

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 11 residents and 2 reporters.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

#### **MATERIAL BIDS**

Solicitor Michael Greek announces that we have 1 material bid from Lehigh Asphalt Paving & Construction as follows: 500 tons 9.5 wearing course is \$38,250, 500 tons of super pave \$38,875, 500 tons of Penndott approved is \$ 37,750, 300 tons 1A Stone. \$5,385, 400 tons of 2A Stone \$5,680.00, 400 tons of 2B Stone is \$6,360. These are all for delivered. Planted/ Pick up are as follows: \$33,250, \$30,875, \$27,750, \$3,750, \$3,500 and \$4,200. **Rose Mary Canon makes the motion to accept the bids under future decision to have them picked up or delivered. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote.**

#### **PUBLIC COURTESY**

Ann Marie Williams of 238 E Ridge Street says every year she comes here with a complaint about her neighbor's weeds. After 2 or 3 days it's usually taken care of. Every year she sends a complaint to us, it seems to get lost. She said she went to the neighbors and they said to give her 1 week, but it's been 3 weeks. Ann Marie Williams provided pictures and passed them around and would like to correct this problem. She also mentioned the garbage problem in town during Holiday's. The residents are supposed to put it out a day late but it seems most people are putting them out to early in advance. Mayor Romankow said it will be re-addressed with the police.

Bob Clewel of 229 West Water Street who attended the council meeting 2 meetings ago and spoke about off-street parking and to have his lines painted when it was finished. He said he finished it about 3 weeks ago and is now waiting for the lines to be painted. Joe Butrie said he will take care of it; they have been participating in shared services for Summit Hill and Coaldale with only 2 workers, but plan on painting lines this Friday.

Rose Mary Cannon said she is in favor of shared services but when we have only 1 Borough worker and our work is not getting done, she doesn't think we can help other towns until we get enough borough workers to help get the work down in our own town first. Joe Butrie and Rose Mary Cannon discussed their thoughts on the shared services.

Mary Soto 335 E. Patterson Street, is working on a beautification Grant that was received through Lansford Alive, but she is not here on behalf of Lansford Alive but here on behalf of herself asking if something can be done with the Heflefinger property. She would like to have small project consisting of greenery and color on the corner of Center St. and Patterson St. Rose Mary Cannon said she spoke with Mary Soto this afternoon and checked with Dan Wynn and the property is in repository. Ms. Cannon said something should be done with this property because it's a dog park. Rose Mary Cannon said we should see if we can do something to remove the liens; however Mary Soberick said if it is in Repository there are no liens attached. Mike Greek said if its repository you put in your bid and that's what you get. Mary Soberick made a suggestion to Mary Soto that she should put a bid in to purchase the property and then the organization would have it to improve it however they like.

Judith Orth of 133 west Abbott street, said this town and neighboring towns are filled with drugs, Street robbery etc. She goes on to say that we only have 3 police to her knowledge yet we are budgeted for more. She asked why we do not have what we budgeted for. Rose Mary Cannon said we recently lost one to another town due to a higher salary. She asked if we advertise for police. Samantha Yasson said yes, we recently advertised for part-time police and have started the hiring process. Judith Orth asked if we will consider hiring a full- time officer and Mayor Romankow explained there is a process and it will be discussed at tonight's meeting. Samantha Yasson explained that the civil service will have to meet to get the full- time hiring process rolling. Judith asked Rose Mary Cannon if she considered combining services with Coaldale & Summit hill and the police force. Ms. Cannon said it was brought up in the past and it didn't go anywhere. She said it should be looked at again. They spoke about this for a few minutes in detail as far as the procedure to get something like that started.

Mary Soberick said on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 there was a motion for civil service to make a certified list and asked Samantha Yasson if she sent a letter to Civil Service, did we get a response and has there been any action. Ms. Yasson said she is not the president of civil service, Gerry Scaran is. Rose Mary Cannon asked that Mrs. Fittos send a letter to chairman of Civil Service to reconvene and come up with a certified list. Rose Mary Cannon explains the whole process to Judith Orth.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – August 13, 2014**

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection- Land Recycling File
- Letter from George Geissinger- Violation Response
- Roadside Safety- 9-11-14
- Letter of resignation – Brian Horos- **Colin Jones makes the motion to accept. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Trick or Treat Night appointment- Mayor Romankow said it will be October 30<sup>th</sup> same as Summit Hill.
- PA Liquor Control Board- Mary Soberick asked if there were more pages.
- Letter from Solicitor Greek- Increase in rate for 2015 will be \$100 per hour
- County of Carbon- Tax Claim Bureau- Mary Soberick said we used Grant money to tear this specific property down for a rough estimate of \$20,000 only for someone to bid on it and get it for \$1,000. Bid for \$1,006 for repository property at 114 East Patterson Street. She said we should be buying these properties and selling it then we would at least gain something. This is why our town is not working. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the bid. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Family Promise of Carbon County- Ms. Cannon asked if we received the brochures.
- PA Dot – Route 209 Traffic Signals and resurfacing project. - Read by Martin Ditsky which spoke about the crosswalk on Patterson Street in the vicinity of the Turkey Hill Mini Market. Tommy Vadyak suggested we should black this out. Rose Mary Cannon asked if it's really needed there. The majority of council seems to agree it is not needed. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to black the lines out. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Martin Ditsky asked if anyone would like to make a motion to go further in this study with an engineer. Mary Soberick said she will go on the website and download some publications.

Mary Soberick read the letter from Family Promise and just wanted everyone to be aware that brochures were here and gave out the information for those who may want to take action on helping those in need.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- No Report
- Public Safety- No Report
- Fire Department- read by Tommy Vadyak. Total Man Hrs. for August was 2,915, YTD 4,613. Reminder this Sunday there is breakfast at the fire house. Tommy Vadyak suggested that we should get a list of events they are doing for 2015 since we just signed a resolution appointing them as official Fire Company of Lansford. Tommy Vadyak said they cannot boot drop. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to send a letter to Fire Co #1 of Lansford requesting a list of events for 2015 along with a copy of the resolution. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Ambulance- Rose Mary Cannon said the lights were on in the building in Lansford, Samantha Yasson said she heard someone was working on vehicles and Tommy Vadyak said they may be trying to get up and running. Council spoke about people occupying the building. Colin Jones read the report.
- Mayor's report-Read by Mayor Romankow- Mary Soberick asked Mr. Romankow if he thought about going to that Seminar in November. He said yes and he will talk to Jack about it.
- Police Report- Read by Mayor Romankow.
- Parks & Recreation- No Report but Ms. Cannon met with Wayne Wade regarding the pool leak and gave Smokey a suggestion. He agreed with Smokey and thinks it's where Radocha dug last time and would like Radocha to come back. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to contact Radocha and have them come back to the pool. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Public Works- No Report but there is a handout for tire quotes on turnpike truck. Colin Jones makes the motion to go with the lowest quote of \$450.00. Tommy Vadyak asked if we can purchase these through the state. **Colin Jones makes the motion to contact Costars to purchase the tires, if not go with the lowest quote which is Lehigh Tire. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Rose Mary Cannon asked what we are doing about a loader. Council will discuss when they get to unfinished business.
- Community Development/ Planning Zoning – Mary Soberick said there is no report but at the previous meeting we spoke about revising the sanitation ordinance. She said it was revised and sent out to the committee members and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Mary Soberick just wanted everyone to know that the revising of the Sanitation collection ordinance is in the works.
- Code Enforcement
- Treasurers Report- Mrs. Fittos said everything is the same. The Schedule of due to/ Due from accounts need to be closed out. Also, there was a discrepancy with the 2013 wage payout reimbursement to the General Fund from Liquid Fuels. The reimbursement of wages should have been done in 2013 but there was a delay and the check was cut in February 2014. It will have to be returned to Liquid Fuels. Also in 2014 we calculated the wages from January through June of 2014. Liquid Fuels can reimburse the General Fund for that. Mary Soberick asked if they would allow it to be netted out, but decided to make separate transactions to trace it easier. Mary Soberick thought the Schedule of accounts was done. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the due to / Due from Schedule as per the accountant's advisement. Seconded: Colin Jones vote.**

**Opposed: Tommy Vadyak & Joe Butrie. Roll Call: Martin Ditsky= yes, Mary Soberick = Yes, Tommy Vadyak= no, Joe Butrie= no, Samantha Yasson= no, Colin Jones= yes, Rose Mary Cannon= Yes. 4-3 Motion Carries. Tommy Vadyak said the schedule on the Sewer Transmission was wrong. Mary Fittos and Tommy Vadyak spoke about this confusion and re-allocation of funds.** Samantha Yasson asked when everyone was meeting for the budget. Mrs. Fittos went over the 2014 breakdown from January 2014 through June 28, 2014 that will be paid out of Special Highway and deposited into the General Fund. She also mentioned that the RIRA account should be closed. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to return the 2013 wage allotment of \$36,410 .21 back to the Liquid Fuels fund per the auditors. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak. All in favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick makes the motion to transfer the 2014 Year to Date wage allotment of \$18,835.10 from Special Highway into the General Fund from that portion of 2014. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon. All in Favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick said to keep them as two separate transactions.** Colin asked if we will make a motion to close the RIRA. Mary Soberick said she will research it for now. It was tabled. Mrs. Fittos mentioned that there is an extra bill to be paid from Seitz for the mold check in the Police Department. Samantha Yasson asked when the budget committee meeting is. Mrs. Fittos explained we have meeting just to get through everything so we can answer questions and it will be less confusing. She said last year when she came on board, it was just her, Rose Mary Cannon and Jill that reviewed it first before sending out an invitation for the budget committee to get together. She was not sure of the steps to take, but told Samantha the next meeting is Next Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm and an email will be sent out. Colin Jones asked about the towing charge from Hopes under Special Highway, he asked if it's under Warranty. Mrs. Fittos said she will call Hope's to find out if it's under warranty. Rose Mary Cannon inquired about the 2015 Animal Shelter bill. Mary Soberick asked about the K & K bill which could be for the AC. Mary Soberick asked under Liquid Fuels she saw a bill from Radocha for Dock Street excavation of street. Mary Soberick said in regards to the check register for the General Fund, as of August 31, there is a balance of \$410,000, and noticed that none of the Tax Anticipation note has been paid off yet. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to pay the Tax Anticipation note back right now. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the bills with the inclusion of Seitz brothers and Animal Shelter. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries. Tommy Vadyak votes no on Tamaqua Transfer.** Mary Soberick starts to explain the LST fund. She backtracked and calculated it all out from 2009 through 2014 to determine how much the Police, Fire and Public Works will get and what has been paid out already. As of 2013 the portion that is available for the Police is \$23,252.57, Fire \$13,226.88 and Public Works \$12,421.12. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to pay off the police car with these available funds. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak. All in Favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick makes the motion that we give the 2013 funds to the Fire Department, all that is due to them \$13,226.88. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

- Tax Collector's Report- read by Mary Soberick
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Mary Soberick confirmed the meeting is next week.
- Solicitor's Report- Mr. Greek went over various documents that was included in the packets which was just a summary of what was included in the packets. Mr. Greek did go into detail and explain the Right to Know request that refers to the Midas case and it involves a subpoena process. It also says the investigation is still continuing so we most likely will not receive the report. Mary Soberick asked questions about the letter Mr. Greek sent out to the attorney regarding the pension of John Turcmanovich. Mr. Greek said the letter was to Jeff Stewart to get his feedback and it will be discussed in executive session.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Internet Policy- Was put in everyone's mailboxes. Mr. Greek said it is for review of council.

Rose Mary mentioned that the Piano was advertised a while back and we received no bids on it. She thinks we should advertise it in the Panther Valley News for Free just to get rid of it.

She also said the Safe needs to be moved and Sam Yasson volunteered to ask the Fire Company if they would temporarily hold it for us until we get a new Garage. **Colin Jones makes the motion to give the Safe to the Fire co. for temporary Storage purposes. Seconded: Mary Soberick. All in favor, motion carries.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Create a Facebook page for Police dept. - Informational purposes only- Link to our website. Mayor Romankow said the problem is people will leave comments and Tommy Vadyak said it may get out of hand. Mr. Romankow also said we can't monitor this 24/7. Mr. Romankow said once the internet policy is established it would be hard to get on this site and Mr. Greek corrected him by saying we would establish sites that are ok to visit . Mary Soberick said there is no advancement in this town and every time something comes up that might be beneficial, it gets turned down. Colin said we should table it until next meeting.
- Jill to get bonded- Recommended by our Liquid Fuels auditor General Bob Bauder- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to get Jill bonded. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Front Loader specs to be Advertised- Tommy Vadyak said he has been around loaders all his life and who came up with the specs. Tommy Vadyak said we could use one with a 2 yard bucket. Martin Ditsky said Mid Atlantic Machinery helped Summit Hill get their loader through a piggy back purchase. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that we research for a 2yard machine, through costars through piggy back. Seconded: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Grace Community Church – Use and Maintenance Agreement Status- Jodi Mika said she had copies of the agreement and would like to know what meetings to attend to discuss it. She would like to go over some of the things to understand it better as to what mandatory maintenance is. Jodi Mika handed out copies to everyone. It was mentioned that the “Do not Trespass” Signs are still up and Mr. Ditsky said he told the borough workers to take them down. Jodi was told to attend the Municipal Administration meeting.

Mary Soto mentioned that the Community Garden has been a wonderful thing for this community and to keep it as something positive. Currently there are 3 men alternating the cutting of the grass.

Martin Ditsky asked for a brief Recess at 8:36pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was held at 8:45pm and went back on the record at 9:10pm.

**Samantha Yasson makes the motion to hire a part- time borough worker Colton Black. Seconded: Martin Ditsky. All in Favor, motion carries.**

**Samantha Yasson makes the motion to hire (2) part- time police pending their background checks and Polygraph. The two are Samson Wega and Michael Chica. Seconded: Mary Soberick who would like to add subject to the approval of Officer in charge and Mayor. All in favor, motion carries.**

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to promote Greg Daily to Full- Time position provisional to obtaining his CDL License. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon. Motion carries.**

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to allow Councilman Tommy Vadyak to be the licensed CDL driver to go along with Greg Daily at whatever point in time necessary utilizing the Borough Vehicle upon his CDL testing. Seconded: Samantha Yasson. All in favor, motion carries.**

Rose Mary Cannon said we have two non-functioning bathrooms, would like to get a cost of 2 new toilets.

**Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to get a plumber to fix the leak replace both toilets for a said price of \$100 each. Seconded. Samantha Yasson. All in favor, motion carries.**

Rose Mary Cannon also mentioned that the bids for the ADA ramp are being open for bid tomorrow. Martin Ditsky said he and Rose Mary Cannon will be attending.

**Mary Soberick makes the motion to use Brian Horos as a Part- time officer as needed with exemption from all testing. Seconded: Colin Jones. All in favor, motion carries.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Samantha Yasson makes the motion to adjourn at 9:18pm. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Fittos*

Secretary/Treasurer