

## SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT – MAY 10, 2021

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**Members:** Barr, Chairman; Ressler, Vice Chairman; Zimmerman, Member; Martin , Alternate; Thompson, Staff

**Attendees:** Barr, Chairman; Ressler, Vice Chairman; Zimmerman, Member; Martin, Alternate, Rowe, Thompson, Guest (2)

The Special Projects Committee met on April 19, 2021 and discussed the following:

**Action Items:**

None

**Discussion Items:**

1. Borough Manager Thompson informed the Committee that the staff met with the solicitor to discuss utility balances and who is responsible for their payment. The solicitor advised that utilities are a service to the property and therefore all balances should be the responsibility of the property owner to satisfy.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the staff's determination with regard to the issued identified from their March 16, 2021 committee meeting as follows:

- Can the Borough staff provide information to landlords regarding whether or not a tenant or potential tenant has outstanding utility arrearages? **The solicitor does not believe this to be a privacy issue however before providing a final opinion he will conduct additional research.**
- Can the landlord direct that the utilities serving landlord properties be disconnected without tenant permission? Can this be authorized if it is during a winter disconnection moratorium period? **No; as long as the tenant is listed on the application then the notification requirements if the Utility Services Tenants Rights Act (USTRA) apply**
- Change requirements such that the indebtedness stays with the property where it was created versus following the tenant. **Agree**
- Should both landlord and tenant be signatures on the application for electric service? **Yes**
- What form of identification should be required when applying for service? **Photo ID**
- What protections (if any) can the landlord get if they “do the right thing”? **None**

2. Mr. Thompson reported that he has reached out to Mr. Upham for some dates and times to schedule a meeting. No further action to report.

**Old Business Items:**

None