

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 22 residents and 1 reporter.

ROLL CALL

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

Mr. Ditsky opened the floor by announcing we have a guest speaker, Josh Kulp from Eastern PA EMS Council who was running late who wants to speak about the Lansford Ambulance which doesn't seem like the service will be up and running anytime soon. We did however have guest speaker Joni Gestl from Lehighon Ambulance Association who would speak until he arrived.

Joni Gestl said her main purpose was to address the potential to get a mailing for the subscription of services provided by Lehighon Ambulance for the Borough of Lansford. She stated they were looking for council to designate Lehighon Ambulance to be their primary provider. She mentioned that they have been honoring the previous subscriptions. Mr. Vadyak asked what the subscription will be for a year. She said they charge \$65.00 for a household and \$45.00 for an individual. She handed out a sample subscription for everyone to look at. She said she would need our assistance to obtain a mailing list so they do not miss any household. **Mr. Vadyak made the motion to adopt a resolution appointing Lehighon Ambulance as their primary care provider/ Basic life support. Second: Rose Mary Cannon. All in favor, motion carries.** Josh Kulp arrived and explained that Lansford Ambulance is not a licensed ambulance service right now, and will need to go through the whole process again to start it back up and this is something that can be done. They were up and running November 4th, 2013, but they did not have insurance resulting in losing their license.

Mr. Ditsky skipped ahead to New Business regarding a transmission repair/ rebuild on a 2005 Ford Expedition Police vehicle. He said within the packet is an estimate from Krajcirik and another from Kovatch Ford in which Chris Ondrus will take the floor to go over the estimates. Mr. Ondrus stated the 2006 Ford Expedition needed a rebuilt transmission and the estimates were provided, but also mentioned to have it done in-house as well. Mr. Ondrus said the difference in estimates would be, Kovatch is offering a 3 year warranty and new transmission and Krajcirik is offering a 6 month warranty with a rebuilt. Both have unlimited mileage. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to go with the estimate from Kovatch with the 3 year warranty. Second: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion carries.** Rose Mary Cannon asked if the computer in the Police Vehicle will be affected by the installation of this new transmission and Mr. Ondrus said no.

Mr. Ditsky said next they will address the printer and computer estimates. Mr. Ondrus submitted an estimate from Lezteck Systems, which is the company that handles our IT needs. The police dept. has 1 computer that needs to be replaced and will need office 2013 installed and windows 8 operating system. Chris explained that they currently have (2) laptops and (4) Desktops in the Police Department. Some have XP; some have Vista as the operating system. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to purchase 1 computer with XP and 2013 Office software. Second: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion carries.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Next is the approval of the December 30, 2013 minutes, January 6, 2014, January 8, 2014 and January 20, 2014. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve the December 30, 2013 meeting minutes. Second: Mary Soberick. All in favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick made the motion to approve the January 6, 2014 meeting minutes. Second: Rose Mary Cannon. Motion carries. Colin Jones made the motion to approve the January 8, 2014 meeting minutes. Second: Mary Soberick. Opposed: Samantha Yasson. Motion was passed and carried. Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve the January 20, 2014 meeting minutes with the 1 change from " She" to "The Borough" on 2nd page reference to filing a claim. Second: Joe Butrie. Samantha Yasson was opposed; however motion was passed and carried.**

PUBLIC COURTESY

Don Gildea, 107 West Kline Ave, said that February 5th, 2014 his daughter moved the cars to the east side being it was an odd number day. The Following day his daughter went to move the car she received a ticket on her car and Don's car. He said they were dated February 7, 2014. Mayor James Romankow said that there is a 3rd party plowing the streets and it is confusing people thinking it's the Borough when it's not. Mary Soberick explained that the ordinance states that even though they are done plowing that doesn't mean you can move your car back, it's the parking band and it's an 8hr time frame. Mary Soberick and Tommy mentioned that the plowing was not done on the 5th as that is when the snow started. Rose Mary Cannon said they were doing the Alley's on the February 5, 2014. Martin Ditsky said curb to curb started on February 6, 2014.

Charlotte Strohl, 18 Jones Street, said she works very hard to keep her sidewalks open. She said an orange plow was flying down her street and put all the snow/ ice back on her sidewalk. She also stated at 11pm at night, the orange truck did not yield at a stop sign but went right through it. She said it's not fair. She doesn't have the money to buy multiple shovels to clean that mess.

Jodi Mika with Grace Community Church of Lansford wants to do a project and trying figure out what land in Lansford can be used. Her organization would like to plant flowers and vegetables and have the entire community involved. She would like a 20x20 area to start. She said they could do benches and have a really nice spot for the area. She said Lansford use to have an Urban Gardening back in the day. Martin

Ditsky said we could look into it, but he is not aware of any land that is available to do this project. Jodi mentioned the park down by the Sports Zoo is land owned by the Borough. She mentioned that Respect needs to grow in this community and those who will use this area needs to respect it. She believes it will be a positive change to Lansford. Rose Mary Cannon said it sounds like a really great idea and something she can look into it a bit more and come back to a council meeting and then they can move forward. Martin Ditsky was in favor. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to research it and come back to Jodi then they can move forward. Second: Tommy Vadyak. All in favor, motion carries.**

Mrs. Pat Whalen, a resident of Lansford asked how long after the snowfall do you need to shovel your sidewalk. Martin Ditsky replied within 24 hrs. Mr. Ditsky explained the first thing they would focus on is the streets and widening them, plowing and curb to curb would be next. We had some volunteers to assist in plowing who hold a CDL License such as our mayor in case we need it. Mr. Romankow mentioned that the alley ways were posted so all vehicles should be removed so the plows can get through. Mr. Vadyak did not agree with the posting of Alleys and said years ago the Alleys were never a problem. Rose Mary Cannon said there were certain areas that the Fire trucks could not get down and Tommy agreed by adding the oil trucks, coal trucks and garbage trucks could not get down as well. Mrs. Whalen asked if we lose our electric where would we go and who do we call? Rose Mary Cannon responded by saying she should call the electric company to find out what's going on. She also said there is an emergency management department number on the PPL bill you can reach out to. Mrs. Whalen asked if there was someplace to go with cots. Mr. Ditsky said we do not have that.

Lenny Kovach of Lansford, stated when he was chairperson he had the borough workers abide by the ordinance because it's easier to push 6 inches as opposed to 16 inches of snow. Lenny stated you have the ordinance; therefore you need to follow it. He said the trucks can't handle heavy loads of snow, that's how the plow breaks. He also mentioned that the workers are not getting out soon enough. The last storm it was almost 4 inches before they plowed. As soon as the ground starts to get covered they need to be out there. Mr. Ditsky stated it's the police and the emergency center that tell the Borough workers when to start plowing. Mr. Romankow stated it is Mr. Ditsky's responsibility not the police to notify the Borough workers when to start. There was a discussion between Mr. Ditsky, Lenny Kovach and Mr. Vadyak as to who has the plan of action regarding the removal of snow.

Ms. Cannon stated that there have been several calls from residents saying their driveways have been plowed shut; however it is not the Borough's responsibility to make sure your driveways are kept open. She explained it would be private plowing if we had the workers go back to open up everyone's driveway. She stated there is a shortage of equipment and man power in this Borough. Mr. Vadyak and Mr. Jones agreed with her.

Dave Szumangry of 331 West Paterson Street in Lansford said he used to be the Vice President and Chief of the Lansford Ambulance. He said it was a good thing for council to choose Leighton as Primary. He said the Borough has thousands of dollars of assets at Lansford ambulance, like equipment so what is going to happen to it. He said the Borough should donate the ambulances and get the equipment sold if they do not go back in service. Ms. Cannon responded by stating we have sent certified letters requesting the return of our equipment. Attorney Greek said if the Lansford Ambulance does not operate the Auditor General gets involved and files a petition.

Frank Hulta, a resident of Lansford commended the Borough workers that they were doing a good job; it's the residence causing the problem. They need to help each other.

Joe Butrie said that the people of Lansford need to cooperate and help each other as well as the Borough workers.

Samantha Yasson said a lot of municipality's have been running low on salt. She asked if it's ok to use ashes. Mr. Ditsky said you cannot use them in the street due to DEP restrictions, but you can use them on your sidewalk. Ms. Cannon asked how our salt situation is and Mr. Ditsky said they ordered some this week, but not sure when it will be delivered.

Mike Rego, a resident of Lansford, asked what our balance was in the sewer transmission fund and our response was \$560, 00 of total assets.

CORRESPONDENCE

- System Design Engineering Inc., proposed Borough Ramp. Mr. Greek said the letter we received back stated they are in agreement with the system changes; however we need to come up with the money. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to have our solicitor draw up an easement agreement with the Water Authority. Second: Colin Jones. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.** Rose Mary Cannon states that the Grant is only covering twenty- five thousand. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to look into what Grant Money is available for the ADA ramp project. Second: Colin Jones. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passed and carried.**
- East Bertsch Street Paving project, change order for a time extension. **Mary Soberick made the motion to accept the change order. Second: Rose Mary Cannon. All in Favor, motion carried.**
- PA State Assn of Boroughs- 2014 Membership listing- Ms. Cannon said we do not participate any longer.
- PA DEP- Electronics Recycling Letter – Tommy Vadyak said if you're a participating member they cannot charge for a T.V. removal. He also stated that firm is under scrutiny for charging for T.V's. He sent an email to the secretary treasurer regarding Advanced Green Solutions was under DEP Scrutiny per the article in the Pottsville paper and we should get ahold of the firm that is being used by Schuylkill County.

- Uninvest- 2013 Annual Investment Reports- Police Pension Plan- no questions or comments were stated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- no comments or questions were stated.
- Public Safety- Tommy Vadyak said we had no committee other than himself. ??
- Fire Department- Report Enclosed- Update e-mail from Wood Originals- expect mid-March start date- Rose Mary Cannon said the Grant money will expire in June. Tommy Vadyak said they were supposed to start this project in January. Martin Ditsky asked where we stood with that resolution. Mr. Greek responded by saying he communicated to them that the Borough would sign whatever they needed to sign and spoke to Joe Greco & Kim Roberti because the bank never sent anything over to execute. He also believes the motion was to move forward without putting any obligation on the Borough. He has nothing from the bank to review. Martin Ditsky appointed Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones to the Fire Department Committee (Public Safety). Martin Ditsky said we will add Rose Mary Cannon to this committee as well.
- Ambulance Report- No report
- Mayors Report- Magistrate County Fines \$1,728.78, Miscellaneous \$135, Meter Dump \$0.00, Meter Permits \$500.00, Parking Violations \$904.00. Monthly Total \$3,267.78 YTD \$5,278.04 Report was read by Mayor Romankow
- Police Report- Mayor Romankow said due to Chief Turcmanovich being out he could not obtain this report. Mr. Ditsky asked about Part- Time police. Mayor Romankow said he would like to hire more PT officers and recommended Shawn Nunemacher & John Orsulak. **Samantha Yasson made the motion to table until after executive session.**
- Parks & Recreation- No report
- Public Works- Snow Plowing Issues- this was addressed in public courtesy
- Community Dev/ Planning Zoning- No Meeting /no committees at the time.

Mary Soberick requested to be removed from Municipal Administration; she does not want to be on it. Samantha Yasson and Mary Soberick swapped Committees. Samantha will serve on the Public Works and Mary Soberick will serve on the Park & Recreation. Mary Soberick said for now she will maintain the Planning and Zoning at the time listed but will speak with Colin and Joe to come up with a different time in the future. Rose Mary Cannon also requested that Park & Recreation meeting date change to the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

- Code Enforcement- None
- Treasurer's Report- Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L, Balance Sheet, Check Register, Cell phone push to talk quote.- Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos said the regular reports that she normally provides are there along with some extra notes and a few quotes. She went on to explain that the Sewer Transmission Fund will need to have all the money market accounts consolidated as we need to pay this Loan from M & T Bank. She also said maybe we should seek counsel from Penny the accountant if it's ok to move these monies from the money market account as they may be there for a reason. Mary Soberick assured Mrs. Fittos by stating the main purpose of these accounts are for sewer. Mary Soberick said at one point there were certain accounts funding certain projects, but the projects are over, now the accounts are just collecting interest. Mrs. Fittos suggested that we consolidate Account No. 4808, holding a balance of \$87,717.18 & 5402, holding a balance of \$167,521.81 and transfer into Account No. 5537 which held a balance of \$54,000. Combining the two accounts will total \$255,238.99 which will get us through to the end of the year on this loan. Mary Soberick asked how many accounts we have and Mrs. Fittos responded with 7 including the Pligit account which she was not sure can be used. Mrs. Soberick explained that it is a savings account. Mary Soberick suggested in keeping the checking account and consolidates all the Money Market accounts into 1 interest bearing account. She also suggested that we pay the principal off and then continue to pay the interest. Mrs. Fittos said she will look contact banks and see who has the highest rate and will consolidate the accounts.

She also mentioned that there is a quote for a high speed printer to enable us to print the Sewer and Sanitation Bills fast with high efficiency. The water Authority has one that prints two thousand bills in 1 hour. This printer quote from Jeff Lesley is a similar printer. The quote is for a HP 3015n which is \$690, which is not that bad. It prints 42 pages per minute. **Colin Jones made the motion to purchase the printer for \$690.00. Second: Joe Butrie. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak, motion passed and carried.** Mr. Vadyak mentioned that the measurements on the sanitation bills were not the same sizes. He also said the account number was only listed on one side, but it is on both sides. He asked why they were late and said they need to be straightened out. Mrs. Fittos explained it was the first time processing the bills and they were a day late; however we gave all the residents and extra day to pay it. She also said we ordered new perforated paper and that Jill is the one handling the Accounts Receivable and the bill printing and is not that involved with how she is handling it. Lastly, there is a feature called "Push to Talk" for the Verizon cell phones for the street department. It's an extra \$15/ month so they can talk at a push of a button as opposed to dialing. Also with the bills to be approved, due to the lack of revenue, we should be selective as to what we pay until the 2nd QT revenue comes in. Mary Soberick assured Mary Fittos that it is at the Treasurers discretion to determine that.

Tommy had a question on the Kovatch Ford Bill regarding a battery. He stated it was a new battery that was just in that vehicle and should have been returned or looked at, maybe needed a

re-charge not to just purchase a new battery. Mayor Romankow said they had the car on and it just died. Joe Butrie said they should have checked the charging system and then move forward

from there to see why it went dead. If anything you could have returned it and got a new one for nothing.

Rose Mary Cannon asked if the Gregory Mousseau bill could be split between the Borough and the Fire Company. Mr. Greek said you cannot split the bill only the zoning application fee can be expensed from the fire company. If there is a variance fee that is what has to be split. He said there are certain costs that the municipality has to incur. Rose Mary Cannon asked what TSI was, but was unsure and believed it to be for parts. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to pay the bills as money becomes available. Second: Joe Butrie. All in Favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick stated she is in favor with the exception to the reimbursement to herself. She is donating the blinds to the police department.**

- Tax Collector's Report- No Report because taxes will be collected in April per Mrs. Soberick
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Mr. Vadyak said later on in the year there will be one.
- Solicitor- Cortright Street Sewer Issue- no response to easement letters- Mr. Greek said the only way you will get an easement done is to file condemnation proceeding. Mr. Greek will get an appointment with the engineer to check on a specific property that Mr. Vadyak mentioned was up to far from the property line. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to move forward with condemnation proceedings. Second: Joe Butrie. All in favor, motion passes.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Estimates for Printer purchase (to print sanitation & Sewer Transmission Bills) – this was addressed under Treasurers Report.
- Estimate for transmission repair/rebuild on Police 2005 Ford Expedition- This was addressed before public courtesy.
- Estimate for Software upgrades for Police Department Computers- Addressed before public courtesy.
- Borough Council Committee appointments & approval of meeting dates- this was addressed under committee reports.
- Zoning Hearing Board appointment, 3 vacancies; letters from Joseph Orsulak, Donna Valent, Robert Gaughan. If all are appointed, there are still 2 alternate seats to be filled. - **Mary Soberick made the motion to fill all the seats with all the interested parties as follows: Joe Orsulak is to fill the vacated seat for Zoning Hearing Board with a term ending December 31, 2015. Second: Colin Jones. All In favor, motion carries. Donna Valent is to fill the vacated seat for Zoning Hearing Board with a term ending December 31, 2016. Second: Joe Butrie. All in Favor, motion carries. Robert Gaughan is to fill the vacant seat for Zoning Hearing Board with a term ending December 31, 2014. Second: Samantha Yasson. All in Favor, motion carries. Tommy Vadyak made a motion to advertise for all vacancies on all boards. Second: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion carries.**

Attorney Greek mentioned not say paid or unpaid when advertising for these vacancies.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rose Mary Cannon asked the status of 860 Patterson. Mr. Ditsky said it was just closed today. Attorney Greek gave copies to address it for the next meeting. He said the check will be deposited on Friday. Mrs. Fittos said she will make copies and put them in everyone's mailbox.

Rose Mary Canon asked if there were any more estimates for the generator. Colin spoke to someone from somewhere but he was not interested. She said she called one place that the engineer recommended, but no response yet. Mrs. Cannon has one more place she can call; he does have property in the Borough, but doesn't remember his name.

Ms. Cannon asked where we stood with hiring a cleaning lady. She said the office needs to be cleaned and it will be a contract person which we budgeted for. She said we did advertise for it before and received a letter of interest. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to advertise for a contract cleaning person. Second: Mary Soberick. All in favor, motion carries.**

Ms. Cannon said that we need to get rid of that piano and the safe that is in the garage. The garage is leaking and will ruin this safe which is in great condition. The safe is worth money and is beautiful. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to sell the Piano and the safe once we get it appraised.**

Rose Mary asked what the next step was we are taking on the obtaining our equipment from the ambulance. They did not reply to the certified letter they received from the Borough. Mr. Greek said it's a return of property and it's not that they have it and may be sitting on it; it's the individual members it may have went out to. Mr. Greek said another option is to appoint a receiver. It would be a type of creditor that may be interested a certain assets that they may have. Tommy Vadyak asked Mr. Greek if he can look into this and have something for us at our next meeting. He said other than a Receiver; the Auditor General would be brought in. Mr. Greek said he will research it.

Rose Mary Cannon said when we were appointing and re-appointing we chose not to go with Barry Isett. Has anyone looked into getting this in-house again? What is the status of that? Mr. Ditsky said no one has come forward. Mr. Greek said that code enforcement position was eliminated; he suggested the Borough stay with a firm. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to re-appoint Barry Isett. Second: Rose Mary**

Cannon. Roll Call Vote: Tommy Vadyak-yes, Mary Soberick- no, Joe Butrie-no, Colin Jones-yes, Rose Mary Cannon-yes, Samantha Yasson-yes. Motion passes.

Samantha Yasson mentioned that there was a stop sign down across from Chris Ondrus's house. She is not sure if it was fixed or if it's still down. Mr. Ditsky knows where this is and said it's still down. Martin Ditsky said we'll have to call the Borough workers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council held a brief executive meeting at 8:35- 9:10pm.

Council exited out of executive session at 9:10pm. **Tommy Vadyak made the motion to take Mrs. Fittos out of probationary status and make her permanent and keep Rose Mary Cannon's note on file. Second: Samantha Yasson. All in favor, motion carries.**

Tommy Vadyak made the motion on the recommendation of the Mayor that we hire the two part-time officers being John Orsulak and Shawn Nunemacher and check their background and a go through the process of hiring. Second: Rose Mary Cannon. All in favor, motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

Tommy Vadyak made the motion to adjourn at 9:12pm. Second: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
May Fittos
Secretary/Treasurer