

The regular monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Nov 9, 2016 at the borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was opened by President Martin Ditsky who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council members attending were President Martin Ditsky, Vice President Rose Mary Cannon, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich and Mayor James Romankow. Absent were Councilmen Colin Jones, Matthew Walsh, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Seven people were in the audience, a reporter from TV Chanel 13 & Chris Reber from Times News Newspaper.

Joe Bennett, owner of 201 W. Bertsch Street "The Palace" was scheduled to speak. He called and said he will be late and asked to speak at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Pat Whalen, 341 W Ridge St., asked about the Police canvassing her area for code violations. She asked if there was a reason this area was selected. Mayor Romankow said Police canvas all areas of town. Whalen was glad to see them. She requested a copy of the police report. Rose Mary Cannon told her copies can be purchased in the borough office at .25 per copy. Whalen asked about the procedure for speaking at a public meeting and Rose Mary Cannon explained the procedure.

A request was made by Martin Ditsky to install a "no parking" sign at 326 E. Abbott Street, in front of the fire police chief's residence, Michael J Knies. **A motion was made by Councilman John Turcmanovich to install a "No Parking" sign for the Fire Police Chief. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passes.**

Meeting minutes for the previous council meeting held on Oct 12, 2016 were considered for approval. **Motion to approve the October 12, 2016 minutes was made by Rose Mary Cannon. Motion was second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**

CORRESPONDENCE

Benecon – Health Insurance surplus claims funds check was received \$21,979.00 for performance in 2015. Also, Health insurance quote shows increase of 10.4% for 2017.

Keystone Consulting Engineers – Regarding 6 E. Ridge St, Elks building, sent a letter citing the blighted structure for demolition.

Univest - Third quarter Police Pension investment report.

M & T Bank - Tax Anticipation Note for 2017 \$125,000.00. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to move forward with the Tax Anticipation Note for 2017. Motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.

2 LTAP training courses offered - (1) Sign inspections (2) Road Maintenance. **Joe Butrie made a motion to send one public works worker to both trainings (the same worker). Jared Soto second the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Philadelphia Insurance Co. - response to vehicle tire damage by pot hole on Dock Street; insurance company cites municipal immunity in its letter.

Valley Road Farms - Thank you Letter (read by martin Ditsky) and \$50 contribution from this summer's farmer's market vendor. A Thank you note for the donation was sent by Rose Mary Cannon.

Carbon County Tax Assessments - Showed est. \$56,000.00 loss in tax assessments.

Hutchinson Gillahan & Freeh, P.C. - Engagement letter to perform 2016 Audit in 2017. **Motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to accept the offer by Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh, P.C., to perform the 2016 Audit. The motion was second by Jared Soto, on roll call vote all voted yes, Motion passed.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Municipal Administration – Monthly report read by Rose Mary Cannon. Topics included the purchase order process, the employee handbook, Storm Water inlet Grant application for \$35,000 was submitted to PA Small Water & Sewer Grant program, information regarding the auction of borough property at 201 W. Bertsch Street (Victoria Lot), and blighted properties. Since the October council meeting the outside faucet at borough hall was installed by Hiles Brothers.

Public Safety – Monthly report read by John Turcmanovich. **Turcmanovich made a motion to purchase a new 2017 Ford Explorer police cruiser to replace the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria, Car 101. (A motion at a previous meeting was made to auction 2009 Ford Car 101.) The new car purchase payment is a 3 yr. program; 1st payment due 1 yr. after delivery of the car. Jared Soto second the motion. All were in favor except Joe Butrie. Motion passed.**

Joe Bennett arrived at 7:05 p.m. He addressed council regarding demolition of his property at 101 W. Bertsch Street "The Palace" parcel. Bennett has run into problems dumping debris and demolition has stopped. The building has been stripped on the inside and is presently standing as a shell without windows. The borough received complaints about its unsafe condition. Bennett secured the services of Responsible Recycling, a.k.a. Burkholder's, through its contracting agent Frank Martin to complete demolition. Responsible Recycling is currently completing the demolition of St. Ann's Church, 2 E. Bertsch St. parcel 122A2-24-F14 (however work has stopped for about a month.) BET, Lehigh Real Estate LLC, is providing an area to put clean fill. Bennett asked permission to close off the parking lanes of streets bordering the parcel with fencing; along W. Bertsch Street, Coal Street & W. Patterson Street, and possibly close off the street if necessary, as a safety concern during demolition. He explained he will provide all fencing and road blockage materials and offered to repave that road. Rose Mary Cannon asked the requests be put in writing. Mayor Romankow was in favor of closing the roads for safety purposes and asked for a time line of no more than 90 days. The demolition start & completion dates are unknown at this time. Martin Ditsky asked for a drawing of the fencing location for traffic control and told Bennett to contact Code Compliance for its requirements. John Turcmanovich asked that precautions be taken to protect the residences on the west side of the lot. Bennett also asked permission to block off the roads during demolition of the (Sebia) property across the street, 100 W. Ridge Street. Bennett invited council to the grand opening of his West Penn facility 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Also at a facility in Lehighton at 9th Street & Route 443.

Fire Department – Read by Joe Butrie. The American Fire Co. responded to 9 calls; 3 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill and 2 in Coaldale. The group attended 15 training sessions. Total yearly calls at the end of October is 141.

Ambulance – Read by Martin Ditsky. For October the Lehighton Ambulance reported 42 responses to Lansford and the average dispatch to time on scene was 9.4 minutes. For September it reported 43 responses to Lansford and the average dispatch to time on scene was 7 minutes.

Mayors Report – Read by James Romankow. Monthly total received was \$3,718.66, year- to- date total is \$38,947.88. Romankow thanked the fire department and fire police for its help with traffic and patrols on Trick or Treat night, Oct 31, 2016.

Police Report – Read by James Romankow. There were 17 Criminal Arrests; 3 Traffic citations, 12 non-traffic citations; 6 meter tickets; 17 parking tickets; 36 Quality of Life tickets.

Park & Recreation – The October Monthly report was read by Rose Mary Cannon. Local Share Account (LSA) grant paper work has been forwarded to the state. Smokey Krajnak completed sealing the cracks in the swimming pool so more testing for the feasibility study can be done. There was an agreement with Matthew Dunn to cut trees in Kennedy Park; only \$900 of the \$2,700 has been spent, The committee asks that Dunn be contacted to review what needs to be done. Friends of Recreation will hold a Spaghetti supper 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Veteran's Day.

Public Works - no written report however Martin Ditsky reported that The Teamsters Contract (expires 12/31/16) was discussed at the October meeting. The Public Work's 2001 Ford F350 pick-up truck inspection has run out and will not pass inspection until it has a utility truck body is installed. Joe Butrie contacted the following for verbal and written estimates: Structural Metal Fabricators (SMF), \$4,934.00; Lancaster Truck Bodies \$4,300.00. A second estimate was received from SMF for \$10,233.00 (includes additionally removing the existing body from truck, painting and mounting kit.) **A motion was made by Joe Butrie to accept the \$10,233.00 quote. Motion was second by Martin Ditsky, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Code Enforcement – Lehigh Valley Inspection Service, Steve Meylach's report enclosed.

Planning & Zoning – October report was read by Joe Butrie. The group discussed: vacant property ordinance; requested a contract be signed between the borough and its code compliance officials Lehigh Valley Inspection Services; asked that Attorney Greek send a second letter to former code officials Barry Isett Co. requesting return of all code compliance documents; discussion of demolition projects.

Tax Collectors Report – Current borough Real Estate Taxes collected in October totals \$4,236.79. Total collected to date is \$858,638.26.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Seigendall asked for October bills to be approved in the amount of \$51,442.07 plus Tamaqua Auto Parts \$510.05 (received 11/9/16). The account balances are as follows:

Bank Accounts

Oct 31, 2016 balances

2016 FUND/Saving & Checking	ACCT NO	Oct

General Fund	0132	\$302,192.43
Sanitation Fund	0222	\$91,812.01
Sanitation Fund	0283	\$51,460.18
Sewer Transmission	1198	\$163,937.62
General Fund	4685	\$3,000.00
General Fund	4842	\$2,180.00
General Fund	9908	closed
Lansford Pool A	1905	\$1,329.60
Hi Way/Liq Fuels Fund	3886	\$97,996.75
General Fund(Grants)	4585	\$0.00
Sewer Transmission	5537	\$113,943.29
Sewer Transmission	5402	\$202,557.52
LST	5772	\$30,375.92
Sanitation Fund	6036	\$12,155.47
Fire Tax Fund	6283	\$42,623.93
Park & Rec Fund	6291	\$63,122.48
Street Light Fund	6309	\$36,442.99
RIRA	7437	closed
Total		\$1,215,130.19

Jared Soto made a motion to pay the October bills adding the Tamaqua Auto invoice and the police pension pay back amount of \$7,841.00 plus interest to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as noted in the Police Pension Audit Report for 2012-2015. Rose Mary Cannon second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed. Treasurer Jill Seigendall asked council to allow her to attend a 2 day seminar, Nov 30 & Dec 1, held by the PA State Association of Borough's in Wilkes-Barre for Municipal Secretary's and Managers at a cost of \$225.00. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to allow Jill to attend the seminar, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.** Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – minutes from its October 25th meeting were enclosed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Alarm System upgrade estimates were reviewed. An additional quote changing the megapixel cameras from 2 mp to 5 mp, was received from Northeast Remote Surveillance & Alarm adding \$5,000 to the quote. Mayor Romankow suggested getting a quote for cameras at the borough garage. **Motion to accept the quotes from Northeast, \$1,400 for maintenance and \$4,300 for hardware, totaling \$5,700, was made by John Turcmanovich. Rose Mary Cannon second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve the Special event "Christmas in the Park" held by Lansford Alive at Kennedy Park on November 26th. John Turcmanovich second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Mayor James Romankow read a Proclamation honoring the contributions of Robert "Bob" Silver to Lansford Borough.

Martin Ditsky read proposed Resolution 2016-14. Jared Soto made a motion to adopt Resolution 2016-14, approving a \$35,000 grant application to the Commonwealth Financing Authority through the PA Small Water and Sewer Program. Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion unanimously passed.

Motion to approve the funding commitment letter (15%) in the amount of \$5,250.00 to accompany the PA Small Water & Sewer Program grant application was made by Rose Mary Cannon, motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.

At approximately 8:20 p.m. Martin Ditsky announced the group would take a short recess and then go into executive session to discuss Teamsters negotiations and personnel issues.

Back on record 9:38 p.m. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion that the Christmas holiday for Jill is ½ day on Christmas Eve, Dec 24th, Friday, and all day Monday, Dec 26th for Christmas, Thanksgiving holiday is Nov 24 & 25, Thursday, & Friday. Motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion that Wendy not working Thursday or Friday, Nov. 24 & 25. The office will be closed. Jared Soto second the motion, all were in favor, motion passes.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joe Butrie, second by John Turcmanovich at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall