

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 4 residents and 2 reporters.

ROLL CALL

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

FAXED BID PROPOSALS – ANTISKID CONTRACTS

The bids were read by Solicitor Michael Greek.

- Lehigh Asphalt- 600 Ton of Penndot Type A S3 Plant and Fob delivered. Plant price is \$10.00, total \$6,000 and Delivered is \$15.70 for a total of \$9,420.00. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to go with the lowest bidder Lehigh Asphalt. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Pottsville Materials, LLC- 600 Ton of Penndot Type A S3 FOB Plant and FOB delivered. Unit price is \$10.25 Plant, total is \$6,150. Delivered price is \$18.98 Total \$11,388.00.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR

- December 3, 2014 – Special Meeting – **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- December 8, 2014 – Special Meeting- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- December 10, 2014- Monthly Meeting – **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Rose Mary had 1 correction to be made.**
- December 30, 2014- Special Meeting - **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to accept the minutes. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Rose Mary Cannon explained that she had missed the December 8th meeting and was upset to see all the conversation that went on about the pool. She stated she was the only one that could have answered a lot of the questions that were brought up at that meeting. Mr. Ditsky said “you snooze you lose” now let’s move on. Mary Soberick said she was not in attendance at this meeting, but at the last page Samantha Yasson makes the motion to “adopt it”, referring to the tax levy. Mrs. Soberick asked Mrs. Fittos to check the tape to make sure that is how it is worded. She said you cannot adopt it for before it is advertised. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to table these minutes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Seitz Brothers- 5% savings discount if paid in advance for the year \$502.74 by Jan 31st. (we did this last year). **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we take advantage of the discount. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Carbon County Court of Common Pleas – TBB Realty / Assessment of appeals. Mr. Greek said it’s just an appeal in which he or the Borough does not have to intervene. Mr. Vadyak asked the address and Ms. Cannon said 209-211 East Bertsch street.
- Letter from Len Benek- Appointment for Sewer Authority
- Letter from Len Benek- Appointment for Water Authority
- Letter from Chris Ondrus – Appointment for Water Authority – **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to reappoint Chris Ondrus. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Discussion:** Mr. Vadyak asked if a salary was going to be set under this appointment. Mr. Vadyak said they are not entitled to benefits even though they are taking them because they are not full time. Mr. Vadyak said it’s pretty ridiculous to pay \$138,121 a year. Mr. Vadyak read off the salaries of all the other Boards and none were as high as the Lansford Coaldale -Water Authority. Mr. Vadyak has spoken to the DA and nothing has been done about this. Mr. Vadyak said it’s a clear violation of

the "Municipal's Authority's Act. Ms. Cannon said her motion is just for the appointment, if we are getting into salaries, that should be for everyone across the board and not just singling out 1 person. Mr. Vadyak said the Health Insurance and pension they are collecting is illegal. Mary Soberick said Ms. Cannon already made the motion it has to be finished. Mr. Ditsky would like to know what they are doing to earn this money. Ms. Cannon said she didn't think now was the time for this discussion, however Mr. Ditsky said it is, we move forward little by little. **Roll Call Vote for appointment for Mr. Ondrus: Martin Ditsky= no, Mary Soberick = no, Tommy Vadyak= no, Joe Butrie= No, Samantha Yasson = no, Colin Jones = yes, Rose Mary Cannon = yes. 5-7 motion failed.**

Mr. Vadyak makes the motion that we set the salary at \$50/ month, Stipend \$25/ month = \$75/ month with no healthcare and no pension. This would be for anyone appointed. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote.

Rose Mary Cannon would like to table this so Solicitor Mike Greek can look into the Municipal Act.

- Letter from Kevin Collevchio – Appointment for Civil Service Commission- **Colin Jones makes the motion to accept this appointment. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Letter from John Tucker- Appointment for Sewer Authority- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to reappoint John Tucker to the Sewer Authority. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Letter from Robert Gaughan- Appointment for Zoning Hearing Board- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to reappoint him. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Letter from Joseph Horvat- Appointment for Water Authority
- Lansford Borough Committee Dates for 2015- **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to advertise. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Ditsky mentioned that Mr. Vadyak has resigned from Public Safety and that position has not been reassigned.
- Lansford Alive Letter- dedicated to improving historic business district of Lansford- Ms. Cannon said we should send a letter thanking them especially on how nice the Borough Office looked during the Holidays.
- PA dept. of Environmental protection- Siberline Manufacturing co- Land recycling
- US Bankruptcy Court- Exide Technologies- Mr. Vadyak asked the Solicitor about this. Mr. Greek is not sure what we are receiving this and had no idea we were a creditor of theirs. Mr. Greek said it's a Ch. 11.
- US Bankruptcy Court- Mary Ann Van Lieu. Mr. Greek said this is a Ch. 13 and it shows the plan. Mr. Greek will look into this further.
- PA Dept.- Storm Sewer Permit Training sessions – Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that the Engineer should look at this to see if it would apply to our streets dept.

Rose Mary Cannon read off a few names of letters that were submitted but not on the agenda. There were about 6 letters for the water authority. Samantha Yasson asked who Ryan turner is. Mr. Greek said Ryan and Brian Turner are brothers; they are both 20yrs old.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- No Meeting, No Report
- Public Safety- Report read by Mr. Vadyak. Mr. Vadyak mentioned that the Legion will be donating \$700.00 to the police department to update the computer system. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion that we send a thank you to them for their generous contribution. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor motion passes.** Mrs. Fittos asked when they are sending it because we have not received it yet. Mr. Vadyak asked Mr. Romankow where the check is. Mr. Romankow said they will present them with the bill and the Legion will pay it. Mr. Vadyak mentioned in his minutes

that Mrs. Soberick said Mr. Ditsky was nitpicking about the police vehicles tying up all the meters. Mrs. Soberick clarified this by saying, she was an audience member. She did not say Mr. Ditsky was nitpicking, but picking on police officers and the fact that the meters being tied up had nothing to do with public safety. She also said the locks on gun cabinets were never discussed at the public meeting. She would also like to extend a Thank You to our police officers for the service they provide protecting us also.

- Fire Department- Read by Mr. Vadyak and was questioned on the total calls, but Ms. Yasson said It was December and looks right.
- Ambulance- Read by Mr. Vadyak
- Mayors Report- Mr. Romankow said he received calls about the Ice in front of the old school. Ms. Cannon said if we started to salt and cinder and someone falls it would be the Boroughs responsibility. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to send a letter to the school district. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Police Report- Mr. Romankow said the reason why the officers are parked on Ridge Street is because of the violence against police. He wants them parking in view of the camera in case there is any violence against our officers. He also agrees with Mr. Vadyak that there should be more cameras installed. Until the violence against police offers goes down, they will continue to park on Ridge Street. **Colin Jones makes the motion to get more cameras to upgrade our system. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Report was read by Mr. Romankow.
- Parks & Recreation- Ms. Cannon said there was no report but has a few topics. She said chicken dinners are usually held as a fundraiser but the borough cannot collect other than through taxes. Mary Soberick asked if the Friends of the pool can do it. Ms. Cannon said yes, but that would require a resolution and Insurance. Ms. Cannon asked the Solicitor to clarify. Mrs. Soberick asked if they could just fill out an event form. Mr. Greek said you have the Board which is an entity of the Borough. The Board itself cannot conduct fundraising. He said if it's a separate entity conducting fundraising on Borough property our policy is to have Insurance. He said if they are running it in conjunction with the Board and the Board is there supervising you can certainly waive insurance requirements under those circumstances. He said it's up to council to decide what they want to do. Mr. Vadyak asked if they need a resolution and Mr. Greek said just something formal stating council gave them the authority to do it. Ms. Cannon also stated that by Borough code, the Board can be given the authority to hire and purchase items as needed without council approval. There are some things that just cannot wait for a council meeting. She referenced Section 27:10 of the "Borough Code". **Colin Jones makes the motion to give the power to the board to run the pool as needed. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mary Soberick wanted to clarify the fundraising situation with Mr. Greek. Mary Soberick asked Mr. Greek if we need a resolution to say that council will allow the friends of the pool under supervision of the Board to fundraise on the municipal parking lot and we are going to waive the need for Insurance. Mr. Greek said if that's what council chooses to do. **Mary Soberick makes a motion to this effect. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Tommy Vadyak votes no, motion passes.** Mr. Greek said he will draw up the resolution. Ms. Cannon said the Chicken Dinner will be the last Sunday in June.
- Public Works- Mr. Butrie inquired about the signs on 200-400 block of west Kline, if they can be changed from December 1st to November 1st for no parking. Mr. Vadyak said you're asking people to refrain from parking on their street for another 30 days. Mr. Butrie spoke with Penndot and would like permission install emergency route signs on the South side of Patterson Street which would be the emergency route. Mr. Vadyak said we would have to designate Patterson as our emergency route before we move on. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to change the snow emergency route from Bertsch Street to Patterson Street. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.** After reviewing the Borough Code book, Mary Soberick confirmed that Patterson Street is already designated the Snow Emergency Route. He would also like to phase out the cardboard signs and replace them with plastic signs and zip tie them. He also mentioned that the turnpike truck had a clutch put in, but when it came back it needed an adjustment so it was brought back and adjusted. The International went to Five Star with an engine light on due to the computer being out of calibration, there were 3-4 updates done and there was an issue with the front brakes and they were glazed. The drums were glazed. Mr. Butrie said it should be under warranty but it's out of warranty for 1 month now but the sales man is trying to get new drums at no cost to us. Mr. Butrie also mentioned that Jim Bruno wanted to bring the cutting edge down to

Five Star to make some adjustments. One minute he says it's the shoes than he says it's something else. He strongly disagrees with it being brought down there. Mr. Ditsky said they should do it up here. Mr. Butrie spoke about the sewer camera that is not working and needs repair. He mentioned that we have an estimate for \$1,086.00 to get it repaired. If not, a new camera can cost up to \$50,000. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we approve the repairs. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

- Community Development / Planning Zoning- No Meeting.
- Code Enforcement- Mary Soberick inquired about the Barry Isett report that comes in, which looks like a bill. Mrs. Fittos explained we do not pay them from that report; these services should be on their monthly bills.
- Treasurers Report – Mary Soberick inquired about the Barry Isett bills as to how detailed they are with address and services that were provided. She also inquired about the Public Library allotment and asked if any Library tax that is posted to 2015 was added to the 2014 allotment because she thinks it should be. It technically was collected in 2014 but deposited in 2015. Ms. Cannon inquired about the oil burner at Garage if it was working. Mr. Butrie said yes. Mrs. Soberick asked what Five Star was under Liquid Fuels. Mrs. Fittos said it was for the International for the brake repair. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to pay bills as funds become available. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Mrs. Fittos said she is going to pay by priority since funds are low. **Tommy Vadyak does not vote on Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collectors Report- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- No Meeting
- Solicitors Report- Mr., Greek reviewed the Use and Maintenance agreement for Grace Community Church where some errors were found such as: the address to GCC as Mrs. Mika said the church never received it. Mary Soberick also found another error with the property address. Mr. Greek will correct the document and send it back out. Mrs. Soberick asked if we have the Insurance on file and it was already submitted to the Borough. Mr. Greek also reviewed the case involving Mike Serena, and the Moravek appeal. Mr. Greek said he sent out a letter to Lancaster Truck Bodies about the Blade.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Resolution Fee Schedule- Mayor Romankow mentioned that we should have a protest fee to cover the costs of using more police officers. There was some discussion about this between Mr. Greek, Ms. Cannon and Mayor Romankow. Mr. Vadyak went over the fees that should be increased. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to table it to Municipal Administration.**
- Wage Resolution for 2014- Samantha Yasson reviewed the pool figures and questioned Ms. Cannon regarding the 2% increase she had previously suggested. Ms. Cannon had spoken with most of the pool staff and they are willing to forego salary increases as long as the necessary equipment such as a Fryer, freezer etc. is purchased and the life guards receive an increase. Changes regarding wording of the lifeguard's qualification's ex. "Depending on age and experience" was agreed to be eliminated. Ms. Yasson said she thinks we can do an increase and would like to discuss it at a parks and recreation committee meeting. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that the P/T CDL rates should be increased. Mrs. Fittos said it's late to do now. Ms. Yasson said we can sit at committee meetings to go over the increases and bring them to council. Mayor Romankow mentioned that the CDL driver's rate should be increased tonight. Mr. Vadyak said, we are paying bills when money becomes available, we can't look for money to pay bills and look to give raises. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to change this to resolution 2015 with the 2% change to the lifeguards and removing the other wording as discussed and with the exception of the pool. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick & Samantha Yasson. Motion passes.**
- Pole Building for garage- Samantha Yasson did some research over her vacation time. She found out the dimensions and how many doors and windows the building would need. She is going to research more. She mentioned the floor options, which are concrete or radiant and thinks we need the radiant. Mr. Butrie and Mr. Vadyak said Radiant in the way to go. Ms. Yasson also said the building is 102ft wide X 22ft deep. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that he and Mrs. Fittos started to research the financing of a Pole building where they met with Ryan from M & T Bank and recommended we go with USDA since they can go up to a 40 year loan. Ryan did mention that he can help with a Bridge loan.

- Sanitation – Advertise Delinquent- Mr. Vadyak said he asked for this to be in agenda. Mr. Greek asked if we can hold off being he just sent out letters. Tommy Vadyak said there are \$66,000 in delinquent and \$61,000 in liens for a total of \$127,000.. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise the names. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick, Rose Mary Cannon and Samantha Yasson. Motion passes. Roll Call Vote. MD = yes, MS= no, TV= yes, Joe Butrie = yes, Samantha Yasson = no, Rose Mary Cannon= no CJ = yes. 4-3**

NEW BUSINESS

- Golden equipment co, Inc., Estimate on Sewer Camera Repair – This was discussed and approved prior.
- Landlord rental agreement- 3 strike law – Mr. Greek says he needs to tidy up the language and will take care of it.
- Sewer Ordinance- connection point- Ms. Cannon said there has been some discussion about this as there have been a few recent problems. The issue was raised where is the property owner responsible and we looked in the ordinance but it's not really definitive. Mr. Greek said maintenance of a sanitary sewer is the responsibility of the owner of the property. Mr. Greek said we never provided a connection point, that they are responsible right to the property line but before it gets to the Boroughs main line. Mr. Greek went into more detail and spoke about how other Borough's handle this. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that our Solicitor revises the Sewer ordinance language. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mr. Greek clarifies that the language should say that the homeowner is responsible to the main line.**
- PMHIC agreement to be adopted from Benecon- Mrs. Fittos mentioned that she sat with some representatives from Benecon and they brought this agreement which needs to be approved. She also sent it to Mr. Greek for review. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we approve the agreement. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Mary Soberick & Rose Mary Canon abstain. Motion passes.**
- PMHIC Ordinance to be adopted from Benecon- Mrs. Fittos said the ordinance also has to be approved and advertised. Mr. Greek said it has to be advertised for 7 days and should be approved at our February meeting. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Mary Soberick and Rose Mary Cannon abstain. Motion passes.**

Rose Mary Cannon mentions that the \$265,000 DCED Grant was completed and sent into the state along with the interest generated, but it needs to be audited within 120 days. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion that we get in touch with the auditors and let them know this Grant has to be audited. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak votes. Motion passes.** Ms. Cannon would also like to thank Jill as Mary was out of the office, Jill helped with getting the paperwork together.

Rose Mary Cannon also suggested when the weather is nice out that we get new light fixtures for outside.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:41pm and exited out at 9:06pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cannon makes the motion to adjourn at 9:06pm. Second: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer