

The Special meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for Budgeting 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, Joe Butrie, Samantha Yasson, and Colin Jones. Those Absent were: Tommy Vadyak, Rose Mary Cannon and Mayor James Romankow.

**PUBLIC COURTESY**

No public courtesy.

**2015 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mr. Ditsky opened up by stating that Mrs. Fittos has provided the advised assessment recap of the proposed 2015 budget. He explained that he does not understand how the properties and the buildings within the Borough can be worth \$34,092,975.00.

Mrs. Fittos explained where to look at the mileage on the mileage sheet and went over all the figures and the 2015 estimated numbers. Mary Soberick asked if we are using the set figure of \$34,092. Mr. Ditsky asked about Park & Rec. Mrs. Fittos explained that Ms. Cannon sat with her and did a 2% increase for the managers, and a few other people. Mr. Ditsky asked what was considered a manager and Mrs. Fittos responded with Frank Karnish and Mary Ann Krajnak. Samantha Yasson asked if I thought it was too late in the game to just add figures. Mrs. Fittos responded and said it should have been done back in August when we first started analyzing the budget; however those who have been working at the pool and are honest and trustworthy deserve 2% raises. It's a good incentive to keep good people. Samantha Yasson said everyone else needs to be reviewed.

Mary Soberick said she looked at the smaller funds such as street light, sanitation and fire tax fund. In regards to the street light fund, Mary Soberick said we had an overage in that fund so we can reduce the millage from 2.78 to 2.61 which will reduce the tax collectors salary also to \$4,500 which will help.

Samantha Yasson asked if the 2% increase in the Pool was also towards the lifeguards and Mrs. Fittos said she believes so. Mr. Ditsky asked how much lifeguards are paid now and Ms. Yasson said she thinks \$7.00 something. Ms. Yasson is questioning how the figure was doubled. Mrs. Fittos said she will reduce it to the \$10,000 that was suggested by Ms. Yasson and will update all the figures. Council decided to reduce Mangers from \$15,000 to \$10,000.

Colin Jones was also wondering why it doubled. Parks and Recreation will now be in the positive. Council discussed the wage rate calculation of the Pool employees for some time before moving on to the next topic.

Council decided to keep the Life Guard salary's at \$8,500.

Martin Ditsky moved on to the Sanitation Fund.

Mary Soberick asked about the repairs and maintenance. Mrs. Fittos said they need a lawn mower and freezer, and they need to paint the roofs. Mary Soberick based on the figures calculated; we can reduce the millage in parks and rec or keep it as backup. Council Agreed. She calculated the reduction to 0.967mills.

Mary Soberick asked about some of the expenses in the Fire Fund, insurances and construction bills, trying to discover if there were expenses that should be reflected. Mrs. Fittos clarified them. Based upon the figures, the millage for the Fire can be reduced to 1 mill.

Samantha Yasson asked about the pension for Mr. Turcmanovich. She was trying to understand when someone gets a pension wondering if it's when they retire. Mrs. Fittos explained that when one retires, yes you collect a pension. In our case because the police contract was written a certain way years ago, a retired police officer who has a disability can collect a disability pension in which the Borough would pay as opposed to his pension fund. This is why we budgeted for it. Mary Soberick clarified some details about this topic and moved on to a different topic.

Colin Jones questioned the Sewer Transmission delinquents. Martin Ditsky mentioned that John Davis will sit with us and review project details. Mary Fittos explained that the budget can be revised before February, but not the Tax Levy. Mary Soberick had additional questions about the Sewer Transmission and sanitation, in conjunction with revoking rental Licenses. The sewer transmission fund will have a shortfall. Colin Jones inquired about it, and Mary Soberick explained that the 3 million loan was for the project along Tunnel St.

**Colin Jones makes the motion to accept the budget with the discussed changes. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes. Roll Call: MS-no, JB-y, CJ-y, SY-y, MD-y.**

26.34 mils will be maintained in the General fund to keep an overage of \$6,000. Mary Soberick hopes that council will support their decision when questioned by the public. Samantha Yasson inquired about the annual charted increases of the street lighting, probably cost increase. Budgeting process was discussed by the members.

Council agreed that the Library Tax will be eliminated, as previously discussed, but \$1,000 donation to the Library will be budgeted.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Colin Jones makes the motion to adjourn at 8:01pm. Seconded: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Fittos*

Secretary/Treasurer