

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 18 residents and 1 reporter.

ROLL CALL

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

Jimmy Romankow stepped in at 6:34pm.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Nick Butrie 30 E. Bertsch Street, spoke about the cleaning of the sidewalks and the ordinance should be adhered to. He inquired about the time limit to clean the sidewalks and to define the ordinance. He mentioned how his side of the street has no sun. Mr. Romankow said they are having issues enforcing it with the citations. He is open to any suggestions. Mr. Butrie said the people of Lansford just don't care anymore and said they should be looking out for each other.

Jodi Mika of Grace Community Church mentioned that they cancelled the meeting on Wednesday. They will come to the next meeting at Municipal Administration on April 1st.

Bob Greenall, 421 E Bertsch, was inquiring about the robberies that happened throughout the summer. Mr. Romankow could not say so much about this topic, but to let the officers apprehend the suspects and do their job.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded: Mary Soberick Vote. All in favor, motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Jill Stone- resident with snow/ plowing complaint- Read by Mr. Ditsky. Mr. Vadyak suggested referring this letter to public Works committee.
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection- Siberline Remedial investigation. Ms. Cannon said there must have been some infiltration at panther creek, but does not involve us.
- Letter from Donna Valent- Reserved parking space request- Read by Mr. Ditsky. Ms. Cannon asked where her current one is. Mr. Ditsky said its on Chestnut Street and this new one would be on Patterson St. in front of her business. Mrs. Soberick said by ordinance she is allowed up to 3, however she did discuss it with her and said its pointless to have for just 4 months as there is a \$100 installation charge plus the annual charge so if she wants it taken out in April , come next year she will have to pay for it all again. Enforcing it is up to her if she keeps it up all year. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve her request. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passed.**
- PA Borough Councils Association- Outstanding Council member of the Year Award.
- (2) Letters from Reading & Northern Real Estate Co- Read by Mr. Ditsky. Rental Amount was increased to a standard 3%.
- (2) Letters from Panther Valley School- re: icy bus stop & changes to bus stops- Read by Mr. Ditsky. Ms. Canon said the icy bus stop is a moot point now; however there is a new owner to address this issue with in the future. Mrs. Soberick said in regards to the repository sales, they need to come through this meeting. She noticed the sale of the school building for \$863 dollars and they need to be approved or disapproved. She asked if anyone remembers doing that for this particular property. Mr. Vadyak said they did not receive anything. She said she spoke to Mary and Jill about it and she's not sure if they are getting mixed up with other carbon county tax paperwork, but the repository sales need to come to the meeting.
- PSAB Training Opportunity's - Ms. Yasson would like the opportunity to attend the police civil service training and educating herself. Ms. Cannon said there is training on "establishing a rental property inspection program" that someone should be interested in attending. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to allow Samantha Yasson to attend the civil service training, cost is \$150. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.** Mary Soberick asked Mrs. Fittos if she was interested in the other one for secretary.
- Pikes Creek Asphalt- Breakfast Invite/ Read by. Mr. Ditsky

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- No Meeting, No Report
- Public Safety- Read by Samantha Yasson. Ms. Cannon briefly discussed Grant Information regarding the generator.
- Fire Department-Read by Samantha Yasson.
- Ambulance- Read by Samantha Yasson.
- Mayors Report- Read by James Romankow
- Police Report- Read by James Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- Read by Rose Mary Cannon.
- Public Works- Read by Joe Butrie. Mr. Ditsky said he was going to ride around and get a list together. Mr. Kovach spoke out from the audience about the pot holes, Street Sweeper and one of the employees of public works. Mr. Vadyak asked how the pot holes are being fixed. Mr. Butrie said with a broom and shovel. Mr. Vadyak yelled the holes have to be blown out. Mr. Vadyak suggested a few ways how to fix the pot holes. Mary Soberick mentioned that Mr. Vadyak should

have mentioned his knowledge earlier to Mr. Butrie as opposed to after the fact since he may have a better method to fixing the pot holes. A resident mentioned about a bad pothole on Coal Street, it has a rebar sticking out.

- Community Development/ Planning Zoning – Read by Mary Soberick. Mrs. Soberick attached a job description for a Zoning officer as she would like to appoint a new Zoning Officer and remove these services from Barry Isett. She did do full research and analyzed all the bills from Barry Isett and has provided a fact sheet. She went into a brief discussion about her research and suggestions. She feels we should have an individual appointment. Mr. Greek said this would be an appointed position not an employment position. Ms. Cannon had a print out of the qualifications needed for a zoning officer. Mrs. Soberick said there are courses. Ms. Cannon said we need someone who is already experienced. Mr. Vadyak said we should advertise for another firm to do everything. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to remove Zoning Services / duties from Barry Isett & Associates. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky. Motion passed. Mary Soberick makes a motion to advertise for letters of interest to fill the position. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak & Martin Ditsky. Motion passes.** Mr. Greek said we do not have to advertise, but if we do he would like to see it. We have to be careful not to make it look like an employment position, it is an appointed position. Mr. Ditsky asked what happens to zoning in the meantime. She said we have 7-10 days to respond to the applications. Ms. Cannon said we should have a salary as well in mind. Mr. Greek said he would add some things to the job description, but he would keep the compliance working to Chapter 27. Mrs. Soberick said the wages should be about \$400/ month salary, \$4,800/ year. Mrs. Soberick suggested we have to let the public know that we are listening.
- Code Enforcement – No comments

Rose Mary Cannon read the meeting minutes from the Water Authority's current meeting.

- Treasures Report- Mrs. Fittos mentioned the dispute that resident Donna Valent had with a delayed billing of her commercial rental space, in which she was disputing it, but later came in to pay. She also mentioned we have a price quote for a bumper for the 2014 International that was damaged last year due to an accident. It is \$795 to be purchased from Five Star International. She also provided a quick analysis for March showing the deposit of the sanitation which was needed and hope to be reimbursed in April. Also, the gas cards were received and distributed, only question was should they have limits, but don't think there will be any issues. Mrs. Soberick said there should not be any limits. Police also need supplies which can be purchased at Tamaqua Auto Parts and will have bulk pricing for next meeting. Also provided was a new copy of the bills to be approved since some of the old ones were paid. Mrs. Soberick inquired about the email regarding the sewer transmission account. The fees are waived moving forward and Mrs. Fittos will try to get reimbursement on those few months we were charged. Ms. Yasson inquired about the Barry Isett bills what we think of them. Mrs. Soberick said not to pay them; In fact, she was not finished with her report as she had some discussion for under Code Enforcement. She said we should be prepared to change code enforcement as well. She doesn't have a presentation on it, but had mentioned some valid facts such as the \$4,000 bill where they created a new list of landlords and their properties which Mrs. Soberick said was created in the past already. She said they have been doing rentals since 2013 so why now did they do it all over only to charge us \$4,000. She is highly against paying that bill. Mary Soberick brought up so many points and concerns regarding Barry Isett and Associates. Mr. Vadyak tabled all of their bills. Ms. Cannon said let's set up a meeting with them. Mrs. Fittos said she will set up next week. Mr. Ditsky asked if we can get back to the bills. **Colin Jones makes the motion to pay all bills with the exception of the Barry Isett tabled bills and as money becomes available. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Tommy Vadyak votes no on Tamaqua transfer. Samantha Yasson makes the motion to get the bumper for \$795 from Five Star International. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Tax Collector's Report- No Report
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Mrs. Soberick was unable to attend the meeting.
- Solicitor's Report- GCC Use and Maintenance Agreement, Condemnation Brooke Muffley, Sewer Ordinance Adoption, James R Nanovic Sanitation letter, Liens and Complaints Filed, Tax Levy/Property Tax Ordinance, Ambulance Letter – Solicitor Michael Greek went over all topics. Mr. Vadyak asked if he researched the removal of the members of the Water Authority. Mr. Greek said yes and would like to meet with him to discuss. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to let our solicitor send a letter to both the Attorney General and Auditor General concerning the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority board members, salaries and benefits. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.** Attorney Greek continued with his review. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to adopt the changes to the Sewer Ordinance. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes. Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adopt the tax levy ordinance. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick and Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.** Mr. Greek explained if you have civil complaint then a lien will be placed on all properties as opposed to a municipal lien. He mentioned that he spoke with Terry Smith from the Ambulance, and he was supposed to deliver the radios and pagers to his office, but didn't. He will reach out to him again. In regards to the bridge, he spoke to Mike Kafkalas; he did not do a full survey, but based on his review, the bridge that crosses over Dock Street, 75% of it is owned by the railroad and the other 25% is within the borough's right of way on the North. Oak Street side. Solicitor Greek suggests a letter be sent to them explaining the condition of the bridge, it's in disrepair and be interested in discussing it. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to send a letter. Seconded. Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Greek said the Fire Company is refinancing to get a new loan; we are back in the same spot owning the two lots. The Audit is not done yet. They are looking for a deed to that property. He doesn't feel anything will go wrong with the audit. Mr. Vadyak asked how late the

audit will be done. Ms. Cannon said they were supposed to do it before Tax season, now they are asking for an extension and will do it after tax season. Mr. Greek has the deeds. Mr. Vadyak said we will be battling with the railroad. Mr. Ditsky and Mr. Greek will work on letter to railroad. Mrs. Soberick also reminded Mr. Greek about the status of that ordinance to cite parked vehicles. He responded and said it was dictated but the girls didn't pull it for him yet as they are away. Mrs. Soberick said she thinks we should use an outside collection agency to take over the delinquent sanitation accounts. She said years ago we always used Powell, Rogers and Speaks; they always collected our per capita and occupational taxes. They also use to collect the sanitation delinquents. She asked if Mary Fittos can contact them if everyone is ok with it. She explained their process on collecting it. Mr. Greek said where we are now in legal suit they will not do. We have to come out of legal suit. Mrs. Soberick said we can use them for those who are a few hundred behind. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to contact Powell, Rogers, and Speaks. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Greek will sit down with Mary Soberick to review the three strike law to go over it. He said the language is good, its just enforcing it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Fee Resolution- Tabled to Municipal Administration. No Meeting. Mr. Vadyak tabled to next meeting.
- 3 Strike Law- Language to be updated- Discussed under Solicitor's Report.
- Elk's Building- Estimates for Demo, North East Industrial Quote.
- Special Event Tabled Last meeting- Zoostock 5k Challenge – Insurance attached. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Ms. Cannon said many years ago we did a storm separation Study to which when it was completed and approved by DEP; we were to receive 50% of our engineering fees back. It's been dormant. She did follow up on it and we should be receiving some correspondence and receive 20-30,000 back as reimbursement.

Ms. Cannon also mentioned that through Parks and Recreation there was another project that was paid and suppose to get reimbursed through Anne Toole. Summit Hill is the administrator with it and Mrs. Fittos has been following up with Kira and we will be getting reimbursed about \$8,000.

Ms. Cannon mentioned that the Bingo's for the fire company need to be approved. Samantha Yasson said they have them all year. Mr. Vadyak and Mr. Ditsky said they can send him a letter. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve all the bingos until the end of the year and send a letter to them so they understand. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Push to talk feature on cell phones for Public Works- Quote attached. **Colin Jones makes the motion to approve it. Second: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Street Sweeper- Already Discussed.

Mr. Romankow brought mentioned that since the weather is getting warm, there is going to be a person throwing breadcrumbs out of the window. Mr. Vadyak said she is in Tamaqua now. Mr. Romankow asked if we ever pass an ordinance where it would be illegal to feed the wild animals.

NEW BUSINESS

- Special Event- Lansford Alive Easter Egg Hunt 3/28/15 at the pool. Insurance is on file. Ms. Cannon said the concession stand is winterized, there is no water. Mr. Vadyak said he believes the Legion is down there and the water wasn't turned on then. Ms. Cannon said she can ask Smokey to bring out the grill out for them. **Motion made by Samantha Yasson to approve the event minus the concession stand. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Staples – Brother Intelifax High Speed 2840 Fax Machine \$169.99/ budgeted \$250- **Motion by Rose Mary Cannon to approve the purchase. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Tommy Vadyak left at 8:42pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:42pm and exited out at 9:05pm.

Mr. Ditsky mentions that Mr. Romankow brought some proposed changes to the Police Department which will be adding a Main door chime and interior door closer, interior door frame, and panic hardware. Bruce Mertz from BGM was explaining the parts needed. Mr. Romankow asked what the panic hardware was, and Mr. Mertz responded and said that is the panic bar that will release magnet for the door. Mrs. Soberick asked which parts of this proposal will be the work to be completed. Mr. Ditsky said page 3. They ultimately will need all the work done, but for right now, just page 3. She asked what the remainder of page 3 was and Mr. Mertz said there is a window downstairs they are afraid someone can shoot a gun through. Mrs. Soberick went over the proposal with Mr. Mertz. The work that must be done is about

\$8,000 and the funds are in LST which could actually cover all of page three of the work that needs to be done. Mrs. Fittos confirmed there is about \$16,000 in LST designated to the Police Department.

Joe Butrie makes the motion to approve the work to be done submitted by BGM on page 3 of the upgrades to the police station. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Mary Soberick thanks the Mayor for the consideration for the safety of the officers.

Mr. Romankow asked that this be coordinated with officer in charge.

Ms. Yasson discussed a few topics from Public Safety that were not addressed earlier. She mentioned a "No weapons Sign". Mr. Greek said there is a policy and he doesn't think we can have that sign. He will talk with the OIC and Mayor. Ms. Yasson mentioned new keys or a keyless entry for Police Dept. She said there are possibly some keys out there from prior officers. Council had mentioned a keypad would be beneficial. Mr. Mertz said the lock will be changed with the panic bar.

Mr. Romankow mentioned they had a problem with the door in Police Dept. and Mr. Mertz fixed it at no charge.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Butrie makes the motion to adjourn at 9:32pm. Second: Rose Mary Cannon. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer