

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 9 residents and 2 reporters.

ROLL CALL

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

GUEST SPEAKER- DAVID BODNER

David Bodner from County of Carbon explained that this meeting was to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the use of CDBG funds for the Lansford Borough. The Carbon County office of planning and development will be moving \$40,000 from Beaver Meadows Borough CDBG 2012 funds to the Lansford Borough, which will be used towards the ADA Handi-cap ramp. The project is expected to start end of July.

Don Gildea, a resident of Lansford inquired about a newspaper article that stated that Lansford Borough was supposed to get a check from the county for \$106,775, but Rose Mary Cannon corrected him and said we never received a notification about it. He asked for someone to check into it.

Rose Mary Cannon thanks the commissioner and everyone for making the funds available for our ADA ramp as we did not have sufficient funds to do through our Grant, and they are transferring funds to us to make us able to proceed with the project.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Jodi Mika with Grace Community Church who has established a community Garden informed council that they will be opening June 21, 2014. Her organization did fundraising for fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers. She is currently working with the insurance company on Liability as to what they can and cannot do on Borough property. She also stated the neighbors in the area are working nicely with her and keeping an eye on the area and will possibly install security cameras. She moved the planting area to the middle of the lot to keep it away from the sidewalk. She also said a motion light would be needed.

Rose Mary Cannon mentioned her concern with the sidewalk and all the traffic that will accumulate with this garden as its on Borough property should something happen. Jodi Mika would like to use bricks to fix the sidewalk. Tommy Vadyak said the only problem is brick gets icy during the winter. Mary Soberick referenced the ordinance and it is written to use cement/ concrete only. Jodi said she will have someone to fix accordingly. Solicitor Greek said there must be a "use and maintenance agreement" drawn up. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to have Attorney Greek draw up the use and maintenance agreement. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Robert Clewel, 229 W. Water Street, resident has a few concerns. He said the property right below him is 224 W. Abbott Street, and the weeds and the trees are real bad. There are tires there. Borough Council and channel 13 have been there. There was a rat problem there. He said it needs to be addressed. He said the bank owns the property now as it's foreclosed. He was advised to fill out a complaint. He also requested to have his lines painted again for his driveway after he pours the concrete down. He also mentioned on Spring Street, bushes are over-taking the road. He asked Mario to come up, but Mario told him to ask council. This area is owned by B.E.T. and it was suggested to process the same as others by submitting a complaint form.

Don Gildea, Lansford resident asked about the CDBG funds he saw in the times news and asked that we look into that. Rose Mary Cannon said you never get money back from CDBG.

Bruce Mertz confirmed the roofs are completed and will be good for at least 30years. Rose Mary Cannon said the pool board said he did an excellent job cleaning up.

Jamie Mongi, Patterson Street asked when line painting would start. Martin Ditsky responded by saying July/ August they would start. She stated she lives at 627 E Patterson by Kelly's and people keep parking in her driveway. Tommy Vadyak said the police can ticket them, although she said they never ticket, Mayor Romankow will speak to the police about her situation.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 14, 2014

Samantha Yasson makes the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.

CORRESPONDENCE

- NEPA- Automated Red Light Enforcement Grant Opportunity – Tommy Vadyak said we should look into this. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to fill out paperwork and apply for Grant. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Motion carries.** Mary Soberick asked who was going to fill out the application? You need figures and diagrams and its due June 30th. Tommy Vadyak said our engineer should do it. Mary Soberick in not in favor of that.
- USAGAIN- Clothes collection for recycling / No Charge- no comments
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection- Permit Correction- no comments
- PA- DCED meeting dates- no comments
- Letter from Mary Soto- Requesting to plant small ornamental trees mixed in the wooded area. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to allow Mary Soto plant trees. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Attorney Greek said to make sure it's on Borough property not BET and to have a general release form signed.

- Resignation Letter from David C Burrell Jr.- Rose Mary Cannon said he volunteered for many things; he took care of the east end park, and recently refurbished the basketball court. She would like to thank him and wished he would re-consider his resignation. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to accept his letter of resignation. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon, Colin Jones, Mary Soberick and Samantha Yasson. Motion failed. Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to send a letter asking him to reconsider. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- read by Martin Ditsky
- Public Safety- No Meeting/ no report due to Memorial Day.
- Fire Department- Read by Tommy Vadyak: 951 Man hours
- Ambulance Report- no report. Mary Soberick asked if the Secretary Treasurer could contact them and get a report every month.
- Mayors Report- read by Mayor James Romankow. There was discussion of repairing the older vehicle. **Rose Mary cannon makes the motion to obtain options to replace (103) with a used unmarked vehicle, no more than \$10,000. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Police Report- read by Mayor James Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- no report. Ms. Cannon said there was no quorum but she did attend their board meeting. She said there was vandalism at the basketball court and the Mayor did address that. She said there was an attempted stabbing at the Skate Park. The recommendation is the move the equipment closer to the roadway to be more visible to the police. Calls were made and the ramps can be relocated. Mr. Vadyak asked Ms. Cannon if she thought about utilizing the old playground. It's used as a parking lot now but it is a playground still. Mary Soberick said it was established as parking lot. She said Frank Karnish was expressing the need for a new refrigerator at the pool. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to purchase a refrigerator. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Rose Mary cannon needs to order Mulch and will need the Borough workers to lay it down. There is also a duck ride that needs a spring and rivets for another ride.
- Public Works- No report. Tommy Vadyak asked Mr. Ditsky what we are doing about fixing the streets and sewers. Mr. Ditsky said the sewer plates are being replaced. Mr. Vadyak said he had to find out on the streets about the sewer collapse on Dock Street. Mr. Ditsky said Radocha was there opening it up. There has been no action yet because there is another hole on Hiles property where the (2) trees are. We need an easement per attorney Greek and the engineer will draw up the requirements and have the Hiles sign off on the request. He is unsure how much the project is going to cost. Rose Mary mentioned the water flowing through was so forceful it crushed the new pipe they installed at the old collapse several weeks ago. Mary Soberick asked what has been done already and Rose Mary Cannon said the road is blocked and they did a temporary fix until everything gets repaired. Mr. Ditsky said regarding sewer inlets if we purchase all materials it will cost \$6,800 and if we use Radocha services for excavating it will be an additional \$10,700. If Radocha does the whole project it will have to be bid upon. Mary Soberick asked what has been done already and Rose Mary Cannon said the road is blocked and they did a temporary fix until everything gets repaired. **Colin Jones makes the motion to advertise for bids for the sewer inlets. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Community Development/ Planning and Zoning- No report, no quorum or meeting. Next one is schedule for June 25, 2014.
- Code Enforcement- Report from Barry Isett. Rose Mary Cannon said the work being done at Ricca Incorporated is a beautiful job.
- Treasurers Report- Tommy Vadyak said under police vehicles fuel on the budget, that figure is wrong. The bill under Sewer for Radocha sink hole repair cannot be paid out of sewer. It must be paid out of General Fund. Mertz Roofing, the bill for replacing 2 layers of shingles, he does not want to pay that one. Mary Soberick asked about Barry Isett, if we have full reports and Mrs. Fittos explained they are vague. She stated Keystone Consulting – Municipal Building Floor review, she is disputing this bill. It's \$772 and does not believe we should be paying it. Mary Soberick also noticed that one of the Times News Bills should be paid out of parks and recreation. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay the bills with the exception of Keystone bill for Building floor review for \$772.00. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon. Motion Carries. Tommy Vadyak votes no on Tamaqua Transfer and no on Mertz for the double layer of shingles invoice. Motion Carries.**
- Tax Collector's report- Taxes collected for May was \$456,643.37 read by Mary Soberick.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Report- read by Mary Soberick
- Solicitor's Report- Condemnation acts were filed for easements on 8 properties and Attorney Greek will look into the Karen Burrell Invoices. Tommy Vadyak inquired about the sanitation pickup. Rose Mary inquired about the ambulance equipment. Mr. Greek said it was submitted to the Auditor General and is waiting to hear back from them. Rose Mary Cannon also inquired about the police contract and Jeff Stewart is working on it. There are a few issues that are being worked out.

NEW BUSINESS

- Special Event Applications: (3) Lansford Alive Events, July 06, July 20, and July 27, 2014. Located at Kennedy Park with a DJ playing Blues. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve all (3) and to have the chair of Public works provide parking spots for them. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

- Civil Service Letter- Certified List- **Rose Mary Canon makes the motion to hire Joseph David as a part- time police officer with the borough. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Change Order- 200 Block of East Bertsch Street project- Council discussed some of the changes that occurred and the price of the project decreased. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the change order. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Replace Parking Meters on W. Ridge between Tunnel and Coal- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to retain the meters. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Handicap Applications: 28 Jones Street (placement on Kline), 319 E Bertsch Street, 225 East Ridge St and 332 W Bertsch St. Mary Soberick said they all meet the criteria and have their applications and abide by the ordinance with the exception of 332 W. Bertsch Street. No action should be taken on 332 W. Bertsch St. **Mary Soberick makes the motion that we approve the (3) applications. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Retirement/ Pension – John Turcmanovich- Based upon Article 4.2 of the L.B. Pension Plan, in conjunction with acceptance of his retirement notification at the April 2014 meeting, **Mary Soberick makes the motion to authorize the release of the post-retirement pension benefit , as calculated by Beyer Barber Company, to the recipient, John Turcmanovich. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Tommy Vadyak mentioned a curb cut regarding a resident that was not on the agenda for this meeting. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve the curb cut for Mr. Porambo, pending the certification that all paperwork is on file. (232 West Abbott Street) Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Rose Mary mentions that the police and borough workers may need their hepatitis shots being the line of work they are in. She says in 1991 they all got them with the exception of Greg. Tommy Vadyak says if there 15 years are up they need them. Mary Soberick said we should just speak to the employees as they can look at their medical records to find out when they received them.

Rose Mary mentioned the status on our renewal insurance and it is in underwriting.

Tommy Vadyak makes the motion for the employees to get the hepatitis B shots if they need them. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Tommy Vadyak leaves at 8:15pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into a brief executive session at 8:18pm and went back on the record at 9pm.

Mary Soberick said there were (3) applications that were received for the Public Works and makes the motion that we hire the (3) of them on a Part- Time, on call basis at the wage set by resolution. The three applicant's names were read by Colin Jones as follows: David Kerr, Joshua Suveg and Cale Staruch. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Samantha Yasson votes no on David Kerr. Rose Mary Cannon votes no to Cale Staruch. Motion carries.

Mary Soberick makes the motion based upon the length of time and likelihood of success as well as the court's decision on preliminary objection that we authorize our solicitor to withdraw the Straus complaint prior to the case management conference set for July 28, 2014. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

Samantha Yasson makes the motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer