

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 6 residents and 1 reporter.

#### **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, Joe Butrie and Solicitor Michael Greek.

#### **PUBLIC COURTESY**

Jodi Mika with Grace Community Church thanked all of council for allowing her to do the community garden. She said people have been coming to water the plants and just enjoy the area. She wanted to say thank you and see if there are any concerns. Solicitor Michael Greek asked her to stop by to sign some paperwork. Mary Soberick inquired about her certificate of insurance and she assured she would drop it off in the office the next day.

Marie Ondrus asked if the pool contractors for the roof have been paid yet and which fund paid for the repairs. Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos responded and said yes it was estimated about \$46,000 and it was paid out of the General Fund with unexpected revenue that was not budgeted for which was also deposited into the General Fund and it was offset. She also asked if the Gazebo in Kennedy Park would be repaired. Marie Ondrus thought it was to be repaired from the time of the hailstorm. Rose Mary Cannon confirmed and said no.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – June 11, 2014**

Rose Mary Cannon made the correction on the last name of Jamie Giangenelli on the first page which should be changed to Jamie Mongi. Mary Soberick and Tommy Vadyak both thought it was Giangenelli. Rose Mary Cannon also made a correction under "Correspondence" where it said DEP; it should be changed to BET. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve the minutes with those corrections. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter from Carbon County Engineering Inc. re: Sewer Line Collapse on Dock Street- Martin Ditsky said he spoke with Michael Tirpak and explained that the engineer was on vacation and that Jesse Hiles did sign the easement. He said we received (3) quotes, one being for the removal of the trees. He also said Radocha did a walk through and made the conclusion that the trees do not need to be taken down. Martin Ditsky said another quote was from Old Castle Concrete for the pipe, but it was incorrect regarding the dimensions. At this point it can cost between \$7,000 and \$22,000 for the pipe. Martin Ditsky said the issue at hand is to determine if this is an emergency. When he spoke to Michael Tirpak, he suggested Lansford purchase the stone and materials and bid on the manpower and equipment. Rose Mary Cannon said what is the Borough of Lansford's definition of an emergency. Martin Ditsky responded with asking the attorney. Tommy Vadyak said it's considered an emergency as you don't know when the next break will take place. Joe Butrie believes it should be repaired ASAP. Attorney Greek said if you have a sewer line that collapses; it can create a Health and Safety hazard. In general, a sewer line collapse would be a risk to the public health and safety. He advised that council consult with the engineer if this should be expedited or if we have time, to bid it out. Martin Ditsky confirmed that we have the stone, but we need to acquire everything else for this project. **Colin Jones makes the motion to move forward with the repair as an emergency. Seconded: Joe Butrie Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon & Mary Soberick. Motion passed** Martin Ditsky explains that Keystone and Radocha will do the work. He said once the pipe is ordered it should be here in 1 week.
- Letter from Fred Johnson (Resident) - re: Pole with no street light- Tommy Vadyak said he doesn't recall a street light being at this property. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to table it.**
- Letter from Brian Billig- Us again- Rose Mary Cannon is against it because she feels people will drop junk off by it as she has seen in various towns. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to not participate in this service. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Cerullo, Datte & Burke/ response from BET- re: Vacant Lot across from 310 W front stre9et, violation- Rose Mary Cannon said this was addressed and cleaned up.

- District Attorney of Carbon County- Carl Stevens parole- Tommy Vadyak is against it. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to send a letter that we are against it. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick, Motion passes.**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Meeting was cancelled
- Public Safety- Meeting was cancelled
- Fire Department- Report was read by Tommy Vadyak
- Ambulance- Report was read by Tommy Vadyak
- Mayors Report- read by Mayor James Romankow
- Police Report- read by Mayor James Romankow. He also mentioned that Sgt. Soberick & Officer Horos looked at used cars in Tamaqua. The total of the used 2003 Mercury Grand Marquis for \$7,133, with low mileage. This vehicle will replace #103 which is being sold. Tommy Vadyak cautioned Council of no money coming in now, which Mary Soberick responded that some people should pay their taxes before December. **Mary Soberick made the motion to purchase the police vehicle. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Roll Call Vote: Martin Ditsky= no, Mary Soberick= yes, Tommy Vadyak= no, Joe Butrie= no, Samantha Yasson= yes, Colin Jones= yes, Rose Mary Cannon= yes, motion passes 4- 3.**  
**Rose Mary Cannon made the motion that this car be purchased from the LST account. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Parks & Recreation- Rose Mary Cannon summarized some work that Smokey did on the pipes in the pump room and trying to fix the leak in the pool. She said the pool was built in the 1940's so things are starting to pop up now that need repair. She wanted to thank the Tamaqua Borough for the invitation to the residents of panther valley to utilize their pool while Lansford Pool was closed due to the leak. She said it was very much appreciated and to see the community spirit. Martin asked Rose Mary Cannon if the pool was self-sustaining. He understood we give it an \$18,000 allotment each year, but Ms. Cannon clarified that the money is budgeted and not sure if it should be self-sustaining. She advised that he check the Audit. She knows the stands bring in \$300 a day. Mary Soberick inquired about the pretzel machine. Rose Mary said Frank Karnish received a quote for a Pretzel machine that would keep the pretzels warm and moist. The cost of it would be \$450 and would generate about \$150. They will also give us 8 free cases which is a 400 count of 5oz pretzels. The committee was in favor to purchase it, but may take 6 weeks to deliver. They are currently microwaving them which takes a long time so the machine would be beneficial. Frank Karnish did confirm it could take 4 weeks after speaking to them. Martin Ditsky said he would be in favor to purchase it for next year. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to purchase the pretzel machine. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Joe Butrie & Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.** Mary Soberick reminded everyone that last month we sent a letter to David Burrell to reconsider his resignation and wanted to know if he responded. Rose Mary Cannon said he asked the board asking his name be taken off all checking accounts. **Mary Soberick made the motion to accept his resignation. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries. Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to advertise for the vacancy of the parks and recreation board. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Public Works- Report read by Martin Ditsky. Line painting a crosswalk between mini mall and Turkey Hill was requested by David Benevy. Uncertain if crosswalk can be located in the middle of the block. Rose Mary Cannon and Tommy Vadyak believe it is, since we were authorized by the state to have it once before. It was suggested to purchase metal signs for snow ban parking; it would be too costly. Joe Butrie mentioned that the Borough's front loader is out of service and cannot be used. Martin Ditsky said Lenny Kovach did volunteer to go to a Penndott auction to look at used front loaders. Tommy Vadyak said we should look at the Penndott auctions since they have them a couple times a year, but can't afford a new front loader. He added that we could get a decent one for \$30,000. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to get pricing on a second hand loader. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in Favor, motion carries.** Martin Ditsky announces that as of today, Joe Butrie has been appointed chair of Public Works and he will be stepping down due to his Health. Joe Butrie mentioned that council had spoken about a new snow plow earlier in the year for the pick-up truck and provided (3) three quotes. One is for a straight plow Western 8' for \$4,620 with a 20% discount on all accessories in installed and purchased by

7/31/14, includes free install. The second is from American Rental Equipment for \$ 5,543.80 and the third is from Covered Wagon for \$6,098.63. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that the quotes were not included in the packet. Joe Butrie passed them around to council to review.

- Community Development Planning/ Zoning- Report read by Mary Soberick. The report indicated property maintenance concerns with BIA vehicle matters regarding sticker visibility and parking on Spring Garden, and garbage fee collection process. There was a discussion about the services that Barry Isett provides and it may be overlapping with the Code work that Chris Ondrus provides. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to meet with Barry Isett, Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Mary Soberick asked who would meet with them. The volunteers were: Tommy Vadyak, Samantha Yasson and Joe Butrie for a 6pm meeting. Rose Mary Cannon suggested Jill Seigendall should also be there as she works with them on a day to day basis. Mary Soberick suggested Chris Ondrus should be there since he works in Code.
- Code Enforcement- Read by Mary Soberick who asked if additional details of BIA services were received.
- Treasurers Report- Bills to be approved, P & L, Check register. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned she has a problem with the pool bills not being paid timely. She said most of the bills are small; however Reinhart and Guers are large bills that need to be paid in order to get the next shipment. Mrs. Fittos said she paid them all and will continue to pay them as they come in due to the situation discussed. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay the concession stand (food) invoices in a promptly manner. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mrs. Fittos explains the few documents in the packet such as the Statement from the Labosky case, the 2013 DCED Audit completion and the schedule of Due To/ Due From accounts. Also, there are (2) quotes, one is from My Alarm Center, for 2 Panic Buttons with an installation charge of \$179.00 and the monthly monitoring service is \$29.99 and the Blue Ridge quote is pending. Lastly, there is An ADP module update called HR 411, the module will keep us compliant and assist with HR needs. Mary Soberick said we can obtain all the information for free from the Department of Labor and Industry. Tommy Vadyak mentioned he had a June 2013 Income Report which should have been June for 2014. Tommy Vadyak had some questions on a few bills which were answered. Mary Soberick had some questions on bills from Barry Isett regarding action of RRL & Keystone Consulting. Mrs. Soberick said we should notify Keystone about the one bill for the floor review that council denied to pay last month so it gets written off. Mrs. Soberick asked about the grant funds for the Lansford Alive street scape and Rose Mary explained that we pay the invoices and submit them to be reimbursed by the Grant Funds. Mary Soberick suggested we should increase our budget figures for zoning hearings. Mary Soberick also went over some bills on several other funds. Mary Soberick also inquired about the Highway Liquid Fuels allocation that should have been received. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to release the \$5,000 contribution to Fire Company in the Fire tax account if that money has not been sent already. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Joe Butrie questioned the bill from Kovatch for the repairs done on the 2014 International; he believes it should be under warranty. Mary Fittos explained that she called them and they explained it was not covered. Tommy Vadyak agreed with Mr. Butrie. Discussion came up about the garage pole building estimate. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to apply for gaming funds for the new Borough Garage. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay the bills with the exception of all of the Barry Isett bills and the one Keystone Bill from last month that was denied. Joe Butrie also said with the exception of the Kovatch bill. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes. Tommy Vadyak is opposed with Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collectors report- \$20,655.58. Martin Ditsky mentioned that approximately 40 properties are going up for sale.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- There was no meeting.
- Solicitor's Report- Solicitor Michael Greek sent a letter to the Auditor General for the Ambulance devices that we are requesting back. He spoke about several topics that he is working on. The ordinance of the Quality of Life has been modified. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise the amended quality of life ordinance. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.** Mr. Greek also spoke about the Resolution he drew up recognizing American Fire Company #1 as a volunteer fire department. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded: Sam Yasson vote. All in favor, motion**

**passes.** Tommy Vadyak asked Attorney Greek if he has the chance to review Jim Thorpe's garbage handling and the three strike rule in the RRL ordinance.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Special Event Application- St. Luke's Hospital, Michelle Bowman 5k Run@ Lansford Pool on 9/20/14.( Insurance is attached) **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Solicitor Greek reminded us of the resolution that just passed, there are fire police there In case anyone gets hurt.
- Special Event Application from Jesse Hiles- Sports Zoo Crew on 9/1/14- Mary Soberick asked how this will affect the work that needs to be done. Martin Ditsky said it should be done by then. Martin Ditsky said he spoke with Jesse, he signed the easement. Rose Mary makes the motion to table it since we don't know how the project is going to go.
- Special Event Application from Donna Valent- Lansford Alive Vendor Craft Show. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve and notify public works. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.** It will be on Ridge Street between Tunnel and Coal.
- Installation of Panic Call button for Jill and Mary- Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to approve call button. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon and Mary Soberick. Motion passes.
- Installation of door latch in Borough Office to lock door from inside. Mary Soberick said she suggested it, would be good to have if staff is alone. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to get the latch. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Rose Mary Cannon said we have all this security but there is no security from the Tax Collectors office into ours. Mary Soberick agreed. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to get a latch. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Amendment of Ordinance 2014- Quality of Life.- Already covered.
- New general / Auto/ Property Insurance from Indian Harbor- Annual Cost Is \$72,951, a deposit of\$16, 23.75 with 10 monthly installments of \$5,835.37- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to ratify Council's decision to accept. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Tree Removal Quotes- Martin Ditsky received (3) quotes, but we do not need to remove the trees per the Engineer. Rose Mary Cannon asked why and Martin Ditsky said that Radocha and the engineer said the roots are not near the pipes.
- Estimate for a Blade from American Rental Equipment- Samantha Yasson said out of the (3) quotes one of them says 20% off accessories but the others are unclear. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to table and get more quotes.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- 2013 Audit- Schedule of Due To/ Due From accounts- needs to be resolved by means of Transferring monies in the amounts listed to satisfy the accounts.
- Handicap Applications: 332 West Bertsch and 364 W Snyder Ave. Mary Soberick said 332 W. Bertsch Street is the only one that meets all the criteria. She said we don't have all the information for 364 W Snyder. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve 332 West Bertsch Street. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Generator for police status- Rose Mary Cannon said this will fall under CDBG grant.
- Payment breakdown for proposed Pole building- Mary Soberick asked if this was on hold due to the punch list. Rose Mary said she was confused. Attorney Greek said the Borough has completed the Grant once they make the last payment of \$59,637.23. Martin believes this payment must get sent out and not wait on the punch list.
- Sewer Repair Quotes- This was covered.
- Bus Stop changes- Martin Ditsky said they have to get back to us. Mary Soberick said they suggested adding additional stops. They wanted to move Jones off the highway.

Tommy Vadyak said there should have been something else under unfinished business. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to obtain by subpoena or right to know the incident report on Dave Midas Case. Seconded: Martin Ditsky. Roll call: Mary Soberick= no, Tommy Vadyak= yes, Joe Butrie= no, Samantha Yasson= yes, Rose Mary Cannon= no, Colin Jones= yes, Martin Ditsky= yes 4 to 3 vote, motion passes.** Mary Soberick asked Attorney Greek to reiterate what he told council last month. Solicitor Michael Greek said it will become a public document once we have it, if they release it being it was an investigative file. Tommy Vadyak said it's a 27 page document and everyone should be able to read it.

Tommy Vadyak left at 9:10pm.

Mary Soberick had a few items to discuss. She asked if anyone applied for the NEPA Grant application and Martin Ditsky responded with a no.

Mary Soberick mentioned the website modifications and asked if the corrections were made and Mrs. Fittos said that the corrections were made that morning and that everyone should review and give their feedback. Colin Jones said some Tabs on the website say "coming soon" then when you refresh, information appears. Mary Soberick also mentioned that the issue with delivering the packets should come to a conclusion After discussion, it was decided that the president could deliver them as long as the secretary is made aware of whose is being delivered Mary Fittos suggested they be signed for.

With regards to the three driveway requests, we should not be billed by both companies. Mary Soberick compared the charge from Keystone to look at a floor which was \$772, but a zoning permit on a driveway was \$91 for 1 hour. She questioned the logic. Martin Ditsky explained the situation. Mary Soberick asked if anyone reviewed the sites, one already has parking spaces. She said we are being billed by something that was not required. It was apparent to her no one read the ordinance, Barry Isett, Keystone, or members of council and referred to Section 1114. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to notify Barry Isett & Keystone about the three bills that should not have been invoiced due to their inability to read our ordinance. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Martin mentioned that it was keystone that billed us.

Joe Butrie left.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session since Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones also left about 9:30pm. There was no quorum to continue.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no official adjournment since four council members left before the meeting was officially over.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Fittos*

Secretary/Treasurer