

The Special meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for Sewer and Grant purposes was held at the above date and place at 5:00pm. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was 1 reporter and 1 resident.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COURTESY

No public courtesy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Sewer Plan or recommendation to work out Sewer Problems. Mr. Ditsky asked if someone wanted to give a recap of the Sewer problem in Lansford Borough.

Ms. Cannon said that once we finished one of our studies and implemented the work, we were supposed to receive 50% of our engineering fees back from DEP, which we never received. She handed out a sheet to everyone labeled "Coaldale- Lansford Summit Hill Chronology" which she went over with everyone. Ms. Cannon pointed out in May 1995; DEP approved the first CAP and Sewer connection Allocation for Summit Hill Borough. Then November of 2000, they failed to implement it. Then in 2005 they approved their 2nd CAP and again never implemented it. She said they have never done anything they were supposed to do and yet have been given additional EDU's which is sewer connection allocation. They have never implemented a Sewer Transmission fee for municipality either.

In April of 2001, DEP approved a Lansford Borough's first CAP with Multi-Phase Implementation. She stated we not only put a plan together but we implemented it.

Mr. Jones asked if this corrective action plan was for the remediation of the discharge. Ms. Cannon said it was for the removal of the storm water that was causing the overflow. Ms. Cannon said there is trough that comes down from summit hill, so when it rains pretty hard, rain comes downhill and a lot of that buildup was coming from that.

Ms. Cannon said one of the board members said they are getting a lot of water rushing down Coal Street. Ms. Cannon said Toby Krajcirik is our certified Sewer official. Mr. Krajcirik asked if anyone had any questions. He stated, during the 90's Springgarden was separated, 2007 we started the project between tunnel and walnut and took a lot of water out of the system. He said the diversion chambers still activate when we get heavy rain. Ms. Cannon asked where they all were. Mr. Krajcirik said one was right down from Collin's house, one is at Dock Street by the sports zoo, one is by Kennedy hill and two are by the fire co training grounds.

Mr. Ditsky asked about a treatment plant. He said it was built about 50 years ago. Ms. Cannon said since it was built the population has dropped so much. Mr. Ditsky said it was being maintained. Ms. Cannon said it is the Sewer Treatment plant. Ms. Cannon asked about this at the Wiles – Barre meeting, if any of this will affect the plant, she asked why they couldn't just increase the size of the plant so the Borough wouldn't have to spend all this money. She was informed because the population has dropped so much that the capacity is more than enough to treat what's flowing except when there is a heavy rain. Mr. Geek said it is the design, the design causes that.

Collin Jones asked when this problem started to become an issue. Mr. Krajcirik said a long time ago, before 1991.

Ms. Cannon said Coaldale is now having a problem with 2nd street, but their engineers ascertained it was not coming from us. She also said they had some corrective action plans that were approved.

Ms. Cannon said we have done over \$400,000 of work to make DEP happy and they have never freed up not one EDU. Ms. Cannon said DEP is not happy and they believe the boroughs have not been working together. She said we can either come up with plans individually as a Borough that would make a big difference, or look at their proposition to have a Jointure or enact the Act 537. Ms. Cannon also inquired what will happen with the loan we have and all the funds associated with the Sewer Transmission account.

Mr. Jones asked if the Sewer Loan balance is correct. Mrs. Fittos said yes, about \$1.5 million is left. Mr. Jones asked what is the difference between a jointure as opposed to what we have now. Ms. Cannon said nothing. Ms. Cannon said she spoke to Mr. Snyder about this Act 537 and it would cost thousands of dollars. What they have to do now at the June meeting is sit down and present a plan that will remedy this situation. Mr. Ditsky asked if the three towns have separate engineers. Ms. Cannon said yes but Summit Hill and Sewer Authority has Tirpak.

Mr. Ditsky thanked Ms. Cannon for the history. He said who would be in favor of saying, since we have the Sewer Authority, let them run with it instead of the three Borough's trying to figure out a plan.

Mr. Greek asked if they are indicating that they want us to enact a 537 plan or are they saying spreading the cost between the three Boroughs' to enact a 537 plan and comply with it. Mr. Greek said we can tell them it's economically unfeasible. He gave some examples from a few other townships.

Ms. Cannon said they were making it as a threat. Mr. Greek said they can require that all three Boroughs' develop a regional Act 537 and comply with it. Mr. Ditsky said he would be in favor of handing it over to the Sewer Authority but is questioning the outstanding loan and what happens to the money we have in our accounts. Ms. Cannon said we can reorganize.

Mr. Greek said, if you're going to this meeting, you have to have a consensus, what the other municipalities are going to do. He said it doesn't matter what the Authority feels. He said as an organized municipality we can give them whatever we want to give them as far as projects, or take them away; we can disband it, take it over and form a new Authority.

Ms. Cannon said they want the minutes from our joint meetings, and a plan of action we are going to take by July 31st. Mr. Greek said you're not going to want to go with the Act 537 as you will be bound to it and have to comply. Mr. Greek said the quickest way to resolve this is to give over the projects to the Authority and let them handle it. Mr. Greek said the hardest thing will be all the Borough's will be pointing fingers at each other and saying why the rates should increase because Lansford has a million dollar loan. This discussion went on for about 10 minutes.

Mr. Ditsky said tomorrow night there will be a meeting at the Sewer Authority to discuss this.

Ms. Yasson said we need more information about the finances. Ms. Cannon thinks this will be a fight as to who will assume the loan debt and funds in the accounts.

Mr. Jones said to find out the root cause of the water infiltration.

Mrs. Cannon feels that DEP should be happy with the Borough of Lansford and return our money. Ms. Yasson asked if we can talk about our next topic.

Mr. Ditsky asked if we are finished with the Sewer Plans. Everyone seemed ready to move on. Mr. Ditsky said he will be going to the joint meeting so should he cancel municipal administration. Ms. Cannon said it's for everyone. All of council from all three Boroughs' will meet June 3, 2015 @6:30pm on West Ludlow. Mr. Greek said he will be late. Ms. Cannon asked if he can give us information on the finances.

- CDBG Project- 2 of the 3 cannot be funded. Ms. Yasson handed out some projects to pick from. Ms. Cannon mentioned the pump house, but it's not just the concrete building. The pump house is built below the pool but it should be higher and will need to be relocated. It would also require a lot of engineering. Ms. Cannon said the Elk's building was a great idea except we don't own it and they will not fund something we do not own. Mr. Greek said cant they set it up because they know we will take it as it's in repository and then we can do it. Ms. Cannon said the commissioners will have the final say. Mr. Greek said the commissioners should be aware it's in repository. He said we can purchase it and acquire it. Ms. Yasson inquired about Street improvements. Ms. Cannon said there are certainly streets that need paving. Maybe the 300 blocks of Bertsch, ADA handi-cap corners.

Ms. Cannon wanted to make a note that for years a percentage of CDBG funds went into the Sewer repairs. She asked if everyone wanted to do the Elk's building. Mr. Ditsky said yes and second one could be the ADA handi-cap corners. The conversation carried on for about 10 minutes discussing some other projects and options.

Counsel agreed on the Elk's building and ADA corners of Bertsch Street.

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to move forward with the Elk's building and ADA ramp corners of Chestnut and Bertsch Street. Seconded: Collin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adjourn at 6:10pm. Seconded: Collin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer