complaint that person had against them. To alleviate – profiling – about picking the right person, setting the standard.

Question from the public: We don't have the data yet. Not well established in schools yet. We need data to know if this will reduce gun violence in schools. If you look at every towns, research.org. there is no national data yet on whether or not you would reduce violence in school. There are some reports where people claim it may have led to things not happening, guns go off in school. In absence of data we should be waiting for the rest of the school. Best way – comprehensive gun safety laws – prevent, second best gun laws in the country. NJ should not be doing the experience, we have the laws. Let the other states start gathering data. More than we accidentally injure students.

David Morgan: explained he had 27 yrs. in law enforcement, Ewing Township has had a police officer in the school for 20 years. They've worked from grammar to high school and developed wonderful relationships with school. Contact Ewing Township to get information. They coached teams, developed repour become part of fabric. They are focused on training, and during course of one's law enforcement, you are trained in many aspects of policing. I have a graduate degree; how many teachers have a graduate degree? You would be hiring someone who has spent many years in the police field, and they are trained in many areas, not just active shooter. Hats off to legislature.

Councilman Sanders commented that he read the statute, and he questioned if they need to have 25 years' experience as a police officer. Mr. Puzio responded by saying you have to be a retired police officers, (service retirement) 25 years or beyond, with a pension retirement. We have a pool of folks we are taking from, younger than 65, as of Monday 65 certified officers. Councilman Sanders asked if we have a sense from the school board association, from schools that have hired these folks, what kind of pool of applicants we are looking at? Mr. Puzio responded by saying, I will be 47 when I choose to retire. The pool is officers who are within 3 years of retirement, they are 48, 49, 50 years old.

Councilman Sanders asked how many school buildings; is there a pool of applicants; do we have a sense of what that may look like? The article in newspaper indicates there are not enough folks training to go around. Mr. Puzio responded that in his opinion, jobs that pay \$17 per hour may have problem obtaining applicants. You are getting more applicants at \$35 per hour than \$17. There are some school districts with private security. This is an alternative. Even if city decides they don't want to hire a class III officer, the School Superintendent can hire armed security guard. SARS card from State police, security guard, armed, minimum security with no minimum training. They would report directly to the superintendent. Class II reports to the police department.

Jim Gallagher: commented that he is interested in class III and wanted to keep the discussion on that. There are a lot of advantages in hiring a Class II Officer. The Class II Officer was created to

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alleviate the cost concern. It could cost up to \$100,000 which would be split between school/municipality.

Matt Larkin: commented that in Parkland, Florida the retired officer got scared and hid. He asked about interview techniques. The Police Director responded that he can't interview preliminary to determine how they will react. Reactions vary time to time. Mr. Larkin asked about the interview process. The Police Director responded that it is a general interview to assess ability and their work history.

Mr. Puzio commented that in that instance (Parkland, Florida), he was not a retired police officer but was a sheriff's officer.

Liz Magill-Peer asked where are we at in the process? The school board approved. Is the city council also to approve? Mayor DelVecchio responded that in a normal situation, I could hire a police officer. This is not funded, and needs an agreement. The City needs school board money to fund it. And the governing body will vote on interlocal agreement. Funding agreement has nothing to do with hiring.

Mr. Puzio responded that the school can't hire a police officer. Council President Stegman asked if they (the school) can hire security? If city decides we don't want to approve it what happens? Mr. Puzio responded that it is up to superintendent of school. Council President Stegman asked two things: one – retired after 25 years, using yourself as example. If you retire – 65% of end pay, full medical, benefits, what is the motivation? Mr. Puzio responded two girls in college and I'm 47 and can still work. The passion is inside you that's what you have done and what you want to do until you can't any more.

A gentleman from the public responded that he is a Hopewell Township Police Officer who serves and protect students of district. We work one of the worst schedules in Hopewell; 3 days off, 3 days nights (6:30 – 6:30 for 3 days) (off 3 days and then back to days). The driving force is the schedule. I am happy with my career, but it is time for a schedule change, but still love policing. I taught DARE for 12 years; Adopt a cop for 8 years; youth academy, this was all part of the training. I am also trained in Autism training, special needs, group homes, juvenile and adults, there is an immense amount of training annually.

Council President Stegman asked who sets the schedule of what an SRO does during the day? The Police Director responded that they work with staff in school and there are no iron clan functions and the guidelines need to be created. We need to generate the policy. Council President Stegman asked can you share? The Police Director responded yes. What do they do with down time, the number of students? 250? How productive can someone who has this training be utilized for additional tasks or assignments within that day?

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Mr. Puzio commented that it is better community relations, for instance, when the officers are outside patrolling when kids are out on break, just like patrolling school and grounds – and is a deterrence.

Council President Stegman commented that he had family in the police department and mentioned the brownie camera. He just wants to make sure the person in the school is able to convey that.

Megan Warner asked about sensitivity training, in particular to students that may be LGBT community or have questions with gender identity? Mr. Puzio responded that they provided diversity training. Ms. Warner asked if it was fully encompassing? Mr. Puzio responded yes, we go over gender specific.

Liz Magill-Peer asked if the council was voting on whether or not move forward tonight? Mayor DelVecchio responded they were not.

Council President Stegman asked what the school is doing on psychological to notice children may have a problem? Mr. Puzio responded that it would negate why we need an armed officer. Council President Stegman asked what the school is doing for the physical plant while every classroom is vulnerable.

Liz Magill-Peer asked what other schools are doing to introduce to the children? Mr. Puzio responded that in Howell they brought officers in an auditorium and introduced them to the students.

Mayor DelVecchio commented that we are here because the school board that represented Lambertville voted to do this.

A member from the public commented that there are two different buildings, this is a specific building in a specific place, is this a fit for every community in a regional district?

Mayor DelVecchio said in following up to Cassandra, this is a bifurcated system. The school voted to fund, but the decision is up to the town of Lambertville. The decision to approve interlocal agreement is the one thing the gov body votes on. Cassandra asked if you were to vote no, does it kill the guard totally? Mayor DelVecchio responded no they could get a guard.

Cassandra Jackson gave the following: What we are here is to express is what kind of community we in Lambertville want. What relationship we in Lambertville want. What kind of education, what kind of safety, and what kind of town and city we want to live in. many have moved here precisely because this has always been a community that has fostered a welcoming environmental amongst every spectrum – welcomed minorities, LGBT community and that is special to Lambertville and to us. It's been discussed here tonight, on a broader spectrum of data

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and statistics and district wide, plays part in decision making process. Statistics are good to study and understand. What else have we done? I know Lambertville does have the school have active shooter drills and I presume the police are involved, given that the precinct so close. The Police Director, Bruce Cocuzza commented that it is a fast response time but that is always contingent upon how many officers are on call, or on a domestic where two officers are needed.

Mayor DelVecchio commented that the City has had DARE officers in the school for years, not sure in terms of your question how this changes our community. Cassandra Jackson responded, we have a special community and that needs to be considered. Concerns are substantial number of minorities, many who are marginalized, disenfranchised and feel unsafe in this environment. Mayor DelVecchio responded that is why we worked hard to provide photo ids for people. We work with our resources to help the 10% of our community who are Latino. We tried to work with them to understand their needs; how we can serve their needs better; we formed the Human Rights Commission which was initially committed to the LBGQ Community, but steered it to address Latino community. I understand what you are saying but not a radical change in direction from what caused you to move here. A member of the public who is a neighbor of Cassandra Jackson responded I feel encouraged by the conversation about how these men or women are trained to become intertwined with community to make kids feel safe. I feel that what we know about active shooters, school shootings, the data we do have and do know, resource officers are not a deterrent, 4/5 largest mass shootings in the United States – including Columbine had an armed security personnel on Campus. Very few active shooter shootings end by school resource officer engaging, they end by suicide by the shooter or because unarmed civilians have disengaged the shooter. We have, I feel, as a community we want to foster a safe community. I leave the house and walk down the street go into her house (Cassandra Jackson), a special thing that not too many communities have today. We do that not because we have a police officer but we have come here with understanding, hate has no home here, takes a village, all here together maybe eutopia of community as we can. We all have our personal opinion, armed officer in our elementary school creates an environment that make our children feel less welcoming of a community.

Mayor DelVecchio responded, so you think that a DARE officer in school on a regular basis did that? Look, I am encouraged that the police department are there more often, not always slowing down in front of school. I think seeing the police around community and then the same officer in school is good. My sons came home from school last year and told me that some of the Hispanic students were upset and afraid that their parents wouldn't be there so how would they feel seeing that in school. Mayor DelVecchio commented that is exactly why we met numerous times with Latino population so that they understand that we don't do ice work. We communicate with Fisherman's Mark to communicate with that populations to understand that we are not ice and we don't do that work.

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Filomena Hengst addressed the governing body. She thanked them for the forum to share views, she reiterated that this is community driven. I am realizing different cultures from West Amwell to Lambertville. Dan and Nicole voted against it – Ann abstained, Meagan had to leave early. Karen voted for it. I had a good relationship with police, and have mixed feelings, I am trying to understand where community is coming from. I just wanted to share the vote. Not a better option to have a security guard for people who don't want guns in a school.

Meagan Warner responded, you bring up something interesting, skirting around it a little bit, if your consensus is that you don't want someone with a gun in the school you need to be able to say that – instead of trying to find 500 different ways – just say it.

Mr. Puzio asked if there were any more questions. He needed to do surveillance in Bayonne at 5 am. Mayor DelVecchio thanked Dominick Puzio for his presentation.

Mayor DelVecchio made an announcement: there will be no sweeper this week. The Borough of Frenchtown borrowed ours because of a tough couple of days. They had a bad fire and asked for sweeper to do some work. Some people lost jobs and we have opportunities available. We are helping to match people with jobs and are trying to help out another river town.

County of Hunterdon Prosecutor's Office – was not present.

Mayor DelVecchio introduced Dr. Lou Muenker, Superintendent, South Hunterdon Regional School District who gave the following presentation.

Good evening: I don't want to match my May meeting. We had the same conversations that evening. Let's go back 43 plus years; before education. Steve (Council President Stegman) for a second, brownie camera, Steven can reference that time period where 50/60's as a student I was ducking my head under desks because of Cuban missile crisis. Things settled and we stopped ducking heads. Then fire drills. Tremendous because of inadequate fire codes, massive loss of life. That changed too. Today you are less likely to have a school building burn down, but we still practicing fire drills although the chance is very slim. I wish on August 15, 2018, I wouldn't need to be here about critical response, teaching our students to duck into corners because we are training them with lock down drills in the event that we have people in buildings. The elementary school was built 1968. You would never build a school like that in 2018. We didn't know what we know now about student/staff safety. They don't design buildings with glass walls. Council President Stegman asked why haven't you moved forward? Dr. Lou responded it's a piece, a different conversation with facilities. Student safety is at the top of list. Council President Stegman commented that you are proposing armed guard, where is the other part of the band aid? Dr. Lou asked for him to let him finish. The charge is having safe schools. It includes good facilities. We address facilities in the vestibule is the addition to help prevent students/parents coming right into the office. All within confines of ability to do so with the budget, we have the highest part of the budget is with the staff salary, healthcare and pensions.

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But we try every year to look at facility to enhance, upgrade, renovate, to comply with 2018 building codes. We are charged with finding best path to see what's the best affordable plan. All will involve stakeholders. School board represents each of our communities. This is a safety issue, creating a safe environment requires a number of practices, some can share. The children in system you know we practice drills on regular basis. Each year we learn a little more, its good, new best practices. The State requires best practices. On June 4 we had a day seminar on safety and best practices. We lock doors and in the 60s 70s, they built elementary schools with entrances going into classrooms and the teachers opened the doors to get fresh air. You would never think about that in 2018. Can we get better? Absolutely and there is no rush on this topic. The governing body can take time to get feedback. No pressure, I've asked the council to consider moving forward. I would be remiss to not look at it as additional safety. We have it at just a high school, your children are no less valuable in elementary school than at the high school. Chances of tragic event is very remote. We can talk about statistics but we have not connected to it like in Sandy Hook, the Amish school in Lancaster. We need to get in the front of it but it doesn't mean it has to happen today. West Amwell Township will be moving forward. They had 18 applicants and the school was invited to participate in the hiring process. I hire paraprofessional to revolve around a "fit." I want the best person with skill set and staff. We interviewed, a paper screening was not part of process. Kevin (Hopewell Township Police Officer) talked about his resume and background and I would grab him in a second. I rely on director and the police in West Amwell Township. The plan is to move forward with three officers, Hopewell, Flemington and one other. Councilwoman Warner asked if the City could co-develop responsibilities. She is concerned and feels that recess could pose a problem because of access to main street. The students are out during lunch, recess, in the morning when children are dropped off. Dr. Lou responded that they know how busy the courtyard is in the morning and again at 3:15 p.m. This is a coffee clutch city we have Vern out there with traffic but we would feel better with a trained class 3 helping. Dare programs went away 6 years ago because of the lack of evidence for value. In my own experience, kids get a lot out of the relationship with the police officer. West Amwell is still teaching. Will engage in classroom activities

Dr. Lou continued saying he had a higher level of confidence with a Class III officer. Can they co-developing job responsibilities with municipalities? Yes, but it is more on the school as daily experience. Once in the school, the school takes over with lesson plans, safety, dare curriculum. There is a pleather of opportunities. If Lambertville does not do it, it is up to school board to go in another direction. Body scan technology in our schools, other schools have metal detectors but we do not have either in in Lambertville/SHSD. This is a different era. The concept of an open campus is rapidly disappearing. We can't say not in our community. We want the right person and we will need to reassess the program. Discipline is on the school not the police officer. If a student is found vaping in bathroom, school still handles the processes; a child with weapon processing first at school and then to local police. The Class II Officer is not to have any aspect of discipline. If we start early you can make great inroads with kids. The level of understanding and respect doesn't happen for all kids but it shouldn't stop us from making attempts. We have a

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lot to do. The times have changed and it is hard to keep up. Bullet proof glass is cost prohibitive. Renovations take time to fund and time to consider.

Marsha O'Connell commented that she has tremendous respect for law enforcement and is a member of Moms Demand Action in Gun Violence in America. The only people who should have guns are law enforcement. No one else should have guns. She is in favor of Trained SROs. However, about gun safety. She is not naive but doesn't want to feed into this culture with another gun somewhere especially around little kids. Every 48 hours a 2 yr. is killed by a gun. Accidents can happen. We just don't know. Wish they didn't have a gun. The thought of guns in school chills her to the bone. The location of the school is within close proximity to the station in Lambertville. We have come to learn that these incidents are over in minutes. If there is a possible way to have someone on sight that is feet away we have a much better chance.

Matt Larkin: both brothers are police officers. My issue is that I don't think about emotion; we are not designing a good deterrent system. We would be much better off spending this annual salary on the physical needs. The school is poorly design process.

Dr. Lou even with additional enhancements, there is no guarantee that we won't have an incident. Mr. Larkin asked if we looked at redesigning the plant. Dr. Lou commented that enhancements that cost millions vs \$31,000.

Council President Stegman had a question for people who don't want guns in the school. Certain hours, certain activities, all outside the building. Is there a middle ground? It would cost more money to retrofit a building to protect from drive by shootings. Would having an officer in a car on school property instead of in the school work? Dr. Lou commented that it would mean a change from a Class 3 to a Class 2 Officer and financing would be an issue. An officer in front of the school? Dr. Lou said he can't say he is diametrically opposed but it needs to work within a budget. I don't know what that dollar amount would be but it would have some merit. Council President Stegman commented that the concept to me seems that if we vote no and God forbid something happens and its deemed if there was an SRO in that school it would have saved one life. Dr. Lou said he agreed with the Council President. Council President Stegman continued and said I think there is a middle ground. I understand of all three schools this is pretty exposed. This school might as well be at the curb as far as vulnerability. Why go into school with gun when you have fish bowl in the front of the building. The board hasn't decided what they want to do with the building. In the meantime, you have a vulnerable building. Your board passed SRO inside the building. We are trying to preserve how we have grown to love Lambertville without putting an armed individual inside the building.

Ellen, a resident of our community commented that she is coming to you as mom of 3, people keep referencing different tragedies, we have recess on state highway, on a hill with tree line coverage and they are sitting ducks. If you are buzzing a person in, the secretaries have so much responsibility. If they just patrol outside I don't see value of it. Why not build repour, see

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something say something. Friend not enemy. It would be nice, it's a great community but things are happening. I would not want to not do it and have something happen. Disappointed that Lambertville has not started with the Class III Officers.

Mayor DelVecchio commented that he didn't know how Class III in the Township of West Amwell was hired without an agreement in place. We don't have flexibility in our budget. I asked for it and once we got the interlocal agreement it started the discussion.

Ellen, a resident of Lambertville asked what if the officer is called to the other side of town?

Cassandra Jackson made the following comment: I appreciate what you are saying, I just bring it back to the focus, as a community, we are spending money on it. The comments made before, the data, solution, best way, what if scenarios, all great explanations. If you look across the country, putting children in contact with police, it's not issues with white children but children of color have different trajectories. Worth weighing the risk with the benefits action as an emotional check the box. Research the best way to protect.

Dr. Lou asked the Mayor of Stockton, Tim Nemeth to speak about his experience because this is his field of work.

Tim Nemeth gave the following overview: He has a daughter at LPS. He is a school resource officer in Raritan Twp. with 15 yrs. experience. He can speak about training. The basis is three prongs: security, and deal with police issues also about teaching as resource. He was taught how to do lesson plan and instruct in front of a class. If there are concerns about what they are doing he suggested they do a dare, lead program. Raritan Twp. Police Department has officers in Hunterdon Central. They have a large Spanish population. He has talked to ESL kids, expressed concerns. Can be great relationships. The third tasks are to mentor and deal with any kind of issues kids have. You need to know who to put them in touch with. Every year they develop more relationships, they feel like staff. The active shooter program focuses on other things between mental health CIT training and is prevalent with drug issues partnered with Hunterdon drug wariness. Today's focus is fentanyl overdose. It doesn't have anything different in Raritan than Lambertville. The elementary school in Lambertville's main entrance is an issue. Kids want to be nice, they love to open doors and you are only as safe as weakest link. Can be a great relationship with community.

Dr. Lou commented that he is heavily invested in psychology of our children social emotional counseling support, student assistance officer. The theme is "be kind." They are doing all those things we think matter; morning meetings with our kids. Respect anti-bullying

An identified person from the public asked: what grade? Dr. Lou responded that it is currently being done at the high school level and they are talking about it in Lambertville's elementary school.

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Matt Larkin; frankly, I don't want my school resource officer engaging with the students. I like the idea of someone not engaging with kids but focused on who is coming and going safety 24/7 walls and barriers. I am quite frankly disappointed and feel that physical barriers are best things to do. That's the system that has to be more effective and durable than human beings.

Dr. Lou commented that it isn't a quick turnover in our community. However, we would be remiss if we didn't talk about mental aspect of the social of our children all the way up to 12 grades. Making sure you are taking care of that aspect when they are going through the system.

David Morgan commented that maybe it's someone already on campus, maybe Johnny brought his father's gun to school. Opportunities of this happening could occur any place and it is unfortunate.

Cassandra Jackson commented that she is a new school board member. I think we have to be really careful assuming the question is what if that person is out there and we didn't hire them. We are talking about 1 gun or 2, the fact of matter is that it isn't what has been happening. Because I am not trained I don't know about marksman ship training; sharp shooter in foreign legion taking someone out. What constitutes safety? Discipline is a piece of it. If a fight broke out is it part of his job to address that? Could this person handcuff a child? Dr. Lou responded: no, adult breaks it up could be teacher, aid, not the responsibility of a class 3 officer to put cuffs on third grade kids. He clarified and said discipline is my responsibility, they will come to us if they walk into the bathroom and 2 kids vaping. Cassandra asked if they are bringing kids to principal? What about drugs? Dr. Lou responded it is handled just like we do now, school first then call police. Not in to police schools.

Mayor DelVecchio commented that the city's police could be there in 30 seconds; what difference can it make? Dr. Lou responded that it wasn't what we heard from the director. Two kids vaping, comes to school first, test what's in the cigarette. If it's an illegal substance it gets processed with police. Mayor DelVecchio asked about shooting up? Dr. Lou said, no difference. Mayor DelVecchio asked is it a violation of law? Dr. Lou responded, we process first. The Police Director commented if actual crime police have to take action in conjunction with school. Mayor DelVecchio asked: where does it end? The police director commented: crime. Not class 3, outside police. Mayor DelVecchio commented: not sure you need a police officer. The Police Director commented: then you are missing out on the primary role which is security and safety.

Cassandra Jackson commented that there are no answers. She is not understanding if a police officer sees a crime then it's their judgement what then happens? Dr. Lou asked Tim Nemeth, what do you do? Mr. Nemeth responded: incident, social media, kids in elementary grades sexting. Could be manufacturing a 4th degree crime. There are diversion programs that come into effect. So many things I can divert. Most call me when they are dealing with it. Rights of the juvenile. Family based counseling and a lot of it is a judgement call.

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Cassandra Jackson commented that she would like to think that would happen but there is a young man in Georgia in jail for sexting, is my kid going to be handcuffed for something that another kid did? Aspire to utopia doesn't make us utopia. People see me and they think "you shouldn't be here." The fact of the matter is that a group of students showed up at the welcome week and the police were called. I am hearing different answers.

Dr. Lou commented: our work to date mirrors what you are hearing. If it warrants conversation with prosecutor's office and the Police and is questionable too? Sexting is a perfect example. Incidents – what do you do with a child that is under age? You want to be fair, do you want to put that kid in bad jeopardy?

Police Director Cocuzza commented: not gangbusters unless it is an extreme violence, it is handled discreetly and we figure out a way to not lock the kids up. The Officer helps before severity of discipline.

Filomena Hengst clarified that the board first introduced a class 3 officer. The SRO has been tied up. Class 3 vs SLOE: Tim Nemeth responded that they have the same functions but the financial piece, years of experience. Class 3 and SRO are being used interchangeably.

Councilman Sanders commented that the Class 3 Officers provides less expensive option for school board, no pension, no health benefits. Are the qualification set forth in statute? Other things we want to think about. He is trying to find a way to look at this in a way to address concerns.

Filomena Hengst said it is broader and she has more concerns. We need to use that designation to address concerns.

The Police Director commented: they perform some functions but the primary role is the security and safety. SRO is a full-time police officer. SRO vs Class 3. SRO full time police officer. Class 3 – lower fee, no pension, no health benefits.

Lauren Braun-Strumfels commented that she would just like us to think, to bring back to both Lambertville and Lambertville's specific needs and prevention totally see what kind officer, what they would do. Although I agree with comments they are still vague. She commented about the New York Times Article and the back to school shopping list, it was front page with metal detectors on back to school shopping list. Superintendent of Miami Dade, Superintendent Alberto, said after all of this the strongest tool is low cost but highly effective level alertness. See something say something. She brings it up because one person cannot possibly insure the safety of the whole school or community. Only talking about one person, what are the programs planned, the support, the investment in the support, in the schools themselves so that parents' student's community members know where to get if they see something. Multiple points of

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contacts for at risk. I don't feel guns make it safer. I want to address 25 years of data on armed police officiant, not to take away from the hard officers in the room.

Mayor DelVecchio commented that we aren't charged to make that decision school board is. We don't have jurisdiction over that. Those lines are pretty clear. Maybe in 4 months you can make that decision. The school board acted. We used to have this crazy system where the school board budget would go down and we would have 8 days to approve it. That's not what we do – not what we geared to do. I don't disagree with what you said.

Matt Larkin commented as a Lambertville resident we are looking for city council to say we are waiting on this until we hear what the entire plan is. This is an investment, not a smart investment. We are looking for city council to say present the whole picture. Why are we saying yes to something we haven't seen all of it yet?

Mayor DelVecchio commented that this is not a budgeted item and we aren't voting on it tonight.

Rich: I have a question about security analysis or audit on what was needed. Dr. Lou responded that the audit with the Prosecutor's Office and the local police was completed in June; audits in elementary in the fall and the purpose is to look at all of the things, how we can improve? Council President Stegman asked why should we knee jerk something when we don't have the overall plan? When was the last time you did audit? Dr. Lou responded two years ago

Council President Stegman asked if the audit was a public report? Dr. Lou commented that it was not to be shared with the public. Rich commented that we are trusting you to bring forward as much info as you can that puts a man with a gun in the elementary school. Mayor DelVecchio asked the Police Director if an officer was present when the audit was completed. Dr. Lou commented that if you are looking to see if it says class 3 officer in the audit, I don't think you are going to see it. The audit mentioned things like trash cans, explosive devices, where do you send your kids, etc.

Mayor DelVecchio asked if the governing body and the school could talk about the audit in closed session. Dr. Lou commented that you won't learn much more than what I just shared with you. Recommendations we can work on and we are working on. Dr. Lou said the audit makes recommendations that they take under consideration. Mayor DelVecchio asked Dr. Lou if Anthony Kearns was part of the process. Dr. Lou commented that he was. The City Clerk mentioned conversation with the Prosecutor who could not attend tonight but expressed his support for a Class III Officer in the school.

Jim Gallagher, President of the School Board commented that he had some excerpts in researching and leading up to this. Several state tasks forces – New Jersey Safe Task Force, April

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10, 2013 predates Class 3 SLEO position. Resource officer. Indulge – paragraphs – will forward links.

SRO – community policing, in the school is an Integral part of school, positive interactions, many roles, law enforcement officer, local juvenile, perform many functions, more than armed security guards, putting a police officer in a school, not putting a gun in a school.

NJ SAFE Task Force

New Jersey School Board Association School Security Task Force

Rich, a resident of Lambertville said he had a question. In general, the questions about this, with no disrespect to law enforcement, the procedures, audits, job description, title, there are a lot of holes that need to be filled. Doing security audit to help tighten up, did that help you decide how to operate and install and employees trained on how to answer the door? Dr. Lou commented that the vestibule was his idea and an easy fix that cost \$30,000 and that was done before official audit. Practices can improve. We can change the vestibule, do a security check, make people give their license, and purpose of visit. Now there is a second door before you come into the school, But, nobody asked who I was, they can't handle it or they aren't trained for it. Is there a procedure? You need to look at security in general, procedures for the doors, when are you doing that? Dr. Lou responded they are being done as we speak.

CORRESPONDENCE – none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mayor DelVecchio read the announcements into the record.

Free Rabies Clinic: Saturday, September 15, 2018, 1 – 3 pm at the Union Fire House, 230 North Main Street. Dr. Maxim of Ringo's Veterinary Clinic will be present to administer the vaccine. Please come prepared to clean up after your pet. All pets must be in a carrier or on a leash.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PETITION OF CITIZENS AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION.


None.

ADJOURNMENT.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m. with a motion made by Councilwoman Warner and seconded by Council President Stegman. An affirmative voice vote was taken in favor of the motion by all members present. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia L. Ege". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "E".

Cynthia L. Ege
CMR, RMC, City Clerk

The August 15, 2018 Special Session Minutes were approved at the regularly scheduled session of the Governing Body held on Monday, September 17, 2018.