

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 8 residents and 1 Reporter.

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. Those Absent were: Joe Butrie and Samantha Yasson. Mike Greek was late.

SPEAKER

Seth Goodhart from A-1 energy introduced himself and explained that Mrs. Fittos called him to visit the Borough to do an energy audit. He said he took a survey of the interior Borough office, police station as well as exterior. This survey would result in seeing what the cost would be to update the lights with a more efficient lighting system. He handed out the estimates to everyone which included the description of all the lights we currently have and what the lighting recommendations would be. He briefly went over the type of lights we currently have and what the upgrades would be. We currently have T12's in the Borough office along with the police station and Mr. Goodhart is recommending smaller LED tubes. He recommends a retro kit which means the fixtures would stay the same we would only be switching out the light bulbs. The Upgraded bulbs would be more efficient in wattage and lifetime hours of use. He mentioned that Sergeant Soberick would like more lighting in the entrance to the police station and also on the exterior back of the building. Mr. Goodhart added these additional lights to the estimate. Mary Soberick inquired about the lights in the bathrooms and Mr. Goodhart explained what kind of lightbulbs they are. She also inquired about the bulbs for outside of the building, specifically the ones in the front of the building. Mr. Goodhart said he would review the ones in front. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that maybe we should have motion sensor and Ms. Cannon said the fixtures should be replaced. He mentioned that PPL has been on a wait list for rebates due to the high volume of rebate applications since July. He said he received notification that the wait list would be clearing in January. He said the annual electrical savings for lighting would be \$2,768, \$526 for the heat they give off and the maintenance savings would be \$599. The total savings is about \$3,894.00. The total project cost is \$8,978, after the rebate it is \$6,831.94. He said it's paid back in about 21 months. Mrs. Soberick asked if it was automatic or if we have to apply for the rebate and Mr. Goodhart said A-1 energy does that work. He went over some other savings on the lighting itself over time. Ms. Cannon said a problem that we have is we waste money because we do not need all of these lights on during the day, but the way the lights are hooked up you cant just light one area. Mr. Goodhart said that would be something we can look into with the electrician. Mr. Walsh had a question that Mr. Goodhart addressed. Mr. Goodhart went over a few options to correct the way the switches are connected and concluded his presentation with stating he will get finance options to Mrs. Fittos.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Don Gildea, 107 West Kline said at the last meeting there was a short discussion on the parking ordinance. Mr. Gildea said it looks like council is going to continue to enforce this ordinance. Ms. Cannon said she believes the Mayor said they would try to do the same thing they did last year. He said people on water, Kline and Snyder can't move to the other side. He said the ordinance was tossed out of court. Mr. Vadyak said he knows people who brought it to the magistrate and they were found guilty. Mr. Gildea and council spoke about this for a few minutes.

Mr. Gildea also inquired about the tire slashing incident because his car was one of the vehicles that had slashed tires. He asked how he can find out the status of it. Mr. Greek told Mr. Gildea he will have to call if he is a victim as the Borough is not responsible.

Matthew Walsh had a question regarding A-1 energy and the generator install if some of the amps would be used towards the generator than that would be a bigger savings. Mrs. Soberick suggested that Mr. Walsh contact the gentlemen from A-1 energy and Dulcey Electric. Mrs. Fittos said she would email him their contact info.

Mr. Vadyak asked if we needed other quotes for generators but Mrs. Fittos said the threshold is \$10,500 and Mr. Greek agreed.

Ms. Cannon said tonight will be the last meeting for three of our council members, Samantha Yasson, Tommy Vadyak and Mary Soberick and would like to wish them well. She said we didn't always get along but anyone that volunteers' to run for office deserves praise because it's not an easy job.

Mr. Ditsky said he agrees we need to congratulate these people who are dedicated and wished them all the very best and thank you so much.

Mary Soberick thanked Rose Mary Cannon and appreciated that acknowledgment. She told Mr. Ditsky that she thinks he talks about her behind her back and says horrible things, which she says she has heard and asked that he please don't send a thank you to her. Mr. Ditsky said he doesn't know when he has talked about her behind her back. She said there is quite a bit of stuff.

SEALED BIDS

- Lehigh Asphalt was the only bidder read out by Solicitor Greek. Mr. Greek said the bid is for Type 2 AS3 Antiskid for plant and fob delivered for 500 tons. Plant Price is \$ 10.50 / \$5,250 and Fob delivered is \$16.20/ \$8,100.00. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to accept the award. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 4, 2015- Special Meeting. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- November 11, 2015- Regular Meeting – Mary Soberick said there were a few typos. Page 2, she said Lewis Greg she thinks his address is 311 West Patterson, page 3 under correspondence about borough of Tamaqua, her intention was for it to say all of the fees and page 5 the 13th sentence down it says “would take the blame” she says its very confusing and would like it to say the community/development and ordinance committee and then in the following sentence where it says “ she was upset” she would like her name included so it would read “ Mrs. Soberick was upset. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept with the changes. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- November 18, 2015 – Special Meeting minutes- **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Advertise and Adopt Tax Levy Ordinance 2015-08. **Colin Jones makes the motion to advertise the tax levy ordinance. Seconded: Mary Soberick vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Adopt Final Budget 2016- Mr. Vadyak told Mr. Greek to look up 1307 in the Borough code and that the budget couldn't be adopted until 30 from the first day of advertisement. Mr. Greek reviewed it and said that there has to be 30 days from time of advertisement to adoption. Mr. Vadyak said a final budget cannot be adopted until December 18th. Mrs. Soberick said it should be brought up to the public if they had questions or comments on the budget. Mrs. Fittos said both need to be adopted by 12/31/15. Mrs. Soberick thought the Tax Levy needed a 30 day inspection but Mr. Greek said no. Mrs. Soberick said we will need a special meeting to adopt both. Colin Jones suggested 12/22/15. Everyone agreed on 12/22/15 @ 6:30pm.
- Tax Assessment November 24, 2015.
- Act 37- Changes to Borough Code/ create a reserve fund by resolution. Mrs. Fittos explained what the reserve fund is, how it's used and how the other funds will contribute to it and millage rate would have to be increased in those other funds to contribute up to 25%. Mr. Jones wanted to clarify what the money in the reserve fund can be used for. He and Mrs. Fittos touched on this topic for a brief moment.
- Letter from Hutchinson, Gillahan to IRS re: Pay Simply/ America Coast to Coast 941 Issue. Mr. Vadyak said any individuals employed by the borough should check with Social Security that their proper wages were put in. Mary Soberick suggested checking with Penny the accountant to see if she can assist with this matter since she was here.
- Letter from Duane Dellecker, resignation of Health Inspector for Lansford Borough (email from Rich) **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to accept the resignation. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Ms. Cannon said any applicant must be certified by the State. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to advertise for a Health Inspector. Seconded: Tommy Vadyak vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Letter from Giannascoli & Kent, P.C.- Donation of Real estate to Borough of Lansford (642 E. Ridge Street). Mrs. Soberick said she drove by and didn't see 642, there are 2 half doubles. She saw 640 and 644. Ms. Cannon thinks she knows whose house it is. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to table it and get more info.**
- US Bankruptcy Court- Re: Raymond L. Seifert Jr. Stacy Seifert- Final Report & Deadline to object
- Letter from Penndot to Siberline Manufacturing Co.
- Letter from PA DEP- re: Medical Waste Permit Application- Meeting on 12/21/15@ Nesquehoning Borough at 6pm-8pm.
- Letter to Siberline from OBG- Plan for Sanitary Sewer system abatement (Copies in mailbox) Ms. Cannon wonders where it will be hauled from.
- Lansford Alive- Letter to Businesses of Lansford. Ms. Cannon thinks its great and would like to thank Lansford Alive for all the Christmas decorations.
- Lansford Alive- Window Art Event. Mrs. Soberick asked if it should be officially approved by council. The businesses approved their own artwork.
- Minutes from Water Authority – September and October

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Municipal Administration- No Meeting, No Report
- Public Safety- No Meeting, No Report
- Fire Department- Read by Rose Mary Cannon
- Ambulance- Read my Martin Ditsky
- Mayors Report- Read my Jimmy Romankow
- Police Report- Read by Jimmy Romankow
- Parks & Recreation- Ms. Cannon said there was no meeting but she is disappointed that the Borough workers never got the chance to televise the pipe. She got in touch with Leighton and hopes whoever is on the committee she will give that info to them so they can work on getting the pool repaired. She said the next step to televise the line so maybe they can get someone to do that. Mr. Vadyak asked if the lights can be shut down at the park.
- Public Works- No Meeting, No Report.

- Community Development/ Planning /Zoning- No Meeting, No Report. There was a conversation about bringing properties up to code that are being sold on Ebay. Mr. Vadyak mentioned a bill that will be passed in Schuylkill County.
- Code Enforcement for November. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to terminate Lehigh Valley Inspection Services on their appointment as code enforcement and zoning. Motion failed due to no second.**
- Treasurers Report, Bills to be Approved, Income Report, Check Register, Profit/Loss Budget Vs, Actual. Mary Fittos went over everything and the projection for December and said we will not have to borrow funds. Some council members had a discussion regarding the engineering fees and bid process for next year regarding the street scape which lasted five to ten minutes. Mr. Vadyak said all the outstanding bills need to be paid before purchasing a generator. Mrs. Soberick said she was very upset on the LVIS bills. Mrs. Soberick said there is no certification required to do the zoning. Ms. Cannon said we can't just not have code with no plan of action. Mr. Ditsky said if you are going to terminate the Code/ Zoning that in the same breath you should have someone in mind to replace them with. Mrs. Soberick suggested advertising to get applications for zoning and code. Mrs. Fittos went over all the bills that were going to be paid. **Colin Jones makes the motion to pay everything with the exception of the 2016 bills. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Mary Soberick. Motion passes. Tommy Vadyak is not voting on Tamaqua Transfer.**
- Tax Collectors Report- November, read by Martin Ditsky
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- no meeting. Mary Soberick said someone will have to be a representative for 2016. Mr. Ditsky said it will be on the agenda. Mrs. Soberick said she could stay on it. Mr. Vadyak said if someone appoints her she can be the representative.
- Solicitors Report- Letter to Railroad, BIA letter any response, Remove radios from Ambulance vehicles process. Mr. Greek said everyone received the railroad letter and there has been no response to date from Barry Isett. Mr. Greek said there really can't be a follow up unless the police get involved since they have the Boroughs blank citations and code book. Ms. Cannon said she made a motion to remove the radios from the ambulance. Mr. Greek said the ambulance has acknowledged they belong to the Borough. Ms. Cannon said we can get echo to remove them. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Fittos if we can get in contact with someone since the motion was made. Mrs. Fittos said she was confused after speaking with attorney Greek he said we need permission to get inside the building. Mr. Greek said yes, whoever is going in the building needs to make contact. Ms. Cannon said Sergeant Soberick knows who to get in contact with. Mr. Romankow said Sergeant Soberick is trying to get access to the building. Mr. Vadyak asked who we are going to get to remove the radios. Mr. Romankow said not the Sergeant. Ms. Cannon said Echo or whatever firm we use. Mr. Turcmanovich said Two-way or Echo was used in the past.

Mrs. Soberick handed a notice to Mr. Greek regarding a case from the court of common pleas and asked for clarification since he was not at the November meeting to discuss it. Mr. Greek explained the court administration has open cases and county is judged by the state on their open cases. He said you can't have this many open cases. Mr. Greek said they are filed condemnation notices, but when they are filed, there is no real conclusion so they sit there as open cases. Mr. Greek informed them that the case can be closed as he filed a praecipe to be marked concluded. Basically he said this will bring closure and we will have to do this all the time on the eminent domain cases.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Update Resolution 2015-09 fee schedule. Update UCC Appeals fee to be increased. Mrs. Soberick it should be increased to \$500 since that is what Tamaqua is charging us per case. She asked if we can add additional charges also in case there are other charges and Mr. Greek said we can. Mary Fittos said maybe any additional costs. Mr. Greek said any additional costs imposed by Tamaqua appeal board. Mr. Vadyak said the stenographer fees should not be half. Mr. Greek said it should be plus stenographer fees and Mr. Ditsky said take out ½ and keep it just stenographer fees. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to adopt the resolution with the said changes. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau- Approve/ Disapprove sale of 119 W. Ridge Street, extension granted for responses time. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to deny the sale of the property at that price. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Ceiling Repair/ Insurance Claim (Check received is \$3,435.90) - Jippy's Painting \$1,100, The Painter Man \$6,447.31 and Caputo Painting \$4,000. (Council to appoint lowest responsible bidder). There was some discussion on the estimates for a few minutes. Mrs. Fittos said she spoke to all three painters and went over the insurance claim and it's basically removing plaster, painting the whole ceiling. **Ms. Cannon makes the motion to go with Caputo. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Mr. Vadyak said he doesn't see where is going to move the lights. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Generator- Dulcey Electric- \$8,100, five installments were proposed \$1,620/ month for 5 months.(does not include Tanks.) Mr. Jones asked if we have the money and if it was in our 2016 budget. Mrs. Fittos said its not in the budget and we have some extra money although things are changing now with the extra bills coming in but we still can expect more money from Mr. Wynn and with the finance plan she thinks we can afford it. Mrs. Soberick said at this point the first payment wouldn't be due until February and we will start collecting tax money in April. Ms. Cannon asked how much the tanks were. Mrs. Fittos said the tanks are \$2,010.00. Mrs. Soberick asked the Solicitor asked if we had to combine it as a project that would exceed \$10,000. Mr. Greek said it's not a project but a purchase so no. **Mrs. Soberick makes the motion that we purchase the generator. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mr. Jones reviewed the quote for

the generator. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to purchase the Tanks from Piacenti Home and Heating. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mary Soberick has a handicap application for 32 Cortright Street and he is in conformity with our regulations. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve the handicap application. Seconded: Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**

Mrs. Soberick had a few questions for the Solicitor that was addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Kovatch Ford Estimate for Ford Explorer \$1,095 extra. (On top of work already done) New finding why vehicle was not working. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Adopt a subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) Mike Greek to speak about. Mr. Greek spoke about this for a few minutes and recommended having it, but would modify it a bit. He said the one handed out is a draft from the county. Mr. Jones said it basically puts us more in control. Mr. Greek said yes but it depends how you enforce it with your local control. Mr. Greek said it doesn't need to be adopted tonight, but form a committee and look at it.
- Adoption of Ordinance and Agreement for UCC board of appeals between Borough and Tamaqua. Mr. Greek said any inter-municipal agreement has to be done by ordinance. Mr. Greek sent this to Tamaqua also for approval at their next meeting. Mr. Greek said he will do 1 advertisement since he has both municipalities with two different dates then you adopt it. He said the ordinance approves the agreement. **Tommy Vadyak makes the motion to advertise this ordinance. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

Mr. Ditsky asked for a brief recess at 8:45pm.

Mr. Vadyak left at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:50pm to discuss personnel matters and exited at 9:10pm.

Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion due to Shawn Nunemachers successful completion of his probation that we give him the full time status as Police Officer. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Colin Jones makes the motion to adjourn at 9:11pm. Second: Mary Soberick vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer