

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 14 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.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Mr. Ditsky opened up with stating he has set a 30 minute time limit to discuss two items. 15 minutes for Snow removal and 15 minutes for the Landlord License agreement. Mr. Vadyak reminded Mr. Ditsky it will still be 3 minutes per person and Mr. Ditsky agreed.

David Benevy, 536 Shane Drive, Effort PA 18330, had a letter distributed prior to this meeting stating that the letter that was mailed out by Barry Isett was outrageous and should be rescinded along with any payments made, should be refunded. He claims that the letter does not agree with the ordinance regarding the due date the payment should be made. He also claims that because the letter was sent to everyone and not just landlords, it was a fishing expedition to find out who the property owners are. He also said that Ordinance 2007-13 is deeply flawed and should be rescinded. He mentioned different violations that are associated with this ordinance. He also said it leaves rental properties to inspections and leaves the borough open to legal expenses should it be contested. In conclusion, Mr. Benevy is against the Landlord License Agreement and doesn't feel he should have to pay for his License to continue to be a Landlord.

Mr. Vadyak disagrees with Mr. Benevy entirely. He challenged him to go to court because the Residential Agreement is clear as to what is expected and mentions that if you're delinquent in your sanitation Sewer or taxes you could lose your License. Mr. Vadyak said the ordinance is brought back intact and enforcing it.

Ms. Cannon asked Mr. Benevy how many rental units he has in the Borough of Lansford and Mr. Benevy responded with 4.

Robert Clewell of 229 West Water Street, Lansford Pa said he also has rental properties and wanted to know if he had to pay \$40.00 for each rental place and Mr. Ditsky responded with yes. He said according to the paper he has until February 15th but the ordinance says April 1st. He wants to know what the fee is for and why he has to pay it. Mr. Ditsky said it is a license to rent and protect itself. Mr. Clewell said to make money.

Ms. Cannon said it's not a money making thing. She said you're getting a license, if you get a license anywhere else you have to pay a fee. She said over the years it was not administered properly. It was being handled by the code office upstairs and then office was closed down so it was a fishing expedition to appoint because we did not have an up to date list and this was one way to find out people who not own rental properties. Ms. Cannon said there were Landlords who were ethical and paid it because they knew it was in existence and then there were many who did not pay it because they did not receive any information in the mail. She said this makes it even for every ethical Landlord. The Borough is trying to put everyone on the same plane.

Mr. Clewell said there are houses around him that rent and he is not sure how they pass their inspections. Mr. Vadyak said, you're supposed to get a license and then it gets inspected. This is what we are trying to get a handle on. He also said the law is, anyone that rents out a property has to have a residential rental License.

Mr. Ditsky said he also received a letter, but we did not have an updated list and had to start somewhere.

Ms. Cannon said recently there was a segment on channel 13 regarding the Lansford Alive and work that they were doing for the street scape. She wanted to clarify something Mr. Benevy said when being interviewed. He said the Grant was received by Lansford Alive, but it was the Borough of Lansford that received the Grant. She said Lansford Alive partnered with the Borough of Lansford and in 2013 Chris Ondrus and Mary Soto who are members of Lansford Alive, were the forerunners and the ones doing all

the work and gave some ideas as to how to make the downtown look better. Ms. Cannon gave them the name of their engineer and he worked with them and they were successful. They applied for \$370,500 and it was reduced to \$275,000 when it was awarded. She said that Mary Soto and Chris Ondrus worked very hard and they continue to work very hard. She feels its going to make a big difference to the downtown.

Jodi Mika of Grace Community Church said there were just a few more adjustments to the Agreement they would like to make before they sign it. She would like to attend the next Municipal Administration meeting to go over the agreement. She handed out a letter that stated all the information including their first meeting which will be held at Marcos, February 27th @6:pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FOR

Mr. Ditsky said at the last meeting the December 30, 2014 minutes were tabled due to the minutes speaking about the Tax Levy being adopted before being advertised on page 2. Mary Soberick said it can't be adopted without being advertised first. She said it has to be advertised and then it can be adopted. Mrs. Fittos discussed this with Attorney Greek. Mr. Greek said as long as it was advertised it can be adopted at our next meeting, but he has to see how it was advertised. Mrs. Soberick read the public notice and Mr. Greek said that's not how it was supposed to be advertised. The way it was advertised was incorrect. He said it has to be an Ordinance advertisement. He said we can correct it. The minutes are fine since we adopted the tax levy. We can advertise and adopt the tax ordinance at the next meeting.

Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve the December 30, 2014 minutes as read. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

January 14, 2015 minutes- Ms. Cannon said there are some questions regarding the wage resolution the way it is written it's kind of unclear. She said we spoke about parks and recreation and wasn't sure what was approved and what wasn't a part of that resolution. Mr. Vadyak said it was written incorrectly. He approved to have everything written as is except for the pool staff because Ms. Cannon was supposed to go back to her committee and bring everything back. Mrs. Fittos explained with how it was said on the recording. Mr. Vadyak explained all figures were to stay the same with the exception of the pool since Ms. Cannon had to review with her committee and bring it back to us. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the minutes. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Penneast Natural Gas Pipeline
- Carbon Engineering, Inc.
- Siberline Manufacturing Company- Remedial Action Progress report- Ms. Cannon asked if we received any information from the Sewer Plant.
- PA dept. of conservation and Natural Resources- Grants- Ms. Cannon said her Parks & recreation committee will be looking into this.
- Letter from Chris Ondrus- reappointment to water authority- tabled last meeting- Ms. Cannon said to let that go as he submitted a letter to rescind his request.
- Letter from Hope Houser-
- Letter from Tommy Dobosh- Ms. Cannon said these letters are from people who are on dialysis. Mr. Romankow said he has received complaints from people like this asking if they can stay in their handi-cap spots and have early snow removal. Mr. Vadyak said he doesn't think either one of them have a handicap spot. Mr. Ditsky said people expect special treatment.
- US Bankruptcy Court- Elaine Mary Giltner
- TBB Realty Scheduling Order
- Letter from Lehighon Ambulance re: Lansford Ambulance- Ms. Cannon said she is curious to see how Lansford Ambulance will come up with the money they owe Lehighon which is a total of \$10,319.10 per a billing agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Read by Martin Ditsky. There was a brief discussion on Fire Hydrant markers and Mr. Vadyak recommended that prices be available next meeting. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that there was a recommendation by Ms. Cannon to draft a letter thanking the county commissioners for their help in enabling the Borough to obtain funds to complete the ADA Ramp project. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to draft a sample letter and send it to the county commissioner and when they are available along with a councilmember is available to come and see the beautiful ramp. Ms. Cannon said she would also like to invite everyone else she named in her letter. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Ditsky also mentioned the recommendation to get bids to demolish the Elk's building. **Ms. Cannon makes the motion to Advertise to get at least three bids to know where we stand. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.** Mary Soberick said in regards to advertising for bids, that's a whole engineering process, you need the specs. She said you're looking for quoted figures not bids. She said you don't want to advertise for bids. She said that is why she's opposed to it. Attorney Greek said it needs to be clarified. **Ms. Cannon rescinds her last motion and makes the new motion to contact some demolition people to get costs on demolishing the Elk's building. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Vadyak asked Mr. Romankow if he can park two cars on the side and two in the back. He would like to move the handicap parking space on Tunnel Street to the front of the borough building after additional discussion. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to move the handicap space from Tunnel Street to the front of the borough building with a 15 minute time limit for borough business only. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**
- Public Safety- New Chair is Martin Ditsky- Read by Mr. Ditsky. Ms. Yasson asked Mr. Ditsky when he made himself chair. He said at this meeting because he sent an email out and no one responded. Ms. Yasson said she accepted the position it at that meeting and doesn't understand what happened. Mr. Ditsky apologized and said he didn't he hear her say it but will appoint her now as Chair of Public safety. The new Chairperson of public safety is Samantha Yasson. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to move forward with the gas cards for all borough vehicles. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.** There was a brief discussion on how the gas cards will keep track of the purchases, such as by mileage etc. There should also be limits as well on the cards.
- Fire Department- Read by Samantha Yasson. Mr. Vadyak mentioned that the Borough needs to approve any events that go on by the Fire Company. Mr. Greek said the events need to be mentioned at the meetings and approved in the minutes so in case of a workers comp issue, the carrier will not deny it. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve the bingo for March. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Ambulance Report
- Mayors Report- Read by James Romankow
- Police Report- read by James Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- Rose Mary Cannon said she will not read the whole report but mentioned how the commissioners commented on the lifeguard situation and how they wanted to get the testing done down there. She said they increased the salaries to their lifeguards to \$10.00 an hour. She said its several hundred dollars for the testing plus the license so she will see they can be combined with the county and have the testing done down there. She also asked Mr. Ditsky if he said the stands at the pool should have volunteers running them. He said he mentioned it to someone.
- Public Works- No Meeting, No Report
- Community Development/ Planning Zoning- Read by Mary Soberick. She mentioned having an ordinance to ticket unregistered/ uninspected "parked" vehicles and asked Solicitor Mike Greek if he was familiar. He said yes he will draft one up. Mrs. Soberick also mentioned bringing Code back in house but to start with a zoning officer first and slowly brings everything else back in house. She would like to re-establish how it was in the past, on an as needed basis when applications come in. Mr. Greek said we are in better shape now if we wanted to re-open the code department upstairs and bring it in-house. Colin Jones said he is in favor of starting with small steps, zoning first. Mary Soberick asked if we can put out an advertisement to get letters of interest. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to advertise for letters of interest for a zoning**

officer. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Discussion: Tommy Vadyak says you have to sit down and have the hrs. they are going to work, salary that is going to be set before you put an advertisement out. First thing people are going to ask when they call is what's the monetary. Joe Butrie said we should discuss it at our next meeting. Colin Jones said we should draw up an outline and present it to council at the next meeting. Mr. Greek also said its an appointed position, no different than his position or the engineer they use and its better to go that route so they are not open to litigation should it not work out. You're just appointing a person as opposed to a firm.

Samantha Yasson tables it for the next meeting. Tommy Vadyak says he is not in favor of bringing back in house; he is in favor of looking at another firm Benesch from Pottsville. Mr. Romankow asked if the ordinance books can be updated.

- Code Enforcement- Colin Jones said he sees the same stuff on all their statements.
- Treasurers Report- Bills to be approved etc. Mr. Vadyak found a sanitation bill from Times News that was recorded in the general fund but should be paid out of the Sanitation fund. Mr. Vadyak questioned the Gall's bills for the police officers. He questioned the Under Armor pants. Mr. Romankow said they are like long johns. Mr. Vadyak also mentioned that he likes that we give business to all the businesses in town, but he questioned Scodacek asking Mr. Romankow if that's his cousin who owns it. He said that was a distant cousin and Mr. Vadyak said to watch because that could be a conflict. Mr. Romankow did tell the police to spread the business around and not to just one particular Garage for repairs. Mrs. Fittos said she limited the reports and gave everyone just what she thinks they needed. Also in regards to purchasing bulk at Boyers she has provided a comparison sheet which shows a 5% discount with Boyers and what we pay with American Paper and Supply. She went over the LST fund and reviewed a quick financial analysis as to where we will stand next month financially and what funds we can borrow money from. Mr. Vadyak said there is supposed to be a line item in the budget when you're borrowing money, but Mrs. Fittos said that is incorrect. He also brought up the past where money was borrowed from the Sewer Transmission fund and never paid back. He said it's a state code you need a line item for borrowing money and said he will bring it in. Ms. Cannon said she sees a significant savings with Boyers. In regards to the bills, Mrs. Fittos said she will pay about \$12,000 out of the \$51,000 that was due, but she explained to some of the vendors we don't have any revenue coming in until April. She said come March, we will have to borrow money from somewhere. Mary Soberick asked if I will have additional calculations next month. Mary Soberick inquired about a bill from Barry Isett in the amount of \$1,787.50 regarding property rental inspections and was opposed to paying it. Mary Soberick feels one letter could have been mailed out, not the entire ordinance.
Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to find out how much the postage was on this particular bill and to not pay the postage. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay all bills as money becomes available. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak motion passes. Tommy Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer. Mr. Vadyak stated to live within your means and we shouldn't have vendors waiting for money. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to transfer up to the maximum of \$12,000 prior to the next meeting if needed from the sanitation fund #0283 to be re-paid. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion Passes.**

- Tax Collector's Report
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Mary Soberick said the meeting is next Wednesday.
- Solicitor's Report- Mr. Greek reviewed the letter to Lancaster Truck Bodies and knows the guy came up and resolved the situation. Mrs. Fittos said they delivered a new cutting edge free of charge and a mechanic but our guys did not utilize the mechanic. Joe Butrie said the mechanic looked at the blade on our truck and said there are no adjustments needed. Mr. Greek said the health insurance ordinance needs to approve. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adopt the ordinance. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mary Soberick abstained.** Mr. Greek reviewed the Charles Williams case. Friends of the pool resolution was updated and handed out. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve the resolution. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Greek mentioned the Edgemont Bridge on dock street, that he has the deed to the right of way and the drawing from the assessment office indicate that the entire bridge are within the right of way of the railroad making it their property, their bridge. He suggests contacting Mike Kafkalas to get a survey. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to hire a surveyor to survey the bridge and check the right of ways and maps to determine the bridge. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Fee resolution- Tabled to Municipal Administration- It was never discussed.
- 2015 Wage Resolution
- 3 Strike Law – Language to be updated. Mike Greek and Chris Ondrus spoke about this. Mr. Greek is working on this.
- Sewer Ordinance- Update Language- copy was handed out. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise it. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Elk's Building – Already discussed
- Sale of 8' Plow to Tamaqua Auto Parts- Bill of Sale to be drafted. Joe Butrie said it was already advertised and we need a bill of sale drafted up. Mr. Vadyak asked how much we sold it for and Joe Butrie said \$500. Mr. Greek said he will draft it up.

OLD BUSINESS

- Water Authority Appointment- Samantha Yasson said last meeting we tabled the position and we now have letters from those would like to be appointed. Rose Mary Cannon there are some letters where they rescinded their letters. Martin Ditsky said those are rescinding their request are Chris Ondrus and Len Benek. Samantha Yasson said the letters we have are: Joseph Horvat, Ed Horoski and Charles Knipper. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to appoint Joe Horvat. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote.** Tommy Vadyak said Stipend is already set by the Borough \$25/ month/ \$300/ year as opposed to \$2,500 for the year. Mr. Greek said we set their salary as a board member. Mr. Vadyak would like to remove the three board members, but Mike Greek did not research the removal of Board members. Mr. Greek said they should not be receiving benefits, they do not work full-time. Mr. Vadyak said the last officer said he was not going to take the benefits and he claimed to be the right to know officer, but he has a right to know request in his hands signed by the office staff. Maybe their solicitor should go in front of the disciplinary review board. Ms. Cannon said she has something from the municipal authority's Act and that it's the same procedure to remove a Borough council person. Mr. Vadyak said they are taking money illegally and taking benefits illegally. He said Lansford council is wrong for entertaining what they are doing over there. Samantha Yasson asked if it is in writing that what they are doing is illegal. Mr. Vadyak said yes, it's in the Local Government Commission Study. She asked if its here. He said it's in the Borough files. **Roll call vote of said motion: MD= Yes, MS= No, TV=No, Joe Butrie= Yes, Samantha Yasson = yes, Colin Jones = Yes, Rose Mary Cannon = yes. 5-2, Motion passes.** Mary Soberick noted that her opposition has nothing to do with Tommy Vadyak's complaints.
- Push to Talk Feature on cell phones for public works Dept. Mr. Vadyak asked what service they have, Mrs. Fittos said Verizon. Mr. Butrie said its only \$5.00 extra. Ms. Cannon said she was in the office when Butch tried to get a hold of Mario and couldn't so she said it would be worth it to get it. Mr. Vadyak said it could be costly depending on the amount of time you use. Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones asked for some quotes for next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Special Event- Anthracite Triathlon – July 19th- @7:15am – 10:30am –**Colin Jones makes the motion to accept. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Special Event- 5k Zoostock Challenge May 30, 2015 @9:30am-11:30am- Tommy Vadyak said there is no insurance yet. Tabled until insurance comes in.

Council took a brief recess at 8:39pm.

Tommy Vadyak and Mary Soberick left at 8:40pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:45pm and exited out at 9:08pm.

Colin Jones makes the motion to hire the part- time police officer Andrew Hashagen. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Butrie makes the motion to adjourn at 9:10pm. Second: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer