

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 10 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, Rose Mary Cannon, Samantha Yasson, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Those Absent were: Tommy Vadyak and Joe Butrie.

GUEST SPEAKER- Lori Pepper & Josh Esposito of Barry Isett

Josh Esposito opened up with saying he will get a copy of the UCC/ Property Maintenance 2012 ordinance to everyone to review and adopt at the next meeting. He will also have the recommendations to the current Zoning ordinance. He also said they have a process for rental inspections and we should possibly adopt a vacant building ordinance. Mr. Esposito said he would tailor the ordinance to comply with the Lansford Borough's needs and let them be reviewed by council. Martin Ditsky explained that he spoke to their Grant Writer; Ann Vinatieri in regards to setting up a meeting with her and council to discuss what Grants would be available to the town for demolishing buildings. Some of the topics they spoke about was the need of clear titles, and if a property is in a repository how would it be transferred out of repository. Mary Soberick interrupted as she was confused as to what meeting and Mr. Ditsky explained he would like to set up a meeting with members of council and the Grant Writer from Barry Isett. Mary Soberick asked if this would be a free meeting or will be charged and Mr. Esposito said it would be pro bono since they provide a number of services for us currently. Rose Mary Cannon said the confusion occurred because the dialog between Mr. Ditsky and the representatives of Barry Isett stem from a previous meeting between some of council and Barry Isett that was held prior to this council meeting and not everyone was in the loop as to what was discussed. Lori Pepper mentioned a few topics that need to be addressed. Mary Soberick and Sam Yasson spoke about a few buildings that would be condemned and putting a list together of those buildings. It was suggested that a property should be addressed one at a time as opposed to working on several issues all at once. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to meet with the Grant Writer of Barry Isett. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passed.**

PUBLIC COURTESY

Chris Ondrus of Lansford Police spoke on behalf of the Lansford Alive second phase of the downtown project. He mentioned there was a LSA Grant they would like to apply for which is what they applied for last year. The original amount applied for was \$375,000 which encompasses Ridge Street from Tunnel to Coal Street. We were awarded \$275,000. There are several letters of support for this project to continue and apply for Grants that may be available. The deadline is September 30, 2014. Rose Mary Cannon said its really going to look nice, new lights, new paving and this will be the first step trying to enhance the town. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to continue with the second phase and apply for Grants. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Rose Mary Cannon would like to say that Chris Ondrus and Mary Soto put in all the hours and work into obtaining the Grants and are doing a great job along with Eric Snyder. Martin Ditsky mentioned that Chris was looking into a fall cleanup and the only thing they could not supply was a pickup truck as it broke down last time. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve it. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Jodi Mika with Grace Community Church asked if we are able to take down the "No Trespassing" signs by the community garden. Residents are unsure if they are allowed to sit there because of those signs.

Mary Soberick of council would like to send a sincere thank you to Janelle Balliet for her support of Lansford, referring to an article she wrote in response to how the newspaper keeps slandering Lansford. Ms. Balliet's article basically stated we are all not bad and most of us are productive citizens.

Rose Mary Cannon of council wanted to give a civic lesson due to some happenings recently; she stated that the Mayor and council are all elected officials. The Mayor does not have power over council and council does not have power over the Mayor, especially in the personal lives of the elected officials.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – June 09, 2014

Mary Soberick said the original format that Mary Fittos had was correct. There was some wording she omitted during the revision which should not have been omitted. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve with the additions as follows: At the end of unfinished business, the section where Tommy Vadyak left, the section that says Mary Soberick had a few items to discuss should be added back in. Also the area where she referred to the executive session should be put back in. It basically states there was no executive session since Sam and Colin left there was no quorum to continue. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Seltzer Group- Workers Comp Seminar- Martin Ditsky mentioned that the Secretary should attend and was discussed by council with no motion. Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos mentioned we have a manual that can be referred to as well as contacts.
- PA State Association of Boroughs- Municipal Budgeting Seminar- Martin Ditsky said all of the budgeting seminars in this area have passes. Mary Soberick said they have one for managing the police department and thought the Mayor should attend that one if he can. Mayor Romankow said he has to work and not sure he wants to lose a day's pay. He will get back to council on this at a later date.

- Penndott Agility Program- Rose Mary Cannon stated if we do something for them, they do something for us. Mary Soberick asked for a copy of the brochure. She also said the assistance is very minimal regarding this shared service.
- Letter from St. John the Baptist- Martin Ditsky said the pastor requests no parking sign during church services. Mary Soberick reviewed this with her ordinance committee. Mary Soberick said they meet all the requirements and comply with the ordinance. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to grant their request for the “No Parking signs during church services stated in their letter. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Panther Valley School bus changes- Martin Ditsky said there was a meeting held with himself, Sam Yasson, Mary Soberick and a representative of PV School and asked them to come up with suggested stops. The letter is proposing that the Bertsch street stop be in the middle of the block in front of the High-rise. Mayor Romankow asked who maintains the high-rise in regards to the snow and it would be the high-rise who is responsible to plow during the snow. **Motion made by Colin Jones to approve the bus stop changes to Bertsch St. by the High-rise and Jones & Ridge St. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes. Mary Soberick asked to confirm that this is removing a stop from Jones and Patterson and Mr. Ditsky confirmed yes.**
- Resignation Letter of Officer Robert Shubeck- **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Carbon County Tax Bureau – Rose Mary Cannon said this is why we should have our residential licensing up to date and have a good list. Mary Soberick mentioned we are not issuing licenses so we can't revoke them.
- Letter from Kevin Soberick- Vacant Seat on Parks & Recreation Board- **Colin Jones made the motion to accept his letter.** Samantha Yasson asked who was on the board. Gwen from the audience responded with: Jack Soberick, Mary Jo Idle, Sean Clark, & Gwyn Collevchio. **Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Mary Soberick and Rose Mary Cannon abstain. Motion passes.**
- Fall Cleanup Day- Lansford Alive/ This was discussed already.
- Lansford Alive – LSA Grant- Already discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Budget Planning & Date Discussion- Report read by Martin Ditsky. Samantha Yasson asked if we can skip reading all the reports so we have enough people later in the night to vote if we need to. Martin Ditsky inquired about budget meeting dates and who would be involved. He mentioned that the Dept. heads were supposed to send their anticipated expenses for the following year. Martin Ditsky and Rose Mary Cannon discussed if it will be council or by committee and Martin said Committee.
- Public Safety- Colin Jones asked what the situation was with the bridge on Dock Street. Rose Mary Cannon said he found a letter that states the railroad owns the land so we have to do our own research to make sure they do. Mayor Romankow mentioned that the two officers needing vests will be reduced to 1 officer. On August 25th, Summit Hill has their council meeting and will be hiring a Full- Time Officer. One of our own applied there and we will know by then if he stays or goes. Mayor Romankow also mentioned that everyone downstairs is getting sick; he said it may be an issue with mold and would like it to be tested downstairs. Colin Jones said he would call Seitz brothers about the mold. Rose Mary Cannon suggested we test for Radon, also, and we can get a kit at Walmart. Solicitor Greek said to get a kit and test it first. Rose Mary Cannon also mentioned that it was tested and it showed that there was mold down there.

Samantha Yasson asked how the part- time officers are looking. Mayor Romankow said he would like to advertise for part- time officers. Rose Mary Cannon also mentioned that the police are within budget. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to advertise for part- time police Officers. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mary Soberick asked what the National Night out was. Martin Ditsky said it's included to have public awareness, finger printing children, etc. There wasn't sufficient time to do it, but other towns have done it. Games are usually provided for the children. Mayor Romankow said they will participate next year. Mary Soberick asked for clarity about the wildlife ordinance listed on the report and Mayor Romankow explained that there is a lady going around town feeding the pigeons. Martin Ditsky said on the East end people are leaving out food for bears.

- Fire Department- Report read by Samantha Yasson
- Ambulance report
- Mayor's Report- Read by Mayor Romankow
- Police Report- Read by Mayor Romankow. Martin Ditsky mentioned that residents are complaining about the speeding on Patterson Street. Mayor Romankow said he has a car waiting for speeder on Patterson but cannot mention where. Also, there are (2) Po's attached or equipping the unmarked car that was supposed to be signed by Tommy Vadyak. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to purchase the lights for the unmarked vehicle. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Parks and recreation- Colin Jones asked about the Leak in the pool. Rose Mary Cannon said Smokey tried to fix it, along with Mike Radocha. She called around to find someone to do the testing. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that two girls broke the backboards at the basketball court. The Mayor said Ametek is building new ones for us. The concession stand will need a new freezer. Mary Soberick asked when the last day of the pool was and Gwen; sitting in the audience responded with August 23, 2014 which is a Saturday. Martin Ditsky asked about the riding lawnmower and Rose Mary Cannon said it's on its last leg.

- Public Works- Martin Ditsky said there are (5) quotes for a plow for the pickup truck. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to purchase the plow from Hale \$4,884.67. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mary Soberick asked if the others are willing to come here. Martin Ditsky is unsure what's happening but he is aware that our workers have been helping Summit Hill so they in return should help us. Rose Mary Cannon asked if all the paving can be done in time, we still need to get the hot asphalt. Martin Ditsky said it will be done in time. Martin Ditsky said we received quotes from Komatsu for a front loader as well as mentioned there is an online auction for used equipment from Penndott. Martin Ditsky asked how much do we want to spend on a used front loader. Samantha Yasson asked if we can use the LST account and Mary Soberick said she feels the balance in the LST may not be accurate and wants to research it and double check the money in there belongs there and not another fund. We have close to \$50,000 in that account. Mary Soberick said by the end of the year 50% should go to the police, 25% should go to Public works and 25% should go to Fire Company. Mary Soberick said she would like to sit down with Mary Fittos to go back to 2009 or 2010 when the error began and just figure out if everything is correct. Mary Soberick said we can look for a low interest loan and pay for a front loader out of Liquid fuels and spread it out over a few years. Martin Ditsky said we can advertise for a used front loader and just say "Comparable to" and list some specs, but can't say a specific name. Samantha Yasson asked who would go to the auction. Martin Ditsky said Lenny Kovach and Mike Radocha have volunteered to go and per the conversation Martin had with Bob Bauder, Martin Ditsky can use a blank Liquid fuels check and Mary Fittos can co-sign it over. Mary Soberick suggested having one of the borough workers attend. Colin Jones said we should at least register for the auction. Samantha Yasson asked Mary Fittos to get the finances together to see what we can spend. Rose Mary Cannon said at the June meeting a motion was made and passed for the sewer project to be done. It was never advertised. We received a 5,500 bill for inlets. She said it's vital that we do the bidding process and follow the Borough code. She said we are piece mealing it to avoid the bidding process. She also said we bought stone that we didn't have a contract for and all of this is being paid out of the Sewer Transmission fund which is closely looked at, not as close as Liquid fuels which is audited twice but we need to do things right. Rose Mary Cannon said any stone that has been purchased recently was purchased without a contract. Rose Mary Cannon also said they left the hole there and kids were playing in it. When it happened it was an emergency but it was left for almost a month before it was acted on. Rose Mary Cannon also explained that at first we received a recommendation to remove the trees, and then the engineer said the trees are not the issue, when in fact the roots did go through the first sink hole on Dock Street before it became a bigger hole. Mary Soberick said we were supposed to advertise for street materials but it's not on the agenda. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to advertise for bids for street materials/ stone. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Colin Jones inquired about the smoke alarms. Martin Ditsky said Mario Marconi is supposed to do it.
- Community Development / Planning / Zoning- Report read by Mary Soberick. She touched on Jessica helping to organize the Ordinance book and making copies. Mary Soberick asked how we go about re-introducing the angle parking and changing it to parallel. Colin Jones said we should ask Chris Ondrus to see what he thinks.
- Code Enforcement- Read by Samantha Yasson.
- Treasurer's Report- Mary Fittos went over the reports and mentioned that the reimbursement from Kyocera was received. We also received the State Funds for Liquid Fuels and provided the balance for the LST fund. In regards to the Lansford Alive Grant, all invoices have been submitted and reimbursed and paid for. It was also recommended by the Auditor of Liquid Fuels to consolidate both Liquid fuels accounts. The Small savings account has hardly any interest and it was suggested to close that account and transfer that small amount into the checking account that has a higher interest rate. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to get rid of the savings account and put it into the checking account. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Rose Mary questioned a bill for fuel that was used when the borough steps were repaired. There was a discussion about this. Mary Soberick questioned a bill for tire removal from the borough garage which was a 1 time bill. Mary Soberick inquired about a bill from Panther Valley dated in June that it should have been paid. Mary Fittos explained it may have come late or may not have had a PO as I will not pay something without a PO. Mary Soberick asked that I remove Jack's fuel reimbursement and she will convert it to mileage. Mary Soberick inquired about a few bills which were answered as best as possible. All backup to the bills are available to view at any time. Mary Soberick also mentioned that the RIRA account should have been closed out and was never done. **Colin Jones made the motion to approve the bills. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Rose Mary Cannon was opposed to Keystone bill for garage pole building and Mary Soberick was opposed to all Barry Isett bills and Keystone bills for zoning and the garage pole building. Motion passes. All bills will be paid.**
- Tax Collector's Report- Mary Soberick read the report and we collected \$910,658.25 for the month of July. Mary Soberick said she checked the report and Mr. Vadyak is not here, but he was the only one that has yet to pay his taxes, and extended a thank you to everyone at the table as they paid their taxes already. Samantha Yasson asked what the deadline was and Mary Soberick said you're not delinquent until January 1, 2015. She also mentioned that the earlier everyone pays their taxes, the easier it is to pay all expenses for the Borough, so we are not struggling at the end of the year.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- no meeting until next month.

- Solicitor's Report- Attorney Greek briefly reviewed all correspondence regarding James Strauss, Volunteer Ambulance, return of equipment, Quality of Life Ordinance. Midas Case Right to Know, Mr. Turcmanovich' s letter and request from his attorney, replacement project property :364 West Abbott street, Grace Community Church agreement and the deed for 390 W. Snyder. Solicitor Greek mentioned he needed a motion to adopt the quality of life ordinance. **Colin Jones makes the motion to adopt the QOL ordinance. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes** Jodi Mika explained that the deacons meet August 31st and are looking for an agreement that is tailored more for the community garden. Solicitor Greek recommended that they form a committee and possibly draw up their own agreement. Mr. Greek said Mr. Vadyak asked him about how Jim Thorpe handles its sanitation and he said they have 25 sanitation customers in leisure land that don't pay their bill so the garbage does not get picked up for them. Mr. Greek does not recommend to deny pickup. Mary Soberick and Attorney Greek had a discussion about the sanitation ordinance.

Attorney Greek added with regards to the Viola Kennedy issue, that he is going to file a " quick claim" deed from Borough to Borough ; Martin Ditsky will have to sign the papers.

Janet McGee, a resident of Lansford had a question for attorney Greek regarding a tenant that lived next to her who leaves her trash out, but attorney Greek could not give legal advice.

OLD BUSINESS

- Barry Isett- 4hrs a week in Borough Office- Martin Ditsky said it was suggested that Barry Isett work from the Borough Office to Relieve Jill of her involvement with Code and Zoning issues. Samantha Yasson asked Mary Fittos how much we used for code and zoning to date. Samantha found it under professional services which the budgeted amount was \$15,600 and we used \$3,588.10 plus the additional listed so we have about \$8,500 left to expend. Samantha Yasson went back to Barry Isett in the office, Colin was concerned with if they had no one to meet, Mary Soberick thinks it's up to Barry Isett to coordinate it how they see fit. If they feel they need to be in our office, they should contact the residents and set it up and contact us to let us know they will be here. They were appointed so council should not have to authorize them to be here, it's their job.
- 26-28 E Patterson St, Lansford PA- Fire Company Building under Construction- Additional Builder's Risk Insurance is required. There was a discussion between Mary Soberick, Rose Mary Cannon and Martin Ditsky. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the Insurance with additions. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

NEW BUSINESS

- (2) Parking spaces for Borough Hall for visitors, (2) for Water Authority- Due to availability, Mary Soberick said it should be 1 for each. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to install 1 for Borough Hall in the process of the ADA ramp. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Oak Street bridge/ Railroad- Already discusses prior
- Handicap Application- 216 W. Abbott Street- Mary Soberick said all the criteria is met and recommends that we approve it. **Motion made by Rose Mary Cannon to approve it. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Comm Center Report on Midas- Martin Ditsky said it's the request of Tommy Vadyak to obtain the Comm center report of the night of the incident. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to obtain it. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick & Rose Mary Cannon. Motion passes.** Attorney Greek said you cannot obtain it without a subpoena or a criminal investigation. You can try to write a letter asking for it but he's not sure if they will give it to us.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Letter from Fred Johnson- Street Light installation- Request was denied.
- Special Event request – Jesse Hiles Zoostock- Mayor Romankow said they are looking to add a dunk tank by the basketball courts and he is not sure if they should come in and write something to us. They do have insurance that will cover the Borough Property. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve it. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick Motion passes.** Martin Ditsky asked if they should submit a new application and Mr. Greek they just need to amend the application. Mary Soberick was concerned with Dock Street there is a drop where the project is. She asked if we are liable if anything happens. She said maybe cones should be put there or a metal plate.
- Internet Policy- Attorney Greek said he will send another copy to us and council needs to make a decision. Motion to table for next meeting.
- Agreement for Grace Community Church- already discussed.

Martin Ditsky asked for a brief recess at 9:38pm.

Samantha Yasson left at 9:40pm.

Mary Soberick asked Mary Fittos about the bench that was to be made for the Borough and Mrs. Fittos responded by saying they are running behind on schedule.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was held at 9:45pm.

Mary Soberick makes the motion regarding Robert Shubeck's pension contributions to return whatever is calculated back to him. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Mary Soberick said one of the discussions was about hiring Greg Daily Full- Time and feels we should table it, as we advertised we need a CDL and that's generally what we are looking for and look at some of the avenues for that before we move forward as there are some options that were discussed. Mayor Romankow asked if he had his permit and Mr. Ditsky doesn't think he has it.

ADJOURNMENT

Colin makes the motion to adjourn at 10:15pm. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer