

The Special meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for Sewer purposes was held at the above date and place at 5:15pm. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 3 residents.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COURTESY

No public courtesy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Sewer Plan or recommendation to work out Sewer Problems. Mr. Ditsky said he spoke to one of the members of the Sewer Authority who said that back in 1961 that Lansford was grandfathered into the Sewer separation, because Lansford is a combined system, we would not have to separate the system. He said no one has been able to come up with the said letter unless it's in the Sewer Authority meeting minutes going back to 1961. Ms. Cannon thinks the Sewer Authority was formed in 1964. Mr. Vadyak said he heard about that letter. His uncle used to serve on the Sewer Authority and told him about that letter. Mr. Cannon asked who wrote the letter; Mr. Vadyak said it came from the state, not DEP. Mr. Vadyak asked where we would get the money for the Sewer separation. He said the population has dropped, although Summit Hill went up a little. Mr. Vadyak said this letter has to be found.

Mr. Vadyak said he is in favor with what the other communities are doing, handing it over to the Sewer Authority.

Ms. Cannon said she has a few questions for the Solicitor who was not present. Mr. Greek walked in at 5:19pm as Ms. Cannon was speaking.

Mrs. Ditsky & Mr. Vadyak gave Mr. Greek the quick recap of this letter they were speaking about. Ms. Cannon asked Mr. Greek could there have been any action that could null and void that letter. Mr. Greek said there are changes in the Statute but he would have to see what the letter said. Mr. Vadyak was saying they should just enlarge the Sewer Plant, but Mr. Greek said that would not be an approved type of system now. We are dealing with an antiquated system. He said it's designed to work for a combined system, and it was an approved system back then, it didn't have to be separated. Mr. Greek said the system is not improperly working; its working based on the design that was there, however there is overflow that comes out which still may be deemed to be in violation of what they have since its allowing a discharge. Even if we have that letter, DEP may say this is the system that was set up an approved, but under today's regulations, its allowing a discharge which cannot do, so therefore it still has to be fixed.

Mr. Vadyak said when Donnie Gildea was here, there was a report on flow meters. He asked what happened to the flow meters now. Ms. Cannon stated per the meeting minutes from Summit Hill, Tirpak knew about the over flow. From the time it was built, they were aware there was going to be overflow.

Ms. Cannon asked if we move forward with this Act 537, which can cost anywhere between \$200,000-\$500,000, what would the Borough be committed to, do they immediately take over everything in town, are they going to do the storm sewers, a break in a pipe, what happens during the 2 year time frame they are studying and a problem occurs. Mr. Greek responded and said there are two issues; one being the Joint Act 537 Plan, the other is giving them the lines. He said each municipality can come together as a group and give the line that's increasing the scope of the project. He said once you create an Authority you're allowed to give them projects, those projects would be those lines and the separation of those lines. The second issue, are we going in with a Joint Act 537 Plan. Mr. Greek said he is not a big fan of the Joint 537 Plan because once you're in, you're in. He said it's going to cost the Borough tens of thousands of dollars. He said once you're in, you have to come up with a plan, with alternatives, look at everything. It may require a whole new sewer plan. You have to go over all the options. Mr. Greek said you will have to have your action plan and task activity report.

Mr. Jones said last time there were more options, there was a regionalized Act 537 Plan and the other was a separate community individual Act 537 Plan. Ms. Cannon was asking if the other boroughs have funds to pay for this Plan. She also asked if they will take on the debt. Mr. Greek said no. She also mentioned if they take the debt and the assets, we have a debt service tax that is incorporated into Sewer Transmission. She said the accountants said its like selling car, they should take everything but they don't have to and are researching it. Mike Greek said he doesn't think they have a choice; they take what you give them. Mr. Vadyak feels if they are taking the lines, they have to take the debt. He said let's say the municipalities don't want to assume the debt, DEP may force them then to do an individual 537 plan and create a sewage treatment plant. Ms. Cannon voiced another concern. She said, DEP is saying it may take 2 years for the study to be complete, what happens during the interim while the study is being done and we have issues. Mike Greek said we continue to repair our lines, charge a transmission fee and pay down the debt until. Ms. Cannon asked Mr. Greek what impact will agreeing to do the study have on the municipalities. Mr. Greek said in his opinion if the borough agrees to go with the Joint Act 537 Plan, everything stays the same. Mr. Vadyak said it will take a few years.

Ms. Cannon questioned how the billing will be done, if and when they take over. Mr. Greek said we don't have any control over that, it's whatever they decide. Ms. Cannon asked who decides on the engineer. Mr.

Greek said if it's given to the authority, it would be the authority's engineer. Colin Jones said it makes the most sense to do a regionalized 537 Plan.

Samantha Yasson stepped in at 5:36pm

A resident stepped in and brought a letter to council. Mr. Ditsky said they also didn't mention who would be funding the Act 537 Plan. Ms. Cannon expressed her concerns with the finances and the impact this is going to have on the borough. Colin Jones said there are a lot of good questions, but not a lot of good answers; they want us to jump into the pool but we don't know what the repercussions are going to be. Ms. Cannon said DEP said the boroughs were never working together. She doesn't agree with them. We were working individually.

Samantha Yasson said we are the only town trying to make improvements which is why we have that debt.

Mr. Vadyak said he still feels we should move ahead with the Joint 537 Plan. Mr. Ditsky said there are a lot of questions that are unanswered. Ms. Yasson said the Sewer Authority would have more positions or committees open due to this change.

Samantha Yasson makes the motion to regionalize Act 537 Plan with Coaldale and Summit Hill. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to adjourn at 6:00pm. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer