

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 16 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

Charles Early, 509 E Bertsch Street, has a few questions. What do they do as far as upholding code for houses and inspections, ordinances for tenants and disposing of garbage. Mayor Romankow said it goes to the code officer in response to garbage. He also said citations will be given out as long as the garbage is still there when an officer goes to the property. If the property is clean they cannot give a citation. Mr. Early mentioned that he was told the crawl spaces are infested with live and dead animals. He said he never saw it being inspected. Mr. Vadyak mentioned that when there is an issue not to call the transfer station because they have nothing to do with our problems here. The transfer station is only responsible for picking up 5 bags and 1 bulk item.

Marie Ondrus, 36 Coal Street, said she would love for council and the public to give a moment of silence for David Midas.

Mr. Ditsky said it is police week, we will schedule a minute of silence and then Mr. Romankow will read the police proclamation.

Mr. Romankow read the proclamation. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the proclamation as a resolution. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, Spoke about a training facility for training and education for our emergency service agencies which includes Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management Coordinators, Carbon County employees and Fire Service. He asked if anyone had any questions or needed more details.

Mr. Butrie asked if they were moving the Communications Center and in response Mr. Nothstein said it will remain where it is at. Mr. Nothstein gave details of what the facility would include.

Mr. Vadyak asked where the money is coming from. Mr. Nothstein said that is why he asking for the support of the municipalities, to apply for a Grant to fund the facility. They are looking into several kinds of Grants, like 5 different sources. Mr. Vadyak asked what if that fails and we don't get the funding. Mr. Nothstein said we will have to cut back on what we plan to do there. Mr. Vadyak said the county taxpayers cannot afford a 10 million training facility. Mr. Nothstein agreed. Mr. Vadyak said he is in favor of it, but if the Grants fail, to put it on the backs of the taxpayers, it just can't happen. Mr. Nothstein said he can't promise anything, but he is sure they can fund a good portion of it. Mr. Nothstein said there are 23 municipalities supporting the Grant application.

Mr. Vadyak thanks the three commissioners for their continued support of this community.

Colin Jones asked if this facility would be a source of revenue. Mr. Nothstein said possibly.

Samantha Yasson makes the motion to draft a letter of support. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Robert Siesputowski, Summit Hill, spoke about a memorial plaque as his wife passed around pictures to council and the public. He mentioned he had a fundraising in order to provide a plaque for Summit Hill which represents & honors all veterans, past, present and future. It's for, Navy, Marine and Coastguard. He did say it doesn't cost the town anything; we only need a space to put it. Mr. Ditsky asked if we moved forward with this, where we would put this plaque. Ms. Cannon said on Abbot Street on the island and Mr. Vadyak agreed. Mr. Siesputowski said if you want this, you have to get in touch with the newspapers, channel 13, once the people see it in the paper, then channel 16 will come, channel 56, and couple other newspapers. He had a speaker and a singer who sang America the Beautiful.

In order for Lansford to have a Plaque, there would need to be a fundraiser to pay for such a plaque. He said he received donations; the newspaper came to write an article. He said the total cost was about \$900 provided in donations. Mr. Butrie mentioned that the plaque that fell off on the Abbott Street memorial is at the Legion. He will have someone reinstall it by Memorial Day.

Ms. Cannon said she thinks it's an excellent idea and thinks we should have someone head this project and collect the necessary money to do the job.

Mrs. Soberick asked if are we to take charge of the fundraising and obtaining the funds. Mr. Siesputowski suggested we get a veteran to do it in that branch of service. **Mary Soberick made the motion to table it.**

Mr. Romankow said he will contact the banks and start the process of getting funding from donations and put in some of his own money.

MATERIAL BIDS

Mr. Greek said the only bids we received for materials were from Lehigh Asphalt. He printed it out and handed it to all the council members. **Colin Jones makes the motion to accept the bid as is. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 8, 2015

Mary Soberick had one addition. Under Committee Reports, Municipal Administration where it says resolution 2010-10 and fee schedules and fee changes. She would like the fee amounts that were changed to be included. Sidewalk permits increased to \$25, Street Excavation both checks increased to \$100. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Community Yard Sale- Coaldale is May 30-31st/ Summit Hill – July 11-12th. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to do it along with Coaldale's on May 30th -31st. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. Questions:** Mary Soberick thinks we should pick a different day so we get other involvement from other communities. Mayor Romankow was inquiring if a table can be set up at the pool, like a flea market. **All in favor, motion passes.**
- Tax Claim Bureau- Repository sale of 20 E Kline, Bid received from Yvonne Mason. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the sale. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection- Siberline remedial Report. There was some discussion about this.
- Letter from Samantha Yasson – Mr. Ditsky said Ms. Yasson has stepped down and would like to thank her for her time as chair and everything she continues to do for the town.
- Carbon County Emergency Service Letter- Invitation to participate in Hazard Mitigation Planning.
- Carbon County Planning & Development – DCED application. Ms. Cannon went over the application process. She said the Elk's building could be a project to be funded but the funds would not be available until spring of 2016. She asked if council wants to wait that long. If not we have to come up with another project or project(s). The application is due by June 12th. Mrs. Soberick mentioned the pump house to the pool would be a good project being it's always been talked about. She said there was even money earmarked for it at one point when we did have the entitlement. Ms. Cannon said council said should come up with their desire as the engineer will have to do a good portion of the application. She said a project or 2 projects and then we need to move forward as soon as possible. Mr. Vadyak said he would like to move forward with a generator through a grant. Ms. Cannon said we did last year. Mr. Vadyak said he would like a generator for the whole building. Colin Jones suggested sending ideas via email. Mr. Ditsky also said we have to look at how much would be engineering costs since we are going through that right now. This discussion went on for a little longer. Ms. Cannon suggested a special meeting. Ms. Cannon said the easiest one would be the Elk's building if we can wait for the funding. Ms. Yasson would like to see new streets. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to move forward to apply for the generator, pump house & Elk's Building. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Water Authority March Minutes
- Letter from Carbon County Firemen's Association- Already discussed in public courtesy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Read by Martin Ditsky. Also Ms. Cannon read her notes from the DEP meeting she attended which were also a part of municipal administration. The letter stated they would like to see the creation of a Joint Authority handling all sewer lines, maintenance and issues. This would remove all sewer matters from each Borough. Ms. Cannon gave a quick synopsis of the letter and what DEP is requiring from each Borough. The next meeting will be held June 3rd at 6:30pm.
- Public Safety- Read by Martin Ditsky. Martin Ditsky is the new Chair for this committee. Three quotes for a portable generator were obtained for the police department. After a brief discussion, **Mary Soberick makes the motion to purchase the Troy-Bilt 7,000 running watts portable generator from Lowes for \$809. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Opposed: Joe Butrie, Martin Ditsky, and Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Fire Department- Read by Samantha Yasson
- Ambulance- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Mayors Report- Read by Mayor Romankow
- Police Report- Read by Mayor Romankow. There was a brief conversation about the broken windshield on #103 and the broken window at the garage. Mr. Romankow was not aware of the broken windshield and Mr. Vadyak was not aware of the broken window at the garage. Mr. Vadyak said his neighbor Mike Rahatchet would like to detail the police vehicles at no charge to the Borough. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to allow Mike Rahatchet to do the annual detailing of the police vehicles at no charge to the Borough. Seconded: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Parks & Recreation- Read by Rose Mary Cannon. Pool will open June 6th. She also mentioned the chicken dinner will be June 28th. Also, she mentions we received \$1,140.00 in donations for the pool, in memory of Mary Krajcirik in which a fryer and freezer will be purchased for the pool. Ms. Cannon did send a thank you letter to them. Mr. Vadyak mentioned if Ms. Cannon knew about the new fingerprinting rules.
- Public Works – Read by Joe Butrie. Ms. Yasson mentioned that there will be a firm meeting her and any member of council at the Garage Thursday at 5:30pm to go over all the specs needed to build

a new garage. Joe Butrie continued to speak about snow ban signs that he wanted to order. He wants to order 28 post sets @\$33.78 a piece and 38 signs @\$22.95 for a total of \$1,817.94. There was a brief conversation about snow emergency procedure. **Colin Jones makes the motion to purchase the 28 posts and 38 signs and communicate the verbiage effectively. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak and Samantha Yasson. Motion passes.**

- Community Development/ Planning/ Zoning – Read by Mary Soberick. She suggested her committee would like to re-advertise for Zoning Officer. The last advertisement in “You can do it” did not spark any interest. Her committee accepted the zoning officer description. She also suggested that we contract with Powell Rogers & Speaks to collect our delinquent Sanitation and Sewer fees. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to set the annual salary of zoning officer to \$4,800. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Opposes: Tommy Vadyak, Samantha Yasson, Martin Ditsky and Rose Mary Cannon. Motion Failed.** Mary Soberick asked council for other thoughts as no one is going to work for free. Sam Yasson inquired about how many hrs. a week they may work, but Mr. Butrie made a valid point by saying it will vary depending on season. Mary Fittos did say from her experience as an alternate zoning officer, it is starting to pick up now. She mentioned right now its just fences, but a few applications are floating out there for sheds. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to appoint Benesch as the code and zoning firm. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Tommy Vadyak Rescinded his motion after a rebuttal of the action.** Mary Soberick stated that Keystone also will provide the same services, so we should go with Keystone if we are appointing a firm. She also made a valid point by pointing out you cannot appoint two firms for code and zoning, Barry Isett would need to be removed first. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to remove Barry Isett from code and all services they provided. Seconded: Martin Ditsky. Opposed: Rose Mary Canon, Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**

Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we hire Benesch for code and Zoning. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick, Rose Mary Cannon, Joe Butrie, and Colin Jones. Motion failed 4-3. Samantha Yasson asked if all information on all firms can be brought to the next meeting with Mary Soberick at Community Development and Ordinance, held May 27th. Martin Ditsky inquires as to how code will handled now and Mr. Jones said it’s not being handled as is. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to send a letter to BIA asking for all records to be returned to us and informing them of their removal. Second: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.** Mrs. Soberick asked the consensus of council as to whether the Zoning Officer should be an individual or a firm. She won’t continue expending her efforts, if needless. **Mary Soberick would like to make a motion to re-advertise for a Zoning Officer under the “Help Wanted”. Seconded: Rose Mary Canon vote. Opposed: All were opposed. Motion Failed.**

Solicitor Greek said it’s an appointed position so he would not put it in the Help Wanted ad. Colin Jones said there are two individuals that are interested. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to interview the two applicants. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak and Martin Ditsky. Motion passes.**

- Code Enforcement- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay Mary Fittos \$15 per application handled since she has taken on alternate zoning officer during the working hours of Secretary Treasurer. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Treasurers Report- Bills to be approved, Income Report, Check Register, P/L Budget vs Actual. Mr. Vadyak inquired about the broken windshield. He is also inquiring as to why all of the vehicles are going to 1 garage in town. Mr. Jones inquired about the Schuylkill Medical Center; he said Sgt. Soberick said it could be eliminated and go to the state police. Mr. Romankow said this must be an old bill. Mrs. Fittos mentioned the Grant for the vests have been submitted. Ms. Cannon inquired about the Liquid Fuels money due and Mrs. Fittos said we can pay it by end of year. It’s just on the list so it doesn’t get forgotten. Mrs. Fittos also mentioned her meeting with Mike Bulino and inquired if council wanted to get all buildings and property owned by the borough appraised. Mr. Ditsky and Mr. Vadyak thought an inspection would result in closed buildings with regards to the BIA bills being on hold. Mary Soberick said we received an email from Barry Isett with all of the revisions to the invoices in question. She also said they wrote a 5 page memorandum which covered everything they said were doing. **Colin Jones makes a motion to pay all bills with exception of all Barry Isett bills. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mr. Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collectors Report- Read by Martin Ditsky. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that Mr. Wynn has collected far \$235,554.65 to date and funds will be running short last half of the year.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- next meeting was cancelled.
- Solicitors Report- Mr. Greek has a default judgement against the president of the ambulance association. Proof of claim for Elaine Mary Giltner was filed for Sanitation delinquency. Edward Hillanbrand is deceased he believes, he would not recommend the lien. The ADA ramp complaint was resolved and finally the president of council was in to execute the easement of the JT water Authority ADA ramp. Mr. Greek said the formal document was never brought back and forth so he had Martin Ditsky sign it. Mr. Greek said the protocol for Naloxone did not impose a liability, but wanted to write up a whole new agreement, but it is not necessary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Rain Spouting Quotes- BGM, Service Team & K & M Builders- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to go with Service Team for \$1,324. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Naloxone Protocol- Mike Greek spoke about this under Solicitors Report.
- Powell Rogers & Speaks- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to contract with their services to collect their delinquent sanitation and sewer fees. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All**

in favor, motion passes. Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to amend the Sewer and Sanitation ordinance to include the additional fees for the collection. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.

- Garage (New Garage Status/ Plan) already discussed.
- COG Ordinance- Was it advertised. Mr. Ditsky said that was discussed, but has not been advertised yet. The next meeting will be June 23rd.
- Work Order- February Minutes/ motion to remove handicap parking on tunnel and making a borough business only space with sign in front of Borough. Need more clarity. Removing handicap will leave a free space with no sign, no meter. August Minutes approved a commercial space. None have been executed. Mr. Vadyak said we don't follow through of stuff. There was a brief discussion about this between, Tommy Vadyak, Mary Soberick and Colin Jones. Mr. Ditsky said per the Street Scape there will be a Handicap and Commercial Spot and the Water Authority spot will be removed. Mary Soberick and Tommy Vadyak discussed the handicap spot across the street. Mr. Vadyak wants to move it and Mrs. Soberick would like to keep it there. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to leave the handicap spot across the street. Seconded: Rose Mary Canon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Electrical Quotes for PD- L & S - Mr. Romankow said the Ballasts are downstairs. **Rose Mary Canon makes the motion to go with the ballasts right now. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Use and Maintenance Agreement for GCC status- Mary Soberick said it was supposed to be re-written in accordance to what was agreed upon. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to table.**
- Mold in PD was never remediated- Mr. Romankow will follow up as he would like Bruce Mertz to start the work downstairs at the same time.

Ms. Cannon said we wrote a letter to the Railroad about the Dock Street and we never heard from them and we need to follow up. Ms. Cannon suggests that the Solicitor send a letter. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to have the Solicitor send a letter to the railroad. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Ms. Cannon said the Electronic Recycling day will be September 26th at the pool.

OLD BUSINESS

- Fire Company- tri-party agreement copy
- Resolution 2015-04 to be approved – **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve Resolution 2015-04. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon. Motion passes**

NEW BUSINESS

- Advertise for PT Police- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we advertise for Part-time police. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Institute an application fee for zoning application- Mary Soberick will discuss this with the committee.
- Advertise for Zoning Officer again- Already discussed
- Appraisal of Borough buildings and property/ Seltzer Group- **Tabled by Tommy Vadyak**

Tommy Vadyak, Samantha Yasson and Mary Soberick left the meeting at 9:13pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 9:15pm and exited out at 10:01

Mr. Ditsky asked if council had any motions for the Rate increase for the Sergeant. No response.

Mr. Ditsky asked if council had a motion regarding the retired Chief's settlement letter. **Colin Jones makes the motion to accept and offer \$400/ month and make it payable in beginning of July. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mr. Ditsky said we have application for the street dept. Mr. Butrie said we do not have the funds to pay them. Ms. Cannon said it's good to have a list and not just hire when you need them.

Mr. Ditsky said we are not going to do anything with the pension board at this time.

Mr. Ditsky brought up the status of the Light duty public works employee.

Collin Jones makes the motion to take Butch off light duty and bring him back to regular full duty starting tomorrow Thursday, May 14, 2015. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes

Mr. Ditsky said as far as the Light duty Sergeant Status goes, an IME will be ordered.

Mr. Ditsky asked if we have anything for the revised conditions of employment for Mary Fittos and Jill Seigendall. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adjourn at 10:04pm. Second: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer