

The Special meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for budget & generator 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 three newly elected officials and 1 reporter present.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos took roll call. Those present were Martin Ditsky, Mary Soberick, Tommy Vadyak, Mayor James Romankow, Joe Butrie, Samantha Yasson, Colin Jones and Rose Mary Cannon. Those absent were: Solicitor Mike Greek.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Matthew Walsh, 316 E. Bertsch Street, said as long as we have money for a generator you have to do the whole building.

John Turcmanovich, 332 E. Snyder Ave, said at one time this whole building was the emergency center of the town, if there was an evacuation the people being moved would be brought here. He said that's a good reason to have the generator power this office.

Ms. Cannon said it won't be the emergency center anymore because of the offices, she thinks it would be the schools.

Mr. Ditsky said the generator would be for the basement and the office floor, not the third floor as he understands there would never a reason to use that third floor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2016 Budget to be approved. **Mary Soberick makes the motion approve as advertised. Seconded by Rose Mary Cannon vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak and Martin Ditsky. Motion passes.**
- 2016 Tax Levy Ordinance 2015-08 to be approved. **Mary Soberick makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky and Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**
- Generator- Additional switch for \$1,600 for Borough Office. Payment extended to 6 months. Joe Butrie asked if the money was there now or do we have to wait for funds. Mrs. Fittos said yes we do have it and maybe we want to pay more at one time but at least we have 6 months to pay it all off. Mrs. Soberick said she agrees with paying it off if we have it, but should just pay the minimum right now until we start receiving tax money in. Mrs. Soberick asked if the agreement was in writing and Mrs. Fittos said yes, he actually wrote it out on the estimate and signed it. Mr. Ditsky said eventually there will be pipes around the generator to protect it. Mr. Vadyak said you buy pipes from the junkyard and fill it with concrete. Mr. Jones asked if there was a camera overlooking the generator. Ms. Cannon said this is something that has to be looked into next year as the service provider doesn't call to adjust the cameras. Mr. Ditsky said he spoke with Sergeant Soberick about upgrading the camera system and agrees it should be done. Mr. Jones asked if a fence would go around the generator too and Mr. Ditsky said no, just piping and concrete. **Ms. Cannon makes the motion to add the additional switch which would include the borough office. Seconded: Samantha Yasson vote. Opposed: Tommy Vadyak. Motion passes.**

Ms. Cannon said there is one thing she would like to address. At the last budget meeting she said she mentioned that Lansford Alive could maybe contribute to the engineering fees but meant no disrespect to Lansford Alive. She said she was blasted about it. She said she is 100% behind the street scape and was just making a comment because of the amount of engineering fees. 10% was paid out of the grant and the rest was paid out of the Borough's pocket and one of the members said shame on us for not budgeting more, but we didn't have any idea it would not fly the first time or the second time. She would just like it to be known that there was no disrespect meant to Lansford Alive. She said they do a wonderful job and unfortunately we do have a lot of engineering fees due to the street scape. She said in the future when applying for grants we have to be more diligent. Even for the Borough garage there is going to be more engineering fees involved.

Mr. Jones asked when we get a quote on something like that, are the engineering fees estimated for a Grant project. Mr. Ditsky said they were. Ms. Cannon said it went through so many phases; they applied for a certain amount, and then it had to be revised so there is more engineering fees. She said it's hard to budget for. Mr. Ditsky said they originally applied 275k, but was told they should have applied for \$308k.

Mr. Soto said it's not so much the engineering fees but thinks there are flaws within the process of how it's all done, from the Grant level being issued down. He feels it's very unfair to the boroughs in general to have very limited capabilities who are the primary ones applying for the grants. He is very interested to see how the process is operated from the State level down. Is there any kind of abuse, he doesn't know.

Mr. Ditsky mentioned the process for the garage from site preparation to where the water pipes will be as well as the electric. Ms. Cannon said in regards to the engineering it's not just for 1 person, you're paying for several people as it's a professional business. She said we as a Borough intend to move forward and to do things like this, we cant do it with this tax base, we have to raise taxes at some point in order to do these projects.

ADJOURNMENT

Samantha Yasson makes the motion to adjourn at 6:45pm. Second: Joe Butrie vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer