

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 13 residents and 1 Reporter.

ROLL CALL

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

There was no public courtesy.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- August 12, 2015- Mr. Vadyak mentioned on page 3 under Public Works, to change "Moe Board" to "Mold" Board. Mrs. Soberick also mentioned on page three, the thank you card from Mrs. Turrano, she would like the minutes to reflect that the thank you card was for the support of her son. Lastly, Mrs. Soberick also mentioned on the first page, the area where it discusses having the committee meeting here for the presentation, she would like the minutes to reflect that although she was not present, the other members could still make a quorum. It was mentioned at the meeting. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept with the corrections. Second: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Free Training Pamphlet for professional excavator.
- Open Records Law Update Training 9/29/15 8:30am- 6:30pm Free (Mrs. Fittos would like to attend) Mrs. Fittos said it would be in Bucks County. Mrs. Soberick stated that would be your duty for the day. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to allow Mrs. Fittos to attend. Second: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak, motion passes.**
- Grant Central Usa
- Carbon County Board of Assessment- Assessment appeals (Scanned to Mike Greek)
- Beyer Barber Police Pension Plan Valuation to be passed around
- Elk's Building Demo- Need Public input making residents aware of this demolition project. Mr. Ditsky stated that it was going to be demolished and if anyone has any concerns.
- Eckley – New Costars Quote/ Pricing – **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept these terms and conditions from Eckley. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Pottsville – New Costars Quote/ Pricing - **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept the price. Seconded: Colin Jones votes. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Police Pension Plan- 2016 MMO to be approved- **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to accept. Second: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Special Budget meetings to be announced – (9/16, 9/23, 9/30) Mary Soberick asked if it was full council or Budget Committee. Mrs. Fittos suggested we make a budget Committee. Martin Ditsky said he would be on it, Tommy Vadyak, Samantha Yasson, Mary Fittos and Rose Mary Cannon. Mrs. Cannon asked what we are meeting for if we don't have all the information. Mrs. Fittos said the budget is done but needs to be reviewed. Mr. Ditsky said we have to get to the hard numbers and start the augments. Mrs. Fittos said she emailed all departments 2 months ago and no one has responded to it so it must be a guesstimate.
- Bus Stop Schedule changed- Schedule was distributed.
- PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development- Monitoring- Ms. Cannon said that is for whoever is taking care of the grants. Mrs. Fittos was not sure what Grant this is for and there is a webinar for it.
- Letter from Lansford Alive- Craft Fair to be held on 9/26/15, downtown section on W. Ridge. She is requesting this block to be blocked off from traffic from 9am- 2pm along with participating in a free community yard sale. Mrs. Soberick said there should be a special event form submitted along with insurance. Mr. Vadyak also said it's the same day as the Recycling. Mr. Vadyak sees it as a conflict. There was some discussion on this. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion that we approve both the craft fair and Community Yard Sale to be held at resident's home, with the stipulation they she fills out a special event form with the insurance information. If we do not receive it by the date, they cannot have it. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passed.**
- Dept. Of Agriculture Order – Appoint two employees as Meter Inspectors- Leighton Borough Chambers Training 9/10/15 from 9am- noon. It was tabled by Tommy Vadyak.
- Siberline Letter- Ms. Cannon touched upon the water infiltration.
- Letter from Attorney General – Water Authority response to Mike Greek. There was some discussion on this as Ms. Cannon explained to the public that the letter was regarding complaints from councilman Vadyak about the Water Authority. Mary Soberick pointed out that the Ethics commissions noted that all complaints were dismissed because Mr. Vadyak failed to supply sufficient information. Basically Mr. Vadyak had requested Solicitor Michael Greek to request from the Attorney General's Office to open an investigation on the Water Authority to see if there was a criminal basis for investigation and prosecution. This has been an ongoing request on Mr. Vadyak's behalf. Mr. Vadyak had supplied several Internet articles stating that salaries and bonuses were exceeding the Borough Code. The articles also read that the Mr. Vadyak claims there could be a violation in the ethics laws. All of Mr. Vadyak's complaints in the past were all dismissed. All of these articles were mentioned and attached in this letter and the conclusion was that the Carbon County's District Attorney's Office looked into these issues and complaints and

found no basis for criminal prosecution. No Further action will be taken by the criminal law division of the Office of the Attorney General. This file has been closed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Read by Martin Ditsky. He touched on several topics. The Leak in the Borough Office was mentioned. We also have an estimate from Tom Reigel Plumbing. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned having a junior council from high school. **Mr. Vadyak also supported this idea. Tommy Vadyak makes a motion to send a letter to both schools. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passed.** Mr. Greek said we will need a resolution once the interested individuals are here. There were several other topics mentioned. Mr. Ditsky did mention that council would need to approve to apply for a Grant and its filing fee for the Garage Pole Building. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to authorize him to apply for the grant and the payment fee of \$100. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Question: Samantha Yasson asked what the Grant was for. Mr. Ditsky said an LSA grant for a new Borough Garage. Mrs. Soberick said we apply for grants but then we end up with fees that are not included or budgeted.** There was some discussion on this. **All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon said to Mr. Vadyak that she mentioned Mertz at the committee meeting.
- Public Safety – No Meeting
- Fire Department – Read by Samantha Yasson. Mr. Vadyak said he has been a 41 year member and said their boot drops are illegal. They had one recently and did not request approval. He also said they are not covered under the insurance policy for a boot drop. It's dangerous for them and can cause an accident. Ms. Yasson said you can't stop them. There was a brief discussion on this. Mrs. Soberick said as long as council did not approve it, they are not liable for them. Mr. Vadyak did say for the money they got, he hopes it was well worth it.
- Ambulance- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Mayor's Report- Read by Mary Soberick
- Police Report – Read by Martin Ditsky. He also mentioned about the email going back and forth regarding the car that was out of service, its now in service and the bill was less than \$800. Ms. Cannon said he did not mention how many calls, but he said he announced it first.
- Parks & Recreation- Ms. Cannon gave a 2015 Recap. Ms. Cannon just briefly spoke about the summer activity and the leak in the pool. She is trying to find a contractor to give an estimate of the pool leak repair. Mrs. Soberick inquired about the recycling event and if we had flyers. Ms. Cannon said we didn't do much advertising for it. She explained they print them on 8 ½ by 11 and insert them. **Mrs. Soberick makes the motion that we advertise it that manner. Question: Mr. Ditsky asked in what manner, the flyer and Ms. Cannon said yes. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon said she will also try to send it to other places that may run it.
- Public Works- No Meeting/ Ms. Cannon mentioned that down at the Zoo all the stone was covered up. Mr. Vadyak said he knows about it. Ms. Cannon said it was a big White Dump Trump that did it.
- Community Development / Planning Zoning- Cancelled
- Code Enforcement – Violation Letters and Inspections taken place. Mrs. Fittos said she did ask Mr. Meylach to write up a monthly report for our council meeting.
- Treasurers Report – Bills to be approved, P/L, Income Report, Check Register. Mrs. Fittos mentioned that we have not sent the \$5,000 contribution to the Fire Company from our Fire Tax Fund as of yet. She said there is also money in the LST that can be sent to them. \$6,498.20 is available to them. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to forward the \$5,000 contribution to the Fire Company. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes. Samantha Yasson makes the motion to send the LST money to the fire company in the amount of \$ 6,498.20. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. Question: Mary Soberick said thinks council should hold off until all the 2015 taxes are collected. Opposed: Mary Soberick and Rose Mary Cannon. Motion passes.** Mary Soberick asked if we had the survey for the garage. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to refuse payment of BIA two remaining bills and would like them eliminated from the monthly list. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon asked if they ever sent any more records back. Mrs. Fittos said no. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the remaining bills. Seconded. Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes. Tommy Vadyak does not vote on Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collectors Report – Read by Mr. Ditsky
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – No Meeting
- Solicitor's Report- Sewer Ordinance Amendment was advertised. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to adopt. Seconded: Samantha Yasson. All in favor, motion passes.** Use and Maintenance agreement for church. Jodi Mika said they received it and were just concerned with the snow removal line. She said they will not sign it if they have to remove the snow from the sidewalks that the Borough workers dump there. Jodi said they maintain the sidewalks and clean them up but not if the Borough workers will continue to dump snow after they have cleaned it. Mary Soberick said under certain circumstances if they need to dump it there, it is the Borough property, especially with the heavy winters we get and if we have nowhere else to put it. Jodi Mila understood it. Mr. Vadyak said the Borough shouldn't be dumping snow there. There was a brief conversation. Mr. Greek asked council if they were in agreement to not have the borough workers dump snow there and he will amend the agreement to reflect that. **Tommy makes the motion that the Borough does not dump snow in there. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Greek said he received all the pagers and mobiles from the ambulance with the exception of 2.

Jodi Mika inquired about the tree lighting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Resident Sandra Delpero would like to donate flowering trees for the Park area from Arbor Day Foundation. (10) Trees. Ms. Cannon said it's very nice of her but we have more trees than we can keep up with. She would like to suggest flowering bushes or shrubs. She said she will contact her to speak about it.
- Status on bid Package for garage- already discussed.
- Update Resolution 2015-06 fee schedule to add Rental Inspection Fee of \$75, same cost to the borough from LVIS/ also update rental ordinance. Mrs. Soberick said she is not in favor of that kind of increase. She also stated per the email that was sent out, it made it sound like she was aware of or authorized this kind of increase. Mrs. Fittos explained what Paul told her. She said the ordinance is written as the license being \$40 which includes the inspection. She would go as far as \$50 to increase the License. Colin Jones said he should come in to speak with Cancel. Colin Jones tabled it.
- Leak in Municipal Building- Reigel isolated and stopped leak. To be repaired next week. (Estimated attached). Mr. Vadyak went over the different bids. He said #4 is needed item. MS. Cannon said #3 is also needed. Mrs. Soberick feels council should wait for what the claims adjuster says. **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to approve bids #2, 3, 4. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Question: Colin asked if everything was over \$1000. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**
- Funding for new garage – Already discussed.
- Loss Control- Karen Beck- Recommendations for Borough Office and Garage/ Mike Bulino to come in to discuss (copy put in everyone mailbox.) September 17th, at 10am Mike Bulino will be here.

OLD BUSINESS

- Three Strike law & Landlord License – Mr. Greek attended both days of municipal law. He said our language doesn't include the act 200. He suggests that we incorporate the language of Act 200 which is a very small statute into the three strike law provisions. He said if they are the victim of a crime it shouldn't count as a strike.

Mr. Vadyak was inquiring about finger printing for the police dept. Mrs. Fittos said she spoke to Mr. Romankow and he told her they fingerprinted Mr. Mertz.

- Privacy and Security to be appointed for Medical Record handling. Also a policy should be in place. – Mr. Greek said he does not agree. He doesn't believe we are the entity. He will get more info. Mrs. Soberick said we should not have any medical records because we are not the entity that establishes medical records. Mrs. Soberick said we get notices from Workers Comp what they are allowed to tell us.
- Social Media Policy should be set in place for public officials. Samantha Yasson touched on it briefly. Basically you should just write factual information and stay away from opinions.
- Hepatitis shot for Greg/ Borough workers to be offered. Procedure is they use their own physician and Borough pays co-pay. Mr. Ditsky said the police and Borough workers should receive the Tetanus shots. Mr. Ditsky said it's just a record keeping at this point.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mold Board Estimate and Specs for PW- Reading Equipment, EM Kutz, American Rental * Mid Atlantic. Mr. Vadyak said it's the same stuff and we need a heavy duty. He said we have a Western Dealer in Tamaqua. He mentioned all American Jeep is the place in Tamaqua. He said all the other vendors are too far. **It was tabled.**
- UCC Board was advertised. Mike Greek to speak with Kevin from Tamaqua Borough about a JT. Board. Mr. Greek said we just need a formal request. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to make a formal request asking Tamaqua to utilize their UCC board. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passed. Mary Soberick makes the motion to attach any of the fees from the UCC appeals utilized by Tamaqua board to be attached to the applicant. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Bruce Mertz update of work at police dept. (1st bill was paid) Samantha Yasson asked about the lines being crossed off. Ms. Cannon said its work not being done to save money.
- Need update on Seitz brothers for mold remediation of police dept. – Mrs. Fittos spoke to Sergeant Soberick and this will be done when Mr. Mertz is done.
- Status on letter to Railroad from Mike Greek. - Mr. Greek said he would like Martin Ditsky's original letter so it stays consistent. There was a brief discussion on this.

Mr. Ditsky said at the last council meeting, we had a letter from Solicitor Perilli regarding the Act 537 Plan that needed to be signed. He also said there was going to be a meeting Thursday night at 6:30pm at the Sewer Authority and suggested that council members who are interested should be there. He said this is not going to go away. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to accept the 537 plan. Discussion:** Mr. Ditsky said the funding will come from the Capital Fund. As far as the man holes, if a man hole is paved over they do not expect the borough workers to lift the man hole that will be the responsibility of the authority. **Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**

ADJOURNMENT

Colin Jones makes the motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. Second: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer