

REORGANIZATION MEETING

The reorganization meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for Nominations and Elections of officers was held at the above date and place at 6:30pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor James Romankow and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 4 residents and 1 reporter.

There was no roll call.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Mayor James Romankow asked if everyone had their Oath of Office forms. Mr. Joseph Butrie said he did not have his with him that he left it home. Mr. Romankow asked him to go home to get it.

A brief recess took place at 6:31pm and resumed again at 6:33pm. Mr. Butrie returned with his forms where Mayor James Romankow performed the Oath of Office and Oath of Residency for Mr. Butrie.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Romankow asked if there were any nominations for Council President. Colin Jones nominated Rose Mary Cannon. Joe Butrie nominated Colin Jones. Colin Jones declined the nomination. Matthew Walsh nominated Martin Ditsky. Mr. Romankow asked if there were any other nominations. Nominations were closed. Mr. Romankow asked for a roll call vote for Rose Mary Cannon as follows: Matthew Walsh= no, John Turcmanovich= no, Joseph Butrie = no, Colin Jones= yes, Jared Soto= Yes, Martin Ditsky= No, Ms. Cannon= no. Martin Ditsky won by receiving nominations by all council members.

Mr. Romankow asked if anyone has nominations for Vice President. Matthew Walsh nominated Rose Mary Cannon. Joseph Butrie nominated Colin Jones. Martin Ditsky nominated Matthew Walsh. Nominations were closed. Roll call vote for Ms. Cannon as Vice President as follows: Matthew Walsh= yes, John Turcmanovich= Yes, Joseph Butrie= no, Colin Jones= yes, Ms. Cannon = Yes, Jared Soto=yes, Martin Ditsky = yes. Ms. Cannon won the nomination for Vice President by 6 votes.

Mr. Romankow asked for nominations for president pro-tempore. Colin Jones nominated Jared Soto. Rose Mary Cannon nominated Colin Jones. Jared Soto nominated Matthew Walsh. Nominations were closed.

Roll Call vote for Jared Soto: Matthew Walsh =no, John Turcmanovich=no Joseph Butrie=no, Colin Jones= yes, Ms. Cannon=no, Jared Soto=no, Martin Ditsky= no.

Roll call vote for Colin Jones: Matthew Walsh= no, John Turcmanovich = no, Joseph Butrie=yes, Colin Jones= yes, Rose Mary Cannon= yes, Jared Soto= yes, Martin Ditsky =no

Colin Jones won the nomination 4-3 for President pro-tempore.

REAPPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS

Mr. Ditsky then took over. He said the first appointment is for our Solicitor. **John Turcmanovich makes the motion to appoint Mike Greek. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mr. Ditsky said the next appointment is for the Engineer, Keystone Consulting Engineers. Mr. Ditsky asked if anyone would like to nominate them. Mr. Walsh asked if this was the same firm that did our zoning. Mr. Ditsky said the engineering firm is the one who worked on the street scape and the Borough garage. Ms. Cannon said anything that the Borough has to do. Mr. Ditsky said back in the summer of 2014 there was a Sewer collapse by the sports zoo and we had to get the engineer involved. Mr. Jones asked if there have been any other proposals by any other engineering firms. Mrs. Fittos said we did get some in the mail. Mr. Walsh asked if that is something we advertise for or just receive. Mrs. Fittos said we have just continued to retain the current engineer.

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Ms. Cannon explained to council that we hired a professional that has a whole team not just an engineer which is why fees are high but that's paying for a draftsman, clerk, engineer, basically whoever is involved in a project. Mr. Ditsky went on to agree with Ms. Cannon about the engineer and all the work related to the projects. Mr. Walsh asked if we will continue to absorb the same fees for the street scape or because it's something they have already done, we may not have to. Mr. Ditsky said that may change. He said there will be a meeting January 8th at the Borough Office and welcomed any of council to join. Ms. Cannon said at any time council is unhappy, we can advertise for an engineering firm. Mr. Turcmanovich asked if at some time down the road we can change engineering firms. Ms. Cannon said yes. Mr. Jones said it might make sense down the road with the sewer project, to use the same engineer as the water and Sewer Authority as they know what layout of the land. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to appoint Keystone Engineers as the Borough Engineer. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mr. Ditsky said the next appointment is Lehigh Valley Inspection Services for Code and Zoning. **Matthew Walsh made a motion to advertise for an in-house part-time zoning and code officer. Seconded: John Turcmanovich vote. Discussion:** Mr. Jones asked do we keep the current one he feels we need to. He said they are making positive strides. He said we are pre-judging this company and have seen a lot being done over the past 4 months. Mr. Jones said he would love to have an in-house code and zoning, but doesn't think it's realistic. Ms. Cannon said once again you're looking for part-time because of benefits. Mr. Walsh said well isn't he working 24 hrs. a week. Mr. Ditsky said it was originally 3 days a week and then was reduced after a meeting with the owner of the company. Ms. Cannon also said some of the reason he is being tied up is council members giving him bogus complaints. Mr. Walsh said he understands but he feels we can save a good portion of money to bring it in house. The town needs as much as it can get. Mr. Turcmanovich said he feels we can cut back more hours from the firm and do the little things in house to follow up on the possible bogus complaints and some of the quality of life issues that plague the Borough and the police department. He said it would cut the hours of the firm. Ms. Cannon said all she can say is we sat here when we did away with the in-house person without anyone else in mind, and it was total chaos and took a long time to get things back on an even keel which is one reason they are putting so many hours in. She said we can't just close shop. She said how efficient they will be when they know they are losing their job. Mr. Ditsky explained that at the time they advertised for zoning, Paul Jarrett handled the interview very well. He didn't have a zoning person for us, but hired Steve Meylach to assist us.

Mr. Romankow said they use to have a police officer handle the small stuff and if they get the office to where it needs to be they will have that again. Mr. Romankow said the small stuff can be handled in the police dept. There was some further discussion on this.

Mr. Jones asked if the advertisement is for both or just one. Mr. Walsh said it could be for both. Ms. Cannon asked about the Ucc which is going to be an issue. Ms. Cannon asked Mr. Walsh if it was purely financial he was looking at is he unhappy with the work that was done. Mr. Walsh said he thinks we can save money to bring someone in-house. **Opposed: Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon, and Jared Soto. Motion passes.**

Mathew Walsh makes the motion to retain LVIS until something better comes along. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

APPROVAL OF WAGE RESOLUTION

Resolution 2016-01 for non-union Borough employees. Mr. Jones asked if the part-time patrolman wage rates were increased. Mrs. Fittos and Mr. Ditsky said no, it was talked about at budget time. Mr. Ditsky asked Mr. Turcmanovich if the part time police rates can be negotiated through the contract and Mr.

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Turcmanovich said no. Mr. Ditsky mentioned he would also like to increase the CDL driver rates for public works as well as the part time laborers for public works. Mr. Walsh said there are some wages here that needs to be looked upon and evaluated. Mr. Walsh said he doesn't think we will get good help at these wages set currently. Mr. Jones said we budgeted at the rates as is and not sure how much room we have to increase. Mrs. Fittos said it should definitely be addressed this year for the next budget. Mr. Turcmanovich asked if we approve it now, can it be changed and Mrs. Fittos and a few others said yes. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve resolution 2016-01. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Matthew Walsh. Motion passes.**

MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Ditsky said the monthly council meetings need to be decided on as they are usually every 2nd Wednesday of each month. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to continue meeting on the second Wednesday of the month unless anyone opposes. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mrs. Fittos informed everyone that February 10th is Ash Wednesday. Council agreed to keep it and Matthew Walsh mentioned that the meeting should not be changed due to religious beliefs.

COMMITTEE MEETING APPOINTMENT AND SCHEDULE

Colin Jones makes the motion to table the committee meeting appointment and schedule.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

- Planning Commission 2 open seats (4) year term- Mr. Ditsky said there is a letter of interest from Michael Kafkalas. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to re-appoint Michael Kafkalas. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Zoning Hearing Board- (2) alternate open seats (3) year term. There were no letters of interest. **Ms. Cannon makes the motion to re-advertise for this board and any other positions that are not filled tonight. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon said even in the panther valley column the advertisement can be presented.
- Recreation Commission- (2) open seats (5) year term. There were 2 letters of interest. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to re-appoint Gwyneth Collevecchio who has been a very good chair on the board. Seconded: Jared Soto vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
Colin Jones makes the motion to re-appoint Kevin Soberick as well. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.
- Vacancy Board- 1 open seat, 1 year term- There were no letters of interest.
- Lansford Coaldale JT Water Authority- 1 Seat, 5 year term. – There were 8 letters of interest. **Mr. Turcmanovich made the motion table so it can be reviewed.** Resident Mary Soberick asked if the names can be mentioned. Mr. Ditsky said, Wendy Butrie, Richard Pogwist, Nicholas Vavro, Donna Valent, Charles Knipper, Tom Vadyak, John Tucker and John Racko.

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- Health Officer- 1 seat indefinite term – No letters of interest. Ms. Cannon said she knew a nurse that said unless you're already doing this line of work, its hard to get certified. Mr. Jones asked what this position entails.
- Health Inspector- Resume Attached from Richard Tower. Mrs. Fittos said Duane Dellecker, our prior Health Inspector resigned and recommended this gentleman who is very qualified and actually did not inspections for us in a time of need. Mr. Walsh asked if this was an advertised position. Mr. Ditsky said yes. **Matthew Walsh made the motion to appoint Richard Tower. Seconded: John Turcmanovich vote. All in Favor, motion passes.**

PUBLIC COURTESY

There was no public courtesy.

ADJOURNMENT

Rosemary Cannon made the motion to adjourn at 7:15pm. Second: Colin Jones vote. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

May Fittos
Secretary/Treasurer