

The Monthly meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for General and Executive purposes was held at the above date and place at 6:50pm. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 3 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, Colin Jones, and Rose Mary Cannon.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 5:45 pm with Attorney Jeff Stewart and William Buckley regarding a personnel matter with the Chief of Police Pension and litigation and exited executive session at 6:50pm in which the personal matters were discussed.

Samantha Yasson came in at 6:00pm.

#### PUBLIC COURTESY

Jared Soto on behalf of the Lansford Alive wanted to give an update on the Community Garden contract and met with Rose Mary Cannon and Martin Ditsky and went over some revisions to be made and will submit that to church to see if they agree with the terms. Once they agree on it, a proposal will be submitted to the Borough. He also mentioned that he went to a town meeting in Tamaqua and received some really good information and ideas that maybe Lansford could use to make the town better. He thinks we have a lot of good things going on here with street scape etc. Rose Mary Cannon said one thing that Tamaqua has that we do not have is different groups that really work together. She said they also have a lot of Grant money that allows them to do so many projects.

Mr. Soto also mentioned to Mrs. Fittos that he works over at POWER (Program of Wellness, Empowerment and Recovery) and they finally received the plaque for the bench that will be donated to Lansford by end of the month earliest.

#### 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

- 2015 Tax Anticipation note of \$100,000/ Letter of Intent- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to move forward with Tax Anticipation note for \$100,000 from M&T Bank. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- 2015 Tax Levy- This will be on December 30<sup>th</sup> agenda when budget is adopted

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- November 7, 2014 – Special Meeting – **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- November 12, 2014 – Monthly Meeting – Mary Soberick mentions she has some changes. Page 1 under correspondence, some items were mentioned to be tabled and minutes should reflect that. ( Tom Reigel Letter) Public Safety- Mayor spoke about parking issues, Cortright Street should be added in. Public Works- After motion to advertise for CDL, Sam Yasson informed us she would speak to Fire co about applying. Page 3, omitted Community Development- but would it to be reflected that there was no meeting so therefore no report. Page 4, motion that Rose Mary Cannon made to get in touch with board members was seconded by Colin Jones then just went into a discussion. Also, attorney Greek mentioned the requirements for the board members. Page 5, Physiological was spelled incorrectly. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the minutes with those changes. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- November 18, 2014- Special Meeting – Mary Soberick said she has 1 correction under UCC appeals “He” should be “She”. Rose Mary Cannon has one on page 3, Ms. Cannon said he will charge \$900 a day to take down a tree, he is not taking down the trees, this is what he charges for

whatever work he does. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept these minutes with the changes. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

### CORRESPONDENCE

- PA State Association of Boroughs
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection- Recycling of Electronics Program-
- Responsible Recycling Services- Free Pickups- Mr. Ditsky asked if they pick up the old T.V's and Mrs. Fittos told him to look at the list on what they pick up. Tommy Vadyak said according to their list, they do not pick up the old T.V.'s. Colin Jones and Mr. Vadyak had a conversation about this. Mr. Vadyak asked Martin to do some research.

Joe Butrie came in at 7:05pm

- 6620 Jetpack **upgrade** no charge from Verizon Wireless/ Tim Bilski- **Mr. Vadyak makes the motion to move forward with it. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Letter from Joe Greco/ UCC Appeal- Mr. Ditsky said he believes at this point it is moot.
- Letter from O' Brian & Gere/ Siberline Manufacturing
- Court of Common Pleas- David Benevy Tax Assessment appeal
- Court of Common Pleas- Markitty LLC Tax Assessment appeal
- Letter from John Tucker/ renewal of Term request- Tabled. Ms. Cannon said we don't do these until January.
- Letter from David C. Burrell Jr. - Ms. Cannon thinks in the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph he is mixed up about the swing. Mr. Jones asked if the swing will be replaced. Ms. Cannon said she will have to see what the cost is as they were purchased through grant money. She said we really need surveillance there.
- Letter from Robert M Gaughan / Renewal of Term Request - Tabled
- 2015 monthly council meeting schedule. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve it. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion carries. Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise it. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.** Mr. Ditsky asked Attorney Greek if we have to have a reorganization meeting and Mr. Greek said no, it's up to council that the Borough can organize anytime they want.
- 2015 Committee Meeting Schedule - Tabled
- Vacancies List – Tabled
- Joseph Horvat Letter – Tabled

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- No Meeting, No Report
- Public Safety – read by Mr. Vadyak. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion that the individual who caused the damage on Cortright Street be made to pay for the damage. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.** There was a discussion about administration of Narcon, but it was tabled due to most of council being unfamiliar or not in agreement with it.
- Fire Department - read by Mr. Vadyak
- Ambulance- Read by Mr. Vadyak
- Mayors Report- Read by Mayor James Romankow
- Police Report – Read by Mayor James Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- No meeting, No report
- Public Works- **Joe Butrie makes the motion to have our attorney write a letter to Lancaster Truck Bodies in regards to a cutting edge that has worn out to quickly, forcing us to go through two cutting edges and they have not replaced it yet. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion carries.**
- Community Development/ Planning/Zoning – No meeting, no report. Mrs. Soberick said this month's meeting will be rescheduled.
- Code Enforcement- Ms. Cannon had some questions with a few properties on their report. Solicitor Greek did respond to them.

- Treasurers Report- Mrs. Fittos said she re-printed all the bills for General Fund because more bills came in for December but due to the cutoff they would show up on January's report, but should be paid in December due them incurring in December. Mrs. Fittos mentioned that the Main Checking account in Sewer Transmission fund account ending #5537 is running low. We will have to transfer from our other Sewer Account #1198 to #5537 to satisfy a loan that comes out every month for \$18,689.29. My recommendation is to transfer \$60,000 at least which should hold us over until March when we start collecting revenue. Mary Soberick asked what the small Radocha bills were and Mrs. Fittos responded with Police vehicle fuel. Mary Soberick had a question about an email I sent out regarding a \$13,000 payment that will be due soon, she asked if that was for the new Loader we just purchased. Mrs. Fittos said that is for our 2014 International Dump Truck. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to transfer the money. Seconded: Mary Soberick Vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak, Joe Butrie, Martin Ditsky, Samantha Yasson and Colin Jones.** Colin was confused on the transfer as he thought we were transferring Sewer money to another fund, but it's all Sewer money staying within the Sewer Transmission fund. Ms. Cannon explained that it's all Sewer Transmission fund monies. Mary Soberick gave a bit of history on this Sewer Transmission account and how it was used in the past. Mrs. **Fittos took Roll call: Martin Ditsky= Yes, Mary Soberick = Yes, Tommy Vadyak= No, Joe Butrie= yes, Samantha Yasson= yes, Colin Jones = Yes and Rose Mary Cannon = yes. Motion passed. Samantha Yasson makes the motion to approve the bills. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes. Tommy Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collector's Report- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Read by Mary Soberick. She also suggested having an alternate. Mr. Vadyak said it is usually the Borough Secretary, but Mrs. Soberick said it doesn't have to be.
- Solicitor's Report- Mr. Greek went over all of his correspondence. The complaint was served to the ambulance and he spoke to Terry Smith and Joe Greco is trying to get our pagers/ radios together for us. The resolution for the Auditors needs to be motioned and signed.

Rose Mary Cannon said a thank you to Debbie Kupres, not just for an excellent job cleaning, but for the decorations which certainly brightens up the place. Mr. Ditsky and Mr. Vadyak thanked her as well.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 2014 Wage Resolution modifications if any – Tabled
- 2014 Fee Schedule- Changes suggested- Mr. Vadyak mentioned a few fees that should be increased, the sidewalk repairs should be increased to \$25. Re-inspection should be \$27.50. This was tabled.
- BCBS/ Benecon Medical Insurance- Mrs. Fittos explained Benecon is the same insurance, same benefits, just a cheaper rate. Colin Jones makes the motion to go with Benecon. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. All in favor, motion carries. Mary Soberick and Rose Mary Cannon Abstain.
- Seitz Brothers Recommendations- Colin Jones explained what they found and what the recommendations were to resolve it. Mary Soberick said Seitz brothers should contact the police dept. to make arrangements in case they need to evacuate the building. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion for Seitz brothers to do it in the least restricted method possible. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Resolution for Hutchinson, Gillihan and Freeh- **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion that we pass the resolution. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion carries.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Carbon County Cog Membership/ Shared equipment & Training Services \$50 annual membership fee. Colin Jones said he spoke to Bill Richards about the shared service and thinks we should be involved with it. There was a brief discussion about this between the council members. **Samantha Yasson motioned to join. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion carries**

Martin Ditsky called for a brief recess at 8:43pm

Tommy Vadyak left at 8:43pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council entered into executive session at 8:43pm and exited out at 9:18pm.

There was a discussion regarding the Police Collective bargaining agreement where it was noted that several years ago provisions were put in place setting forth a non -service related disability Pension and that the pension ordinance does not contain such a provision that was collectively bargained. **Colin Jones makes the motion to direct the solicitor to check with the plan administrator, Beyer Barber, to review act 600 and develop an ordinance amending the pension ordinance if applicable. Seconded: Martin Ditsky vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

**Samantha Yasson makes the motion to hire the Part time CDL drivers, Greenall and Horos pending clean driving record checks. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

**Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to have the workers compensation agent draft a letter to Butch Matula having him report for work within the job description and restrictions, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion carries.**

**Colin Jones makes the motion that we go with the Platinum Blue Cross 250 choice for the Mr. Turcmanovich and his wife. Mary Soberick said Mrs. Fittos said this was comparable to the existing plan. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

**Samantha Yasson makes the motion to hire Jeffrey Tanner Full time effective immediately as soon as he can start, pending all payroll paperwork with a 1 year probation period. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky. Motion carries.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Colin Jones makes the motion to adjourn at 9:26pm. Second: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Fittos*

Secretary/Treasurer