

LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Special Meeting

December 27, 2017 6:30 p.m.

A special meeting of Lansford Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2017, by President Martin Ditsky at the borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council persons attending were Joseph Butrie, president Martin Ditsky, vice president Rose Mary Cannon, Jared Soto, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent were Colin Jones, Matthew Walsh, John Turcmanovich, Mayor James Romankow, and junior council person Isabella Blasko. In the audience were Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Donny Gildea, Mario Marconi, Colton Black, and Lenny Kovach.

Public Courtesy:

Rose Mary Cannon spoke about the Times News Newspaper 12/15/17 article "Money for Police, Lansford increases taxes by 3.7 percent" regarding the borough's 1.31 millage rate hike for 2018. She was not happy that the newspaper attributed the increase to the police department. The 1.31 millage increase was due to raising property insurance, health insurance, maintenance costs as well as wages in all departments.

Rose Mary Cannon asked that council convene to executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Members of council and Attorney Greek went to the back of the meeting room behind the room dividers, near the secretary treasurer's desk, and had discussion. On their return no comments were made.

Borough Garage:

On Monday, Dec 18, 2017, Paul Jarrett advised the borough that he would issue a Notice of Violation of the Uniform Construction Code; Title 34 part XIV, Section 403.84, for unsafe building, structure or equipment, due to a call and e-mail he received from PA Department of Labor & Industry about conditions at the borough garage. Jarrett said he would issue the violation if no action was taken by the time he returned to work after the holidays, January 2, 2018. He gave an unofficial, unsigned example of the Notice of Violation along with photos of unsafe conditions at the garage. Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon and Joe Butrie, Paul Jarrett, Engineer Eric Snyder and Jill Seigendall agreed that items from the office at the garage should be moved to the upstairs of the borough hall for safe keeping should the garage be condemned and research for alternatives to house equipment; pods, trailers, garages to rent, etc..... An e-mail was sent to borough council with a copy of the Notice of Violation and a special meeting was called for December 27th to address the situation.

On December 22, 2017 a letter was received from PA Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Occupational & Industrial Safety, stating that Inspector Supervisor Robert Hebel and Inspector Sam Marranta inspected the borough garage on December 6, 2017. The findings in the letter are: Finding 1: Cracked & leaning concrete on right side of salt storage area, Finding 2: Roof leaks, Finding 3: Basement mold, rot, & wood decay in basement, Finding 4: Electric panel upgrades, Finding 5: Unsanitary basement bathroom. The letter directs the borough to correct all violations by March 23, 2018 and paperwork to apply for a variance or extension of time is attached.

President Ditsky opened discussion to the audience about the status of the borough garage. Rose Mary Cannon asked Attorney Greek to review Paul Jarret's Notice of Violation. Attorney Greek agreed that the Letter from Paul Jarret, mentioning a condemnation date of January 2, 2017, could be issued by Jarrett to cover his responsibilities. Jarret works for the borough and the borough needs to abide by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Occupational & Industrial Safety findings before considering the LVIS possibility of condemnation.

Rose Mary Cannon explained that the borough has been in the process of getting a new borough garage for three years. The process is slow and no one expected the pole building bids to come in \$100,000.00 over the estimated cost. Additionally, there were few bidders. Martin Ditsky explained the bidding process to the audience. Lenny Kovach admonished council for not preparing the property years ago when he was on council. Council agreed hindsight is 20/20 and the point is moot. A plan is needed on how to move forward. Martin Ditsky explained that this is his last meeting and he thanked everyone for working with him, he appreciated council's help but he believes it is up to the incoming council to make decisions regarding the borough garage. The new council members may have ideas that the present council has not looked into.

Martin Ditsky explained some of the efforts made to get to this point in building a borough garage. Original estimate in June 2015 for a pole building from Zawada Enterprises was \$105,458.00. In 2017 a Local Share Account grant was awarded for \$160,000.00 for a pole building and engineering fees which is valid until June 2020. The project estimated cost was \$350,000.00 but bids in November from B & B Pole Building and C. E. Ankiewicz Construction & Excavating were \$479,180.00 and \$461,406.15, respectively. The procedure to obtain a USDA Community Facilities Loan was researched but no application has been made.

Rose Mary Cannon pointed out that a plan of action is needed to fulfill the March 28th deadline to Labor and Industry, that a quorum existed at this meeting and decisions could be made to move forward; Council could rebid the project tonight.

Joe Butrie read the spreadsheet of prices obtained by the borough office to purchase 40 foot shipping containers; Cargo Worthy \$2,550.00; Lexie Eisen \$2,919.00; Conex Boxes \$2,569.00; Craig Fulmer \$2,250.00; Monthly rental prices: Craig Fulmer \$99.00, Western Container \$159.00; Steel Storage Solutions \$109.00. There was discussion about renting an office trailer to place outside the garage. Lenny Kovach said he could get shipping container prices from Bobby Fox and New England Motor Freight; that Lansford Alive purchased one from Fox for \$1,200.00. Joe Butrie asked Lenny to get prices and give them to the borough office.

Martin Ditsky reiterated that he wanted to leave the decisions about the borough garage up to incoming council. He directed everyone to leave the garage equipment where it is and leave the salt where it is (because he called Coaldale and got permission to move the salt to Coaldale if necessary.)

Martin Ditsky asked whether there was anything else to discuss on the topic. He was advised the police contract was next on the agenda. He was very agitated and criticized the police department stating that he was not staying for the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement. He believes the incoming council should deal with it and he left the meeting telling vice president Rose Mary Cannon to take over the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned due to lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer