

The Special meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for Budgeting & UCC Appeals 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 was 1 resident.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos took roll call. Those present were Martin Ditsky, Mary Soberick, Tommy Vadyak and Rose Mary Cannon. Samantha Yasson showed up late.

PUBLIC COURTESY

No public courtesy.

Martin Ditsky said he spoke with Mario Marconi of public works department, and told him he would like the town trees decorated before he goes on vacation.

UCC APPEALS

Mary Soberick says she was hoping Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones would have attended this special meeting, since they were both involved. She asked if Ms. Yasson wasn't coming and Mrs. Fittos said she would be here. Mary Soberick was explaining in our packet from last month's meeting, there was a resolution to join with Tamaqua. Mr. Vadyak was not present at the last meeting so Mary Soberick gave him a quick review. Mary Soberick said it is in her opinion that she would not like to join in Tamaqua's UCC Board of appeals.

Samantha Yasson walked in about 6:33pm.

Mary Soberick asked Ms. Yasson if she read the resolution that Attorney Greek drew up. It was written to have Tamaqua be our board of appeals. Mary Soberick feels council should create their own joint board; however the deadline is November 26th. She asked if a letter went out to them requesting an extension and Mrs. Fittos responded with no. Mary Soberick said we have 8 days so we are not going to have a board and if we use Tamaqua, it's an ordinance so we have to advertise for 30 days and wouldn't be approved until next meeting in December. Rose Mary Cannon asked about Ms. Yasson's father, but Mrs. Soberick said she contacted all 5 members from the list and not one of them returned her phone call. She said one was disconnected, one had a weird recording. Out of the 5, she was able to leave messages with 3 of the individuals.

Mary Soberick said one of the things she was researching was how many members are required. Basically if we went with Tamaqua, we would have to make an ordinance, if we formed our own, we would have to advertise and don't have the time and don't have any members. She mentioned a few of the credentials that are required by 1 member only. Mrs. Soberick said there is nothing really we can do. Mr. Ditsky asked where that leaves the Fire Company and Mrs. Soberick said since we can't act, it will be deemed approved.

Martin Ditsky said Attorney Greek took the appeal to Harrisburg to a UCC board there, but there was some confusion pertaining to this. Mrs. Soberick asked when this was done and Mr. Ditsky said at the time he found out around October.

Samantha Yasson said since council failed to act, the Fire Company should get reimbursed since they paid \$400 for the appeal.

Tommy Vadyak said we should join Tamaqua but should not table this because it will be forgotten.

This discussion carried on for about another 10 minutes. **Rose Mary Cannon made the motion to table it.**

2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mrs. Fittos asked if we can start with the smaller funds first since they have not been reviewed. Street light was the first fund, Option 1 which was the only option. She informed everyone that a few members may have extra copies of the recap page on the desk and it is to replace the old one since errors were found and corrected. She mentioned the 2012 and 2013 prior year figures were changed to actuals but it was noticed that they were not changed. Mrs. Fittos asked the assistant secretary to update but she either printed the wrong spreadsheet or did not use the actual numbers Mrs. Fittos had provided. Mary Soberick asked what the mills were and Ms. Cannon responded with 2.78. It also seems that Ms. Cannon and Mr. Vadyak had old copies of the street light fund. The YTD figures were not updated as well. We moved on. Mrs. Fittos said she will have Jill update them and reprint them and will have them in everyone's mailboxes tomorrow morning. Ms. Cannon said we should increase the Delinquent as we are currently at \$8,000 and budgeted \$5,000.00. However everyone had different copies that were not updated so there was some confusion with the figures but it will be corrected. Council decided to leave it at \$5,000. The accounts were read off line by line as follows: Street light tax interest: Council decided to keep interest at \$0.00. Mary Soberick asked why "Transfer in from Highway" was an account on the budget and Mrs. Fittos explained that Jill keeps this spreadsheet in excel and does not remove the accounts we don't use, but Mrs. Fittos will make those changes.

Expenses: Mr. Ditsky read through the expenses. Street Light Tax collectors salary \$4,800. Mary Soberick asked how it was being calculated and Mrs. Fittos said Penny did the calculations. Mary Soberick asked how we pay it. Mrs. Fittos said Mr. Wynn is paid out of the General Fund, but a % gets booked on Street light, parks and rec and few other funds to reflect his salary for collecting for those funds. Mary Soberick said he should be collecting 5%. She also said it should be reconciled at end of year and transferred into the General fund from all the other accounts. She said it used to be 2% but now its 5%. Repair and Maintenance supplies: Mary Soberick said we do not do anything with the street lights. Mrs. Fittos said we

budgeted \$1,500 but did not use it, so next year we should not budget anything and leave it at \$0.00. Street Light electricity was increased to \$70,000. Street Light GOB Principal is the Jim Thorpe National Bank Loan. Mary Soberick said we have a loan not sure which one it is, but it will begin monthly payments. Mrs. Fittos said she will call JTNB tomorrow.

Fire Tax Fund: Martin began to read through the accounts. Mary Soberick asked what the current tax levy is. Ms. Cannon said 1.2. There were no changes to any of the revenue. Expenses: Workers Comp Insurance; Mr. Ditsky asked if this was calculated. Ms. Cannon said we are with the state now, SWIFF. Heat, water, Sewer and electricity, Should not be in the budget. Liability Insurance: Martin Ditsky asked if this is the one we are paying until the building becomes theirs. Contribution to fire company is \$5,000. Mr. Ditsky asked if this has anything to do with LSt and the response was no. Mary Soberick asked if we are going to maintain that contribution and council said yes.

Mr. Ditsky announces that Park & Rec will be next although Ms. Cannon wanted to save that for last, Mr. Ditsky preferred to get that one done.

Park & Recreation- Budgeted amount for Park & Rec tax current is \$20,000. Mary Soberick asked what the Mills were and Ms. Cannon responded with .61. Mrs. Fittos told Mrs. Soberick to look at the last page of the packet and there is a schedule of Milleage. Tax Delinquent Prior Year was increased to \$600. Tax Delinquent will remain at \$2,000.00. Mr. Ditsky continued reading the accounts and stopped at Pool Receipts. Mary Soberick asked about the check register reports and wants to know why I give them two. Mrs. Fittos explained that POOL and Parks and rec are in the same QuickBooks file but separate bank accounts and I provide activity for both. That concludes the Income.

Expenses: Mr. Ditsky started to read the accounts for expenses. Tax Collector Salary- Mr. Ditsky asked if this was another one for Mr. Wynn and Mrs. Fittos responded yes. Life Guard Salary, Manager Salary and Part- time salaries need to be adjusted per Ms. Cannon. Mr. Ditsky asked if the life guard salaries will be changed. Ms. Canon said we have 10 lifeguards. Mr. Ditsky asked if they should go from \$7.75 to \$8.25 per hour. Ms. Cannon said yes. Mary Soberick said the 2014 wage resolution says the rate will be defined by age and experience, but that doesn't sound right that one lifeguard would be more experiences than another. Mrs. Soberick asked what the surrounding cities pay. She asked how many hours they have on. Ms. Cannon said they can only sit for so long until they rotate but by law 2 lifeguards must be present at the pool. Ms. Cannon said this is only 3 months out of the year not 12 months. The manager should get an increase. He is currently at \$9.00 per hour. Ms. Cannon mentioned a few people who work at the pool, but Mrs. Fittos said to calculate this properly is to look at everyone's rate and hrs. worked. Mr. Vadyak said a computer tag checker should not get paid more than a CDL driver. Mary Soberick suggested we see what the surrounding areas are paying and then do a comparison and go with it. Ms. Canon said Summit Hill pays \$11.00 per hour for CDL drivers. She said we need to increase it to have good workers and retain them. Council discussed the salaries for about 10 minutes before moving on. Mrs. Fittos suggested that Ms. Canon list out everyone at the pool with the new rates and hrs. and re-calculate and budget new figures.

Marie Ondrus spoke out from the audience and asked if Frank was Food Safe Certified and Ms. Cannon responded yes. Ms. Cannon said she didn't think the floor was open to public speaking and Marie Ondrus said she didn't care. Marie Ondrus yelled out "Nepotism" just as Mr. Ditsky gave order on the floor. Mr. Ditsky said as far as salaries go we really can't move ahead. Mary Soberick asked if we can revise the Resolution to reflect just each department separately but Mr. Vadyak said he disagrees and they should all be on 1 resolution.

Mr. Ditsky continued: Culture and Recreation: Ms. Cannon said this account can be removed. Parks & Rec water: Mr. Ditsky asked what that was and Ms. Cannon said water for the pool. Mr. Ditsky questioned how its only \$191 and Ms. Cannon said they give them a break. Parks Electricity: Ms. Cannon had a question about Ashton Hill since we had nothing here. Mrs. Fittos said on the sheet she has in the office where it says what accounts pay what PPL accounts, someone crossed out Park and Rec and put General Fund, so Ashton hill has been paid out of General Fund. Ms. Cannon said if it's a park expense it should be paid out of park. Mrs. Fittos will research. Mrs. Soberick said there should be two bills, one for the tennis courts and one for the park. Ms. Cannon also said one of the lights does not work and we are paying for it, but will need the pole number to get it repaired. Parks Electricity: Samantha Yasson questioned how high it was and Ms. Cannon asked to research it. Repairs and maintenance: Ms. Cannon said there are a lot of repairs that are done. She said they need a riding lawn mower and paint for the new roof. Mr. Ditsky asked who will be painting the pool roofs, the borough workers. Ms. Cannon said maybe the prisoners can do it. Mr. Vadyak said to get Joe Greco with the prisoners to do it. Park & Pool supplies: This was increased to \$10,000. Mary Soberick said the Repairs and Maintenance should be increased due to all the needs. Ms. Cannon also asked if they were going to increase the mills for shade tree. Samantha Yasson inquired about the shade tree if the mills had to be increased. Mr. Vadyak said there are about 36 properties going on judicial sale this year, but there are over 100 properties. Ms. Cannon said he will charge \$900 a day to take trees down and maintenance them, should take about 2- 3 days, but will only charge for the days he works. Mary Soberick asked how much it would be maintain annually. Ms. Cannon said it would be up to \$2,700 for Kennedy Park and \$900 for the pool and that would be a continued maintenance program. Repairs and Maintenance was increased to: \$4,000. Mr. Ditsky said a wish list should be created. Ms. Cannon gave a brief story about the leak repair at the pool. Advertisement: Will remain the same. Telephone pool- Telephone is on vacation when pool is closed. Reimbursed Expenses: Ms. Cannon said she understands that the auditors suggested not doing reimbursements, but they were getting stuff cheaper through Sam's club with Gwen and Frank being they have a club card. Most of the council members were ready to leave after we finish this last fund review, some were cold and some were tired.

Mrs. Fittos reminded everyone that we only got through (3) three funds Payroll; we are limited on time and want it to be presented at our December 10th meeting for adoption and that a budget needs to be approved. Tax ER Share: Mary Soberick asked what this is and Mrs. Fittos said these are the taxes employee and employer share. Payroll Fee: This is just the fee to process payroll.

Ms. Cannon suggested we schedule another special meeting now. Ms. Yasson said next week is Thanksgiving. Mrs. Fittos said she will email everyone to figure out a day to meet again.

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to adjourn at 8:05pm. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer