

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 19 residents.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

### **PUBLIC COURTESY**

Rose Mary Cannon said she would like to remember some of the local residents that have passed away such as Calvin Frantz who was a member of the local Fire Dept. for 50 yrs., Mr. Bales who was a prior councilman, and also John Surma a member of the Lansford-Coaldale Water Authority who lost his life tragically while vacationing.

David Benevy , 536 Shane Drive, Effort pa- Spoke about the street scape bid being too high and should be scaled down. He also requested council to consider the issue with the parking meters and eliminate them. He suggested a parking permit with a 2 hour limit.

Marie Ondrus, 36 Coal St, Lansford- Her question was directed to the Public Safety Board and Mayor. She asked how many full time officers we have and is there another full time position in the budget. Her question is based off of the public safety meeting in April where Ms. Yasson brought up the topic of hiring another Full time officer. Mr. Romankow responded with saying we have 4 Full time officers and a Sergeant. We budgeted for 4 officers, 1 Sergeant and 1 Chief. She asked if the Borough is looking for a Chief of police and Mr. Romankow said yes. Mrs. Ondrus asked if it would be a hire for this year or in the future. Mr. Romankow said he would like council to explore it and look into it. He believes he can save money on the police budget between \$30,000-\$40,000. Mrs. Ondrus said her concern is will the Borough be able to pay bills because she doesn't want to see a tax increase. She asked how many part-time police there are. He said about 3. He said we did advertise but have not received any responses. She said the rumor on the street is that the Borough is hiring a police chief and asked if it would be in house. Mr. Romankow said it is up to council. Mr. Ditsky said it must be advertised in the local newspaper and see how many applicants we get. Then he believes it has to go through civil service testing and Mr. Romankow confirmed and said it does. She also inquired about the neighborhood watch. Mr. Romankow said it was a good first meeting, a lot of people showed up. The next meeting is the last Thursday of June, 25<sup>th</sup>. She inquired about the Police Report and asked how many calls are really answered, "All of them". Mr. Romankow said yes to his knowledge there are no missed calls. Lastly, she said she heard he is bad mouthing the Lansford Alive Events Committee. He said yes, because he was slighted for not being invited to a dinner for specific members. Mrs. Ondrus said he should have contacted her or asked her son Officer Ondrus. She said she didn't know he was a veteran. He said he is not a veteran. He explained he was upset because the county commissioners and anyone who was elected showed up at that meeting and he simply was not invited. He said he respects the veteran's as his grandfather was a veteran. Mr. Romankow was upset and Mrs. Soberick, Mr. Vadyak and Ms. Cannon were trying to move along and ask Mr. Ditsky to stop this conversation. Mrs. Ondrus was out of line and was asked to tone it down and Mr. Romankow insisted on answering her questions. Marie Ondrus told the Mayor that he should respect what the people are trying to do for Lansford.

Mrs. Soberick said it goes both ways. What the people do for this town and the employees and the officials that do it, she thinks the other side of that fence, and most people should try to respect it. Mrs. Ondrus was still yelling things out.

Mathew Walsh, 316 East Bertsch, Lansford- He said he knows we are currently without a Zoning Officer and having no Zoning in town, he knows some businesses that are being held up on launching for not being able to get the permits they need. He said economic growth starts with businesses and to improve the community we have to do the best we can to get this Zoning situation figured out. He said it has to be resolved as efficiently and effectively as possible.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –**

- May 13, 2015 - **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- May 27, 2015 Special Meeting- **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

June 5, 2015- Bid Opening Streetscape Minutes- Mr. Ditsky stated who was present and Ms. Seigendall recorded the meeting and said it has to be scaled way down. Mr. Vadyak said everyone should consider what is breaking this borough is the engineering costs. He said this town cannot afford the costs of these engineering fees. Mrs. Soberick inquired if they should take action, like re-advertising. Mr. Ditsky said it was already denied and the project will be scaled down and re-advertised prior to our August meeting. Mary Soberick informed him that we that we need to formally reject the bid. **Tommy Vadyak makes a motion to reject the bid. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- PEN Dot- Sewage Letter & Agenda from May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting- Mr. Ditsky asked if Ms. Cannon would like to speak about this. Ms. Cannon gave a quick synopsis of the meeting and what is going on with the Sewage lines. DEP is looking to create a Joint System; they spoke about the pros and

cons. She said regardless of what happens it looks like an ACT537 will be in effect which will cost thousands and thousands of dollars. This is just to do the study and will not rectify any of the problems. It's just the procedure that has to be done prior to resolving the issue. It's about \$200,000. She said a lot of fingers were being pointed to Lansford due to the combined system, but we have spent the most money trying to rectify the infiltration and a lot of the water that comes down is from summit hill. She said Coaldale will be doing some major work due to water infiltration on First Street. Coaldale has voted last night to go with the Jointure. She said the Jointure is definitely the way to go, but we also have debt and finances to figure out. Scott Novatnik suggested contacting an accountant to figure out the finances. There will be another Joint meeting to be held June 24, 2015. She also mentioned that fees would go up with a Joint Board.

- Letter from Teamsters- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Commonwealth of PA- LSA Streetscape Letter- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Planning Commission Letter- Mr. Ditsky said it's a letter from Christ Ondrus requesting to be appointed to the planning commission. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to appoint Chris Ondrus. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Letter from David Benevy- Read by Mr. Ditsky. He summarized it by saying there were improper charges for Sewer Transmission fees in the amount of \$540 and would like to be reimbursed. He also would like to be reimbursed for improper charge on a Right to know request that was emailed. Mrs. Fittos did research it and confirmed emailed documents cannot be charged so rightfully he should be reimbursed \$60.75. Mrs. Soberick asked Mr. Benevy why he is only paying for 2 units if in the past he was paying for 3, in reference to wanting his \$540 reimbursed. Mr. Benevy said back in 2012 Mr. Silvers was evaluating Sewer Transmission fees to see if they were being done correctly and told him he should be billed for 2. Mrs. Soberick identified all the commercial businesses inside the mini mall and doesn't understand why he would only be billed for 2. Mr. Benevy said the ordinance states that you're billed by how many dwellings there are. There was a brief discussion about Mr. Silvers not having the authority to change records. Mr. Vadyak said it should be 3. Mr. Benevy said the ordinance refers to residents not commercial businesses. Mary Soberick agrees and suggested it be set on a scaled basis with a set fee per structure per total amount of units. Mrs. Soberick said council should look into amending that ordinance. Mr. Ditsky asked Mrs. Soberick if she can look at the ordinance and investigate to see how we can amend it at the next CDO committee meeting.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Municipal Administration- Cancelled
- Public Safety- Zawada Enterprise. Mr. Butrie Went over the estimate which is just the shell of a pole building. Mr. Butrie said if we move forward with a new garage we have to put it out on public notice. He said this does not include prepping or surveying. Mr. Vadyak said first thing that should be done is having the property surveyed. **Tommy Vadyak makes a motion to get it surveyed possibly by our engineer. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mike Greek suggested that Mike Kafkalas can help. Ms. Cannon inquired as to where the finances will come from. Mr. Ditsky said we have to look at the budget. Mr. Vadyak said we have to get finances in order first. Ms. Cannon said our budget would not cover this garage. Mr. Romankow said in regards to the upgrades for the police Department, after speaking with Sergeant Soberick, they understand that money is an issue and are trying to cut cost and re do the estimate. The Sergeant will get the plan to the committee meeting and is on hold now. Mrs. Fittos reminded Mr. Romankow it was approved out of the LST account. Mr. Romankow said he knows, but would like to save money.
- Fire Department- Read by Martin Ditsky. Ms. Cannon said the Audit has been done and we can go forward with turning the deed over to the Fire Company. Mr. Ditsky asked if we received the final report from the Audit and Mrs. Fittos said it's in the mail. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to transfer the deed over to the Fire Company. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Ambulance- Read by Tommy Vadyak
- Mayor's Report- Mr. Romankow said he will have to get it out to us as the printer was not working.
- Police Report- Read by Mr. Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- No Meeting due to Special Meeting. Ms. Cannon said pool is open and she spoke to the board members and recommends on hiring 2 part-time high school boys for summer help at minimum wage for a few hours being that our borough workers are very busy. Mr. Vadyak mentioned bidding out certain jobs and said the AA Basketball court needs to be resurfaced. She will look into quotes for resurfacing but in the meantime, grass needs to be cut, Mulch needs to be put down, two swings replaced, the cracks at the courts need to be sealed.
- Public Works- No Meeting
- Community Development/ Planning/Zoning- Read by Mary Soberick. She mentioned that her committee met with a Paul Jarrett from Lehigh Inspection Services for Code and Zoning and made a recommendation to hire him. **Mary Soberick makes the motion appoint Paul Jarrett of Lehigh Valley Inspection Services as our code enforcement official and our Zoning Official. Including building code official. His appointment will be effective July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015.** Mrs. Soberick explained that he would like to review the fee schedules and ordinances before he starts to get familiar with the town and may be readjusting his fees to what is most beneficial for the town. **Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.** Mr. Romankow asked if he can meet with Officer Ondrus and Nunemacher who handles code so all three can be on the same page. Mrs. Soberick also mentioned establishing a Zoning Application fee and increasing the Zoning Permit fee. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to amend the fee resolution to change the Zoning Permit Fee to \$50 and nonrefundable application fee to \$10 effective July 6, 2015. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

- Code Enforcement – Mrs. Fittos mentioned that Larry Williams would like to remove a 7' sidewalk in front of his home and replace it with a 5' sidewalk. The Ordinance states one would need a sidewalk permit but does not provide measurement thresholds. Mike Greek said he would have to look at the ordinance and get together with Mr. Williams. Mary Soberick said it does not provide a required width. Mr. Williams explained what he was doing.
- Treasurers Report- Bills to be approved, Income Report, Check register, P/L Budget Vs Actual, Sewer Loan Payoff \$26,031.59, Acct#1198 \$163,361 or Acct# 5402 \$202,272, Amortization Schedule in mailboxes, Quick Analysis. Mrs. Fittos just reviewed everything that was handed out or provided. Ms. Cannon said she brought up the Sewer Loan Payment. Mr. Vadyak is not in favor to pay it off due to the infrastructure of this town or cut ourselves short. Mrs. Soberick inquired about the funds we have. She went over the amounts of both loans. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay off the pennvest loan directly from regular Checking account. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky, Tommy Vadyak and Joe Butrie. Motion failed.**

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay all the bills as listed with the exception of Barry Isett Invoice #96358 for Zoning Services in amount of \$605 and Invoice #96754 for Zoning Services in the amount of \$495. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Tommy Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer.**

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to refuse to pay two other Barry Isett & Associates bills from September and October of 2014 which were originally sent to the residents. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

- Tax Collector's Report- Read by Martin Ditsky. He said after speaking with the Tax Collector he anticipates collecting another \$200,000.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – Meeting was Canceled
- Solicitor's Report- Mr. Greek reviewed all of his correspondence. He said the letters to the Auditor General and response was there. He said Mr. Edward Hillanbrand is deceased. Ann M. Willis is a settlement of the draw and he withdrew that one, and the Ambulance was filed to get service and got the radios and some pagers back all but about three. He said the problem is that the serial numbers do not match, but they are the right radios. He received 2 out three radios back. He said some are still in vehicles so we just have to keep track of the vehicles. He said the condemnations we did trying to replace the Sewer line, there is just some correspondence and lastly there are a few cases to be withdrawn in regards to the easements. Lansford vs Wade Desmond is just a sanitation collection as well as Justin Dunn. He also did the two amended ordinances for Sewer and Sanitation if we are using Powell Rogers and Speaks. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to advertise the two ordinances. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- IRS Notice: re 2012 Tax Year/ W-2's filed incorrectly. Mike Greek to send letter to America Coast to Coast.
- Advertise for Oil Bids: Contract expires 8/1/15. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion we advertise for oil bids. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Special Event- Lansford Alive. "Music in the Park, Kennedy Park, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2, & 8/9. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve pending receipt of insurance. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mary Soberick has Handicap Applications she reviewed and all meet the criteria for 444 East Bertsch Street and 45 Jones Street. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve both. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- GCC- Agreement with Corrections- Mr. Greek said they were working on it but someone was supposed to provide a final draft. Mr. Greek said he has one on his computer and if Jodi Mika gives him her copy with the corrections he will write it up. Jodi Mika also mentioned the opening of the Community Garden will be Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> for everyone to come they will have hotdogs and water.

Rose Mary Cannon said she saw Mario Marconi cutting the grass at the hefflefinger lot which is in repository and sent a letter to the county stating we will no longer be responsible for cutting that grass. She asked if there is anything the covers properties in the Borough that are under repository because we had the problem with the middle school when it was icy and that was also in repository. She asked who is responsible for these properties. Mr. Vadyak made a suggestion to call the commissioners. Mary Soberick said she believes the County would be responsible, but Rose Mary Said they are not. Rose Mary Cannon said she will call the commissioners.

- Status of COG advertisement of Ordinance- Mr. Ditsky said it has not been decided yet.

Mrs. Fittos had a quick suggestion she did not mention under Treasures Report. She said Smokey will bring in receipts to be reimbursed for Gas he put in the lawn mower. She suggested to add him to the Citgo account and provide a gas card for him to use. Mary Soberick asked where he goes for it. Mrs. Fittos said to pennmart. Mrs. Fittos said she will call Friendly Food and see if we can add him. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to authorize the pool maintenance manager to obtain fuel from friendly**

**food mart on a charge basis if they allow it. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All others were opposed, motion failed.**

Mr. Romankow thanked everyone for showing up. He doesn't know what's been going on with himself the past few days, but he's happy to see more people showing up at the meetings. He also mentioned to check out the board on the right which listed the committee meetings and said they are open to the public should anyone want to come to those.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council entered into a brief recess for executive session at 8:15pm and exited at 9:00pm.

Mr. Ditsky mentioned that there are part time applications. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to hire Tyler Edward Trotman on an as needed basis for the summer for the street dept. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Joe Butrie makes the motion to adjourn at 9:02pm. Second: Tommy Vadyak. All in favor, motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Fittos*

Secretary/Treasurer