

The Monthly meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for General and Executive purposes was held at the above date and place at 6:30pm. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 8 residents and 2 reporters.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos took roll call. Those present were Martin Ditsky, Mary Soberick, Colin Jones, Mayor James Romankow, Rose Mary Cannon, Tommy Vadyak and Solicitor Michael Greek.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- DECEMBER 10th & 30th OF 2013 & JANUARY 6, 2014

Mary Soberick stated that she has something to say about these minutes as follows: She stated at the last meeting of December 30th, 2013 there was a bashing of herself and some lies made up regarding the meeting minutes. She said it was Mr. Kovach who said she illegally changed minutes. Mary Soberick goes on to say that is incorrect, he is wrong and flat out lying about it. What occurs with these minutes is as we receive them they are completed and she does review them as everyone else should at this point, or have them early enough to review, however there are never any changes after the final approval of council. Mary Soberick stated she wanted to make that clear because he said a few times that she illegally did this and believes that's some kind of slander towards her which she will look into. Mrs. Soberick stated that there are some errors in these minutes; Mary Fittos is new at it, there have been minutes in the past that were plain and simple, they are a document with a seal and should be more formal. They do not have to be a story but should get to the point and leave the proper impression as to what this meeting is about and what is spoken of. Mary Soberick goes on to say with the December 10th, 2013 meeting minutes, she has quite a bit of changes. She doesn't want to turn this into a back and forth and the minutes never get approved, however there are quite a bit of items that she discovered and cannot see approving these minutes and making them a formal document, but she can go over them, but there is a lot of them. Mary Soberick stated it is still up to the Secretary to go and make the recommended changes and listen to the audio again to make sure it's accurate, so there is no illegality going on in any way. She stated she will go with the December 10th meeting minutes with corrections or tabling them but doesn't want to re-iterate 20 items. Rose Mary Cannon stated if there are any corrections that need to be made they should be done now. Mary Soberick stated she will put them in writing and go through them with Secretary Mary Fittos, but a few of them are as follows: There are a few misspelled names, on page 2, 3rd sentence regarding the minutes from the prior meeting it states "Some were Drafts, Some were final, but none of them were able to be final since that was the night they were approved. She also mentioned the changing of "Kovatch to Kovach that it needs to be reversed to read "Kovach to Kovatch". Also, under correspondence, to have them in a list form as opposed to one big paragraph. In regards to the Committee Reports: They should be indicated that there were no meetings as opposed to leaving them blank so if it's questioned they can look back at the meetings. She stated there were a few ordinances on that agenda to be acted on and never were and feels that should be part of the minutes. She stated they could not be approved that night due to the deadline. There were several other corrections, but they will be written out and corrected on the December 10th, 2013 minutes. Tommy Vadyak stated in between that we went into a brief executive session and approved bills, but under law it is not to approve bills only for personal and litigation. It is not to discuss bills. Tommy Vadyak states he wants that removed for future if anyone takes a look at that. Mary Soberick stated that technically there was no executive session as Samantha Yasson left and there was no Quorum, however she came back in, but in reality no executive session was held.

Rose Mary Cannon asked if we are going to approve the minutes with the changes or table them because if we are just going to table them then there is no sense on continuing. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve December 10, 2013 minutes with the noted corrections. Second: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Mr. Ditsky moves on to the December 30, 2013 minutes.

Mary Soberick stated that under public courtesy where Marie Ondrus spoke she did give her name and address, it was a rebuttal to a comment made by Ms. Cannon president, and that was missing on those minutes. Page 2, the entire paragraph regarding the Resolution of Recorded Minutes with Lenny Kovach's accusations, she would like to be re-written. She wants them to be reflected as what was said because the way it is worded " Mary Soberick Made changes, however that will no longer happen" makes it sound as to what he said was true. There is nothing in the minutes that reflects the fact that Mary Fittos and Mary Soberick have discussed the minutes and went over them. No one said yes they are looked at prior to final approval. It is indicating that this is the action that she does and it's flat out wrong and she will not be accused of it. Rose Mary Cannon stated if she recalls Mary Soberick was not to look at them at all anymore if you listen to the tape. Mary Soberick states she is not in favor of that and needs to be listened to and re-written.

There are several other noted corrections to be made per Mary Soberick that she has written down. Tommy Vadyak agreed with the changes Mary Soberick had mentioned and also stated in the paragraph regarding handicapped parking ordinance that he stated there was a car parked the wrong way. This should be corrected and notated in those minutes. Rosemary Cannon mentioned one correction that stated "Our Accounts receivable are being outsourced by Munibilling" it should read by "Optimal". Rose Mary Cannon Made the motion to table them for a re-write.

Martin Ditsky moves on to the January 6th meeting minutes. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to table them since they were just handed out the day of the meeting.**

PUBLIC COURTESY

Joseph Butrie of 443 East Ridge Street stood up and stated he has a few questions for council and would not like any answers until he has asked all of his questions. On the last snowstorm he was told people were not ticketed Saturday to Sunday due to only having 1 police officer on. How could you pick and choose what you are going to plow for ordinances and if you're not going to plow for ordinances anymore, you're wasting tax payers money having these men out by paying time and a half and double time. He also stated if we are going to choose when we are going to plow curb to curb and we are not going to plow curb to curb. Mayor James Romankow stated as far as the officer going around ticketing, if we have 1 guy out there ticketing, the plow will be way ahead of him and people may be moving their cars back so as the officer comes up to the car in a plowed area he is going to ticket. This is why we have 1 guy in the front and 1 guy following the plow. Joseph Butrie stated it says in the signs "There is no parking from a specific time to another time". Although a plow has been through your still not supposed to park there. Those cars should be legally ticketed. If you're not going to ticket, take the signs down. Rosemary Cannon agrees with Joseph Butrie. Rosemary Cannon stated on her block some were ticketed and some were not. Rosemary Cannon said we need to abide by the ordinance or do away with it.

Tommy Vadyak stated if a police officer comes up to a car that it snowed in, you know that car wasn't moved that is the car you ticket. This policy that you need (2) officers out ticketing is ridiculous. Tommy stated if we get any future storms and he doesn't move his car and gets a ticket, he will be at the magistrate, because you're picking and choosing your enforcement. Tommy stated how sad it is Sunday when they plowed curb to curb, the police car couldn't even have been moved. How hard was it for the officer on duty to move the car? Rose Mary stated she wished there was someplace they could put the police cars out of the weather. Joseph Butrie asked if the police cars could be parked in the back by Snyder Street? Rose Mary Cannon stated there has been damage to the cars back there.

Donnie Gildea, 107 West Kline Ave, stood up and stated he has a question for the solicitor. Regarding the council court appointed council member, how is that handled? Solicitor Michael Greek stated you have the vacancy board that has to file a petition to the court to fill the vacancy. The court appoints. He already has a petition prepared that will be discussed tonight. It is still open; the court can appoint anyone they want to.

Martin Ditsky stated as far as the snow ordinance, it has been brought to his attention that it's not clear as to when the snow stops. Who decides when the snow stops? If it stops on any particular day between 10 and 12 does that mean the following day after that we will be out there plowing? If it stops any time

between 12:01 and 11:59, that is an issue. Mr. Ditsky had a conversation with Officer Horos about tagging and towing. We could tag, but there is nowhere to tow them. Perhaps we need to look back at the snow removal ordinance. Tommy Vadyak stated this is a ridiculous conservation, read the ordinance. It's the day after the snow fall.

Lenny Kovach stated it's usually the following day as the guys need to clean up. Just because the snow stops at 2am they need to clean up and it's the day after they start the ordinance plow.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Recycling & Garbage Tonnage for 2013- no questions were asked.
- Attorney Greek- Staurch letter- narrowband radios- No response to the letter.
- DBI Services- Street Sweeping- Letter was addressed to Joe Nickels but he is retired.
- Leonard Sniscak Letter- Regarding water authority/ no comments.
- Duane Dellecker 2014 Health Inspections completed- Mary Soberick asked Mary Fittos if she has spoken to him regarding the process, but she has not. Mary Soberick stated if these inspections are done, basically the licenses are back here and you need to do the collections. Rose Mary Stated Jill has been handling it and will collect.
- Seitz Brothers- Discount letter if we pay by January 31st in full we get a 5% discount. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept their offer. Second: Tommy Vadyak Vote. All in Favor, motion carries.**
- NEPA – Rose Mary Cannon stated it should be given to the Borough workers.
- St. Luke's- A thank you note for supporting them.
- TAX Anticipation Note- Copy of check with letter.
- Robert Demyanovich letter- Claims apt has been vacant since 1998. Rose Mary stated it has been an ongoing problem and Jill will handle it.
- Sewer Project Easements- Letter regarding problem on Water Street. Mr. Greek said two more are signing them. Mr. Greek also stated that the Borough needs to decide if they will file condemnation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration – Vacancy Board Order, Mr. Greek Stated it's up to council how they want to move forward, they can submit whichever letters they want with the petition. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to submit the three letters of interest with the petition. Second: Mary Soberick vote, All in favor. Motion Carries.**
- Public Safety- Tommy Vadyak stated there was no meeting that night due to the special meeting that was held.
- Fire Department- No reports
- Mayor's report- James Romankow did not provide it. Will disburse at a later date. He apologized for not having it and being prepared.
- Police Report- Hiring of Part-Time Employees- Mayor James Romankow read a memo from Mathew Williams, an applicant that submitted an application for Part- Time Police, stating he will not be able to fulfill the time needed. Therefore he was denied.
- Parks & Recreation- No Reports
- Public Works- No Reports
- Community Development / Planning & Zoning - No Reports
- Code Enforcement- No reports
- Treasure's Report- After explanation of necessity, **Mary Soberick makes the motion to include the Budget Vs Actual on all reports moving forward. Second: Tommy Vadyak Vote. All in favor, motion carries. Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve the bills. Second: Mary Soberick Vote. All in favor, Motion Carries. Tommy Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer. Mary Soberick had 1 question regarding Telco. She said it belongs in Liquid Fuels not general fund.** Tommy Vadyak stated we have delinquent sanitation right now. We have liens on properties and getting money in, however there is still \$100,000 outstanding. He thinks the municipal administration committee should look at do like the school district does and auction off some of the properties. For example: if someone has a color T.V and items they may

possess. Mr. Greek said that's what they should do but you have to know the people and what they own. Tommy Stated he would like them to look at this and get their thoughts on it. Mr. Greek said we could look at the ordinance as well and maybe add additional penalties, attaching the properties. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion when the municipal committee meets to look into attaching a civil lien to properties so we can recoup the sanitation monies. Second: Rose Mary Cannon Vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Martin Ditsky stated that he had Mary Fittos put together an estimated budget for the 1st Quarter expenses so we have an idea what we will have.

Tax Collector's Report- No report

- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Martin Ditsky stated is this something Mary Soberick handles? Mary Soberick stated she would like to stay on it. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to appoint Mary Soberick for 2014 Delegate. Second: Collin Jones Vote. All in Favor, motion carries.** Mary Soberick stated the alternate is usually the secretary but it doesn't have to be, it can be anyone from the public if they choose.
- Solicitor- Mr. Greek stated he already discussed everything.

NEW BUSINESS

- Signature Resolution, which is for bank signatures on financial transactions- **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve and adopt the signature Resolution. Second: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries**
- Tarp for new Borough Truck- Martin Ditsky stated it was spoken about in the past that Lenny had some estimates. The Borough workers explained what type of tarp we will need. The bids are less than \$10,000 so we don't have to advertise for it. Mary Soberick said Lenny only had (2) estimates and put it on hold because he wanted (3). Mary Soberick has 1 quote for a Crank Tarp and one for Electric. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion we go with the electric Tarp from Tamaqua Truck and Trailer for \$1,884.00. Second: Rose Mary Cannon Vote. All in favor, motion carries. Martin Ditsky stated this can come out of Liquid Fuels.**
Landlord Law – "3 strikes" rule- Martin Ditsky touched on this a little bit regarding tenants who have the police show up at their doorstep a specific number of times. Rose Mary explained that the ordinance should be reviewed. Mary Soberick stated that the Borough does not have the authority to evict people only the landlord does. She also states there is a large misinterpretation with this ordinance and that's what caused a lot of problems in the past. Tommy Vadyak agreed with Rose Mary by saying this ordinance needs to be researched and looked at. Mary Soberick said the ordinance as its written is written fairly, but no one wants to use it fairly. Mary Soberick stated it could be revised a bit and people should be educated about the ordinance. Rosemary Cannon stated the landlord gets the strike, and once he gets three he is to evict the tenant. Mary Soberick stated whoever is issuing the citation needs to be witnessed to it, and then it gets scheduled to the magistrate's office. She stated the Landlord is to be notified of the disruptive behavior which means you need to be convicted of something, and if it's a continuation then the landlord gets notified on how to proceed with eviction. The only thing that happens if he does not begin the proceedings is that his license is removed and she states it's a vicious circle. Rose Mary makes the motion to table it.
- Handicapped Parking Ordinance- Mary Soberick stated that she collected every council members input and re-wrote the ordinance accommodating everyone's requests, she and Samantha Yasson looked it over, brought it to council and they don't want to do it. They had more questions, there was a motion to advertise it as it was written and it wasn't done. No one read it over. It was never advertised and it finally gets advertised and now she is being asked to explain it. Mary Soberick did write it, its three pages. Rose Mary Cannon said the ordinance states the applicant should be the disabled person or the handicap person. Her understanding is it "MUST "be. Rose Mary stated that is one part she is against. Samantha Yasson who was in attendance stood up and said in Tamaqua that there is a process to go through to get a handicap spot, it wasn't easily given away, but it's the driver who gets the spot not the person who is driving them around. She stated Mary's ordinance focuses on the driver not the person who drives the handicap individual around. Rose Mary Cannon stated the wording should read as "Must" not "Should". Mr. Greek

stated it should be changed to "Must". Rose Mary Cannon asked how many per block. Mary Soberick said she stuck it at (2). Martin Ditsky tabled it until we have a full council.

- Generator Estimate- Martin Ditsky stated it's for the entire the building. Rose Mary Cannon stated it's for the police department because there are separate circuits and downstairs there are several. If we wanted one for upstairs then we would need to get a 2nd generator to hook up to a different circuit. Martin Ditsky said this is something he would like tabled for now. Mary Soberick asked how much is it for propane and Tommy Vadyak said propane is cheap. Rose Mary Cannon stated as a sidebar that the gentleman that was the provider said he never heard of any police department that did not have a generator. The Estimate is \$11,000.00. Mayor James Romankow said this should be a priority with the cold weather and any future snow storms. Tommy Vadyak would like more quotes and then make a decision. **Rose Mary Cannon Made the motion to get (2) more quotes with the full cost of the generator. Second: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries. Rose Mary wanted to note it that she would not like to let it die.** Martin Ditsky said he will not let it die. Mary Soberick asked if we have a power failure, are we responsible to house people? Rose Mary said no according to the emergency management board. Martin Ditsky asked if there is anyone who would like to obtain (2) more quotes.
- Letter of Interest for Civil Service Commission- **Mary Soberick made the motion to appoint Jerry Scaran. Second: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries. Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to appoint Kevin Collevecchio. Second: Collin Jones vote. Tommy was opposed, however motion carries.** Mary Soberick wants it noted that Jerry Scaran will be re-appointed to the 6year term and Kevin Collevecchio will be completing the 6 year term.
- Letter of Interest for Council Seat- Martin stated we have a letter from Lenny Kovach. Mary Soberick stated we should hold onto this until the 20th.
- Entry Kits- Mr. Greek Stated the police have entry kits for the school in case of an emergency lock down. The district will provide the kits and an agreement signed by us stating we are responsible for the parts and we are not liable for 3rd party entry.
- Advanced Green Solutions- Rose Mary Cannon stated it was very successful. Tommy Vadyak would like to go on record that a letter should be drafted to head of DEP regarding the charges of disposal of recycling items. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to write a letter to head of DEP asking why we have to pay for this program when it was supposed to be free. Second: Collin Jones vote. All in Favor, motion carries.**
- Carbon County Tax Collection- Mary Soberick Was appointed.
- Hazleton Materials Quotes- Martin stated this is something we get bids on.
- Boyers Store Charge Account- Tabled until the pool opens. Mary Soberick also stated we should get the names of all staff members in charge.
- Bankruptcy notification- Martin Ditsky explained this is from Mr. Greek. Mr. Greek then stated that MEM filed bankruptcy and we put that proof of claim in and we should be aware of that and McClain Also filed bankruptcy and we filed proof of claim for that as well. Rose Mary Cannon asked if there is a chance of us getting any money back. Mr. Greek stated yes, there is some money that will come back because the trustee is indicating to file proof of claim. It doesn't mean we will be reimbursed 100% but it could be 10%. Rose Mary Cannon made a suggestion for the next packet, to keep all of Michael Greeks letters and paperwork together.

OLD BUSINESS

- Deed – Greenwood Stripping Corp. Mr. Greek stated he sent the deed for the property where they were going to put the pole building. He said it came from Greenwood stripping.
- Fire Co Building- Martin stated this was taken care of. Mr. Greek said there was a zoning decision.
- Niz Kamal vs Borough of Lansford- Mr. Greek states Human Relations denied his request, but statutorily within 10 days, he can request reconsideration by the board, which he did and Mr. Greek filed an answer to it and filed it and got it out. He also stated what prompted his action was seeing the advertisement in the paper stating a salary being paid; we should not be putting a salary because it's not, we don't pay a salary we appoint the position. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that Mr. Ditsky serves on the Police Pension and Planning Board so she doesn't believe he can continue to serve on these boards since he is President. Mr. Greek will look into it.

Rose Mary Cannon also mentioned that usually the Secretary serves on the Police Pension in which I don't think she has ever been appointed. Mr. Ditsky asked to see it in fact & law. The Borough Code and Police Pension would state the law, per Ms. Cannon. Mary Soberick stated that there are a lot of things the Secretary should be appointed to but doesn't think it was handled accordingly. Mary Soberick also stated that the Right to Know officer requires someone to be appointed, who is usually the secretary. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to appoint Mary Fittos to be the open records officer. Second: Tommy Vadyak Vote. All in Favor, motion carries.**

- Pa. Human Relations Commissions- Burrell- Mr. Ditsky stated this will be tabled. Rose Mary Cannon stated this should be for executive session.

Mayor James Romankow asked how he should move forward with the police car quotes, should he get estimates for 1 or two. Tommy Vadyak stated we budgeted for 1. Mr. Romankow stated there is an issue with the Dodge Charger and Mr. Vadyak stated it's been an issue. Mary Soberick stated she would like to look into (2) vehicles due to the savings involved. The financing will be cost over time. The original letter stated the finance package. Rose Mary Cannon stated the original motion was to get the options for both vehicles.

Mr. Ditsky stated how many properties are going to be on the municipal tax sale in November and that is going to decrease our Tax Revenue Base and we have to look into raising taxes. He is not against the police; he just wants to use the money judiciously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ditsky asked for a 10 minute suspension for Executive Session at 8:46pm where they discussed Personnel matters.

Council came out of Executive Session at 9:22pm. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to draft a letter of reprimand to Chief John Turcmanovich about not receiving a back to work slip and all time he submitted for payment and also that he is authorized to return to full duty. Second: Collin Jones Vote. Mary Soberick opposes, however motion carries.**

ADJOURNMENT

Tommy Vadyak made the motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Second: Collin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

May Fittos
Secretary/Treasurer