

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, Mayor James Romankow, Samantha Yasson, Colin Jones, Rose Mary Cannon and Solicitor Michael Greek. Those absent were: Tommy Vadyak. Joe Butrie came late.

PUBLIC COURTESY

David Benevy of Lansford PA handed out a presentation called "The parking solution for Lansford". Mr. Benevy basically wants to remove all parking meters and replace them with a timed parking limit. He said to mark the spots with numbers and enforce them from a car not the street, after the time limit is up and if there are cars parked there, give them a \$20.00 ticket. He believes this would enforce the sale of parking permits and parking spaces and should be equivalent to the revenue from parking meters.

Ms. Cannon said she appreciated his presentation and finds a few flaws in trying to enforce from a car as opposed to the street. She believes the angles of some of the streets will make it hard to get license plates from the vehicle and holding up traffic on days when streets are busy. She also said the 1st phase of the street scape has already begun and everything is set in stone. Mr. Benevy said there could be an amendment. Ms. Cannon also brought up a good point by saying Lansford Alive was formed to bring in new business to the business district and somehow that focus on revitalizing the downtown has fallen to the way side, however they have done some wonderful and beautiful projects. There were a few minutes of rebuttals between Ms. Cannon and Mr. Benevy.

Mr. Romankow said we don't have enough police to dedicate the time Mr. Benevy was saying to apply to ticketing.

Bob Silver of Lansford agreed with David Benevy and said that was just 1 method of enforcing without meters. He asked if council really believes that we have a problem with traffic and long term parking today because he doesn't see it. He continued with some other options explaining what Palmerton does, but Mr. Ditsky asked if we can move on as he doesn't think council would be making any motions.

Mary Soberick mentioned that maybe keep the holes in the ground where the meters would go later in the future if council decides to get meters again, they can just be put in, should they decide to remove the meters.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - October 08, 2014

Mary Soberick mentioned there are two corrections to be made as follows: Page two "Vote" should be changed to motion and page 5, where Tommy made the motion to pay the 2015 MMO, it should read that he made the motion to approve the 2015 MMO worksheet. It was voted to approve it, not pay it. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to approve with those corrections. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

OIL BIDS

Attorney Greek announces that we received two bids: One was from Evans Fuel Oil with a lock in price of \$2.86 per gallon. The other is from K & K Oil with a lock in price of \$2.89 per gallon. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to go with Evans Fuel Oil with \$2.86 per gallon. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon Vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Keystone- Project outline & Timeline for Proposed ADA Ramp- Ms. Cannon said this is just what the engineers did for the mediation.
- Notice to Proceed- Bruce George Paving/ ADA Ramp improvements
- Letter from Tom Reigel Plumbing- Tabled Boiler at garage- Council is waiting for Joe Butrie to come to ask him the status.
- Letter from Fred Johnson- Colin Jones and Rose Mary Cannon could not understand why he keeps writing letters. Mrs. Fittos explained when she called PPL they said there was never a light there.
- Letter from Pottsville Material- Tabled Renewal of Contract- Attorney Greek said he thoughts it had to bid out but Mary Soberick said because its Costars it doesn't have to be bid on.
- Letter from Eckley Asphalt- Tabled renewal of contract- Same as above.
- Letter from Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh, and P.C- DCED Annual Audit for 12/31/14- Ms. Cannon said we have been using them the past few years and now their quote has been reduced to \$10,500. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion through resolution to hire them for the 2014 Audit. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- BCBS/ New Rates for January 2015/ Election of new Provider- Tabled. Mrs. Fittos said there was a spreadsheet put together by Jill explaining the rates and Benecon came in with a reduced price which was the best choice. Mary Soberick asked what the co-pays were but Mrs. Fittos was not sure. She will get all the details from Jill and email it out and have it on next month's agenda.

Joe Butrie joined the meeting at 6:58pm.

Martin Ditsky asked Joe Butrie about the repairs to the boiler at the garage. He said to get the boiler close to working it will cost \$2,000 to \$3,000. He also said Mark Krajcirik was doing work on it. He explained that the boiler needs a lot of work so it's temporarily fixed now. Rose Mary Cannon asked Joe Butrie if he knew the difference between the cold patch reflected on Eckley and Pottsville material. He did not. Ms.

Cannon tabled the contracts from Eckley and Pottsville material. The BCBS renewal was also tabled until the details are handed out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- Martin Ditsky read his report. The use and maintenance agreement regarding the community garden was discussed. There were suggested changes to the agreement discussed as well as some Grants that may be available. Barry Isett was also discussed as Lori Pepper and some other members of Barry Isett met with Mr. Ditsky and Ms. Cannon for an informal gathering to discuss some future projects such as the elks building and available Grants. Ms. Cannon said as far as the elk's building is concerned, the recommendation was to get bids so we have some idea on demolition costs.
- Public Safety- Read by Samantha Yasson. Brief Discussion between Mr. Romankow and Mary Soberick regarding the parking issues on Cortright Street. Ms. Cannon said she hopes we enforce our snow ordinance better this year as opposed to last year. Mr. Butrie said last year they picked and chose who to ticket, this year you have to stay consistent.
- Fire Department- Read by Samantha Yasson
- Ambulance- Read by Samantha Yasson. Ms. Cannon directed a question towards Mr. Greek, and said we know that the radios are most likely in the trucks, is there anything we can do about that. Mr. Greek said you can go there and ask them for the radios but you can't demand them.
- Mayors Report- Read by Mayor James Romankow
- Police Report- Read by Mayor James Romankow
- Parks & Recreation. No Meeting, No Report. Ms. Cannon just reported that a child was stuck in a swing and someone came to cut the swing to get the child out. The swing is ruined and it was evident that the child was too big for the swing.
- Public Works- Read by Joe Butrie. **Joe Butrie made the motion to advertise for CDL and NON CDL seasonal drivers for Public Works department. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passed.** Samantha Yasson said she informed the firemen to come in and apply. **Ms. Cannon said we are paying less than any other communities for CDL drivers.** Samantha Yasson asked if we do not have enough drivers if we would need to contract them out and Ms. Cannon responded with a yes. The rate will also be higher than \$10.20 per hour which is what we pay our CDL drivers now. Mr. Butrie said there are 4 poles outside of the garage that need to be taken down. If a bad snowstorm hits the roof will be destroyed as well as the salt. The poles are leaning on the garage as of right now. They are wooded poles. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to allow Joe Butrie remove the poles. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. Opposed: Mr. Ditsky and Mrs. Soberick. Motion passes.** Mr. Ditsky asked about the salt shed; however Ms. Cannon said its kind of late in the year now to be discussing building a new salt shed with storms coming. There was a brief discussion on the manner these poles will be taken down.

Rose Mary Cannon said that she was asked by Joe Butrie at a prior budget meeting if we ever received insurance money for the garage roof, and the answer is yes. In 2011 was the date of loss from wind damage and hail damage. There were two different claims and the money was put into the General Fund. Joe Butrie said the skate park is being destroyed. The rack for the bicycles was torn out of the ground. Joe Butrie suggested taking the equipment down and storing it. Ms. Cannon said the equipment is heavy and would like to wait for spring and move the equipment closer to the road so police can better check the area.

- Community Development and Ordinance- no meeting, no report
- Code Enforcement- Read by Samantha Yasson. Samantha Yasson asked if we can get updated reports for October and November and to get copies to Officer Chris Ondrus. Ms. Cannon was asking if the new apartments are set up for garbage collection or if they had their own independent contractor because the garbage was piled high.
- Treasurers Report- Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L B/S, Check Register, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Reimburse special highway \$7,845.26 from what account? Gas Cards for police, credit card for Walmart to purchase supplies in bulk. Sanitation delinquent list to take action. Mrs. Fittos said quickly that there is a delinquent sanitation list for accounts past due 90 days we should take action on. Also a sanitation template letter was provided that Mary Soberick may want to modify to ensure it is compliant with the ordinance. She also said there is a bill under street light that is due Mrs. Fittos also printed out anticipated expenses from November 1 through the end of December so we have an idea how much of a carryover we will have. Samantha Yasson asked about the reimbursement back into special Highway. It was explained to her that we basically exceeded the 20% allowable amount to be used on Major equipment. LST only had about \$15,000 towards a down payment and the remainder of the down payment had to be paid from Special Highway. The down payment was \$20,000 and the 1st payment on the truck was \$20,230.35 which is for 2015. The allowable amount from Special Highway was only \$17,000 which was 20% of the State Aid received. Mary Soberick explained that it was not clear to her that we had a down payment. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to transfer \$7,845.26 from General Fund into the Special Highway. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mrs. Fittos said she spoke with Sergeant Soberick about saving on expenses and he brought a Citgo Fleet card program for Gas and the police would save 5cents per gallon on fuel. She said it would be under each officer's name and would receive individual statements per card. We also spoke about getting office supplies in from Walmart in bulk which may be cheaper than Klingamens. Colin Jones would prefer not going through Walmart. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to look into the bulk purchasing from Boyers, what kind of discount it would be. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon brought everyone's attention to Marshall Dennehy regarding Katheryn Labosky. Mrs. Fittos said Tamaqua Transfer was asking for their November bill to be paid as well even though we were paying October bills and Mary Soberick said we are contracted with them so she doesn't see an issue.

Mary Soberick also asked what checks unlimited were and Mrs. Fittos explained she purchased DCED checks for the Grant Account and paid for it out of General fund. Mrs. Soberick also asked about the maintenance contract with Lezteck and Mrs. Fittos said that is for January – December 2014. Mr. Leslie was late with all his billing. Mrs. Fittos told him that he had to get his billing in before end of the year. Rose Mary Cannon said there was 1 year he didn't charge the Borough anything and he let it go. Mary Soberick asked about a bill under Sewer Transmission paid to Lehigh Asphalt for \$712.00 and Mrs. Fittos said it had to do with a sewer project but will look into it. Lastly, Mrs. Soberick asked about where the checks for the new front loader were made payable to because they were made payable to Two different places. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to pay bills. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

- Tax Collector's Report- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Mary Soberick said the meeting is next Wednesday
- Solicitor's Report- Michael Serina & Letter to Lisa Levine accepting mediation. Ambulance update, Turcmanovich Vs Lansford Borough, Easement, Mortgage Satisfaction, Condemnation of easement- Charles A Williams, Full Time Police Test Results. Solicitor Greek Said he will be meeting with Mr. Serina at the Tamaqua Borough and asked Martin Ditsky if he wanted to join him. He briefly went over all the other topics and informed council that the Full Time Police test results were submitted. Mary Soberick and Mr. Greek spoke about forming a UCC Appeals board for the Borough and other options if one can't be formed. There was a list of 5 members that Mary Soberick read off. Mr. Greek said they should be contacted, if not the Borough should advertise for a UCC board of appeals. He said we should try to get an extension. Mr. Greek said the Borough can form a Joint board and went into detail on how to establish this. Mary Soberick feels we should form our own board because we always go to outside sources for assistance. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to get in touch with the board members, and at secretary's discretion if no response than advertise for a board. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Atty. Greek said that the advertisement should include the requirements and reminded to request an extension from the Fire Company. Rose Mary Cannon makes a motion that we approve the resolution for the American Fire Co #1 applying for the gaming funds. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Mr. Greek asked if there were changes to be made to the use and maintenance contract for the community garden and Mr. Ditsky said it was up to council. Attorney Greek confirmed that he wrote the agreement and it was not boilerplate since it was being questioned as to if he had just copied the agreement from somewhere or it was originally written by him.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Seitz Brothers Test results for Police Dept. - Rose Mary Cannon was not sure what the report meant. Mrs. Fittos said she contacted them several times to explain the test results but no response. Colin Jones said he spoke with someone from Seitz and described what rooms had a high count of mold. Mr. Jones also said he would ask them for a recommendation on how to proceed.
- Salt Shed- Discussed prior. Everyone agreed it was too late to build one.
- Grace Community Church – Use and Maintenance Agreement- discussed prior
- FB Page for Police- Informational Purposes only- Ms. Yasson and Mr. Jones were in favor of it and Mr. Yasson said she would assist on creating it. Samantha Yasson said she would make contact with some other police departments to get an idea how they are managing theirs and get back to council.
- Bridge Status on Edgemont- Mr. Ditsky said he had a quote; however a few members said they thought the bridge was not our property. Mr. Ditsky said it is. Ms. Cannon asked how that determination was made and Mr. Ditsky responded by saying he went to the tax assessment office and they confirmed it was ours. Attorney Greek stated the assessment office could not give definite answers. There was a brief conversation as to how to research this.
- Sanitation Ordinance to be approved- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to adopt the ordinance. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Special Event – Lansford Alive 11/29/14 Kennedy Park, Tree lighting. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Resolution for Fire Co Grant- Already addressed prior.

OLD BUSINESS

- Rental Inspections enforcement & Landlord License enforcement- Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones are all for enforcing it. Samantha Yasson asked if Barry Isett would be doing it and Martin Ditsky said yes, unless council has a better idea. Ms. Cannon said we either need to do away with the ordinance or start enforcing it. Mary Soberick said they should be in compliance with the ordinance as a whole for the whole community not just sporadic actions. Mrs. Fittos explained that this portion of the services was taken away from them and it was never given back to them to handle. Mr. Jones said they should be given the guide lines to do it. **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to give Barry Isett directive on enforcing the Landlord Licenses and rental Inspections per the ordinance and start enforcing them. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes.**

Martin Ditsky asked for a quick recess at 8:34pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:40pm and exited out at 9:23pm.

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to appoint Greg Yasson as an alternate member of the UCC appeals board. Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Samantha Yasson abstained. Motion carries.

Colin Jones makes the motion to hire 1 Full Time officer Shawn Nunemacher and to waive any of the requirements he already completed from being a part time officer. Seconded: Martin Ditsky All in favor, motion carries.

Mary Soberick makes the motion to hire Jeffrey Tanner as a Full Time Police Officer not waiving the necessary psychological and polygraph tests required. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Rose Mary Cannon, Colin Jones and Martin Ditsky. Motion failed.

Samantha Yasson suggested that council meet Jeffrey Tanner and Richard Reis for a brief interview on Monday, November 24th at 6:00pm before the public safety committee meeting. Attorney Greek said to announce it that they will have a brief executive session before the public safety meeting.

Martin Ditsky asked if council was advertising for a police chief. Attorney Greek said we need to know what we are writing.

Samantha Yasson tabled this until we know what we are writing in the advertisement. There was a brief discussion about this.

Colin Jones makes the motion to pay Officer Shubeck the accumulated benefit earned pursuant to the contract up to the date of suspension. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Martin Ditsky mentioned the hiring of a parking enforcement officer- **Samantha Yasson makes the motion to table.**

Colin Jones makes the motion that Greg Daily needs to complete his CDL testing before December 1st, 2014. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Samantha Yasson asked if the Rate for CDL will increase, but Mary Soberick made a good point by saying that decision should not be made on the fly as the part- time police also inquired about a rate increase. She suggested council sit and review the rates and determine who will be increased and how much. There should be a plan.

Mary Soberick makes the motion to move Jason Helmer from probation into permanent status as of November 15th, 2014. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Mary Soberick makes the motion that Jason Helmer receives full salary as contracted from November 15th 2014. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to hire Officer Ryan Oldt on a part- time basis. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adjourn at 9:44pm. Second: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer