

The Monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council for General and Executive purposes was held 6:30 p.m. Wednesday June 8, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 10 residents and 2 Reporters in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Assistant Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council members present were Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon, Matthew Walsh, Mayor James Romankow, Joe Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich and Solicitor Michael Greek. Councilman Colin Jones was absent.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Warren Balliet, 518 E. Bertsch St., asked that the parking lines in the 500 block of E. Kline Alley be painted. He said it had not been painted in 10 years and he has painted it on his own in the past. Martin Ditsky explained that line painting has not started yet and the cross walks and parking lines will be done first.

Pat Whalen, 341 W. Ridge St., sees people walking dogs without licenses and thinks it could be income for the town. She asked whether the borough can make money by selling dog licenses. Ditsky explained that dog licenses are sold through the county. Pat doesn't think police should be chasing stray dogs. She continued to explain that people are sad about the closing of Our Lady of the Angels School. She also feels this is a distressed area and seniors should not pay school property taxes. Rose Mary Cannon said she should go to the school district with that request. Whalen lauded Lansford Alive, other community volunteers and sponsored events. She suggested painting empty storefront windows so properties don't look so "dumpy". She is wondering why she got a call to expect dirty water for 2 weeks. Ditsky & Cannon explained she must talk to the Water Authority to answer questions about the water. Lastly, she asked for the details of John Turcmanovich retirement case. She was told to fill out a Right To Know form for details of the case. Mr. Balliet & Mary Soberick commented on enforcement of the dog ordinances in town. Cannon & Romankow explained the police are working to control stray dogs however the complainant must testify to the situation if it goes to court.

Tim Smith, 50 Tunnel St, brought in what he deemed proof of the borough owning the basketball court at the end of Tunnel Street. Someone put dirt across the court and it inhibits access to his property. He believes he has proof of the borough owning the property and he wants the dirt removed. He was asked to provide a deed and survey proof of borough ownership.

Joe Butrie, 443 E Ridge St., received complaints about the streetscape project, especially for plowing snow. Some people feel the curbing style is a hazard; cleaning in the summer and plowing in the winter. Cannon explained people need to wait until the project is finished and address any problems as they arise. Councilman Walsh added that probationary or parole community service works can help with cleaning the intersections.

Mary Soberick, 109 W Abbott St., questioned streetscape sidewalk cut outs for parking meters (along the unit block of W. Ridge Street) and she asked whether angle parking will be changed? Ditsky said yes, the spaces may change but it will remain angle parking on the south side. Soberick continued to explain that she thinks the project is ridiculous, stating "the project was just shrunk and it should have been redesigned for a small community; It is not how it was

originally planned – it is not purposeful to the community.” Soberick wanted to see the regulation that allows macadam being built up and be considered a handicap ramp? Resident **Mary Soto, 335 E Patterson St.**, (who served with Lansford Alive in planning the streetscape project) recommends Mary Soberick talk to the engineer for answers to these questions. Cannon explained that the project was cut back twice to accommodate the rebidding process twice. Ditsky said he will have the engineer address these questions at a future meeting. Ditsy ended the discussion by explaining that every time the project was rebid the engineering costs escalated and a new design could not be attempted at every rebidding.

David Bargeron, legal representative for Frank Longo, is requesting a municipal resolution to transfer the liquor license from the Nesquehoning Hose Company, Nesquehoning to 13 Center Street, Lansford. Attorney Greek said that he believes the PA Liquor Control Board (PLCB) requires the resolution must be advertised as a public hearing before adoption. He said a resolution can be approved tonight and then advertised and accepted at the hearing Bargeron said Dave Crimins at PLCB said a resolution is required. Cannon said she needed more information before voting on the request. Roger McClean, councilman and former policeman in Allentown, attended as a supportive friend of Longo. He explained that Longo runs two restaurants in Allentown; Jack’s Pizza, 155 Tilghman Street and Jack’s Slice at the Allentown Municipal Golf Course, Tilghman St. The businesses have been a positive impact to the city of Allentown. Jared Soto asked what his plans were for Lansford. Longo said he plans a family oriented casual restaurant. Ditsky feels personally it would be a positive impact for our community. **Joe Butrie made a motion to draw up a resolution, according to PLCB rules, as advised by Solicitor Greek, to approve the request to transfer the liquor license from Nesquehoning Hose Company to 13 Center Street, Lansford. Motions second by Matthew Walsh, all were in favor, unanimously the motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- **May 11, 2016 meeting minutes – Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to accept the minutes, second by John Turcmanovich, all in favor, motion passed.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Carbon County Commissioners – railroad check received \$6,072.75 signifies the 25% of the 2015 gross revenues received from C & S Railroad.
- Carbon County Controller – Audit District Court 56-3-3 (matches borough records receivables from the district magistrate)
- Beyer-Barber Police Pension Plan (GASB 40 Report) – three copies were received and a copy was also sent to the borough’s auditor, Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh.
- CC Council of Governments (COG) – Auction for equipment, supplies Etc. will be held at the East Penn Social Hall on October 1, 2016. Kris Hoffner or Brent Green are the contacts for the event. Matthew Wash asked about the possible purchase of a police vehicle and how it can be purchased. Attorney Greek said he explained COG will list all the equipment we submit; cars furnace, etc. the COG takes its 15% and we get the remaining profit. Cannon, Soto & Walsh suggested a list be compiled by July 27th. Walsh recommended getting a list of equipment from the second floor of borough office & the borough garage.
- PA Dept. of Labor & Industry – John Healey was appointed mediator for Teamsters contract however, Martin called Teamster Representative Robbie Best and it was determined that the notification was sent in error because the crossing guard contract expires in 2017 and the public works contract expires December 2016.
- Lansford Alive invitation to attend the opening of Cynthia’s Cynful Styles grand opening on June 11th, 35 W Ridge St., 10:00 a.m.
- CC Tax Claim Bureau – Judicial Sale List/notice – 13 properties are listed.

- PA. Dept. of Labor & Industry – Unemployment Compensation Seminar
- Course in Zoning Administration, Matt Wash showed interest however the course is now half over.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Municipal Administration - read by Rose Mary Cannon - Topics included financing a police cruiser to replace car 101 and getting quotes for a handicap accessible front door on the borough building. The police dept. is working on specs and estimates for a police car. Cannon also looked into holding a farmers market once a week in the downtown area. She will get more information for the next meeting. Jared Soto notified Bobby O'Gurek that he may upload documents to the borough website.
- Public Safety - no meeting due to it falling on the Memorial Day Holiday. Public Safety Chairman Turcmanovich explained that when testing for full time officers, he recommended that physical & physical agility testing for civil service full time patrolman positions should be done by an outside firm rather than by the civil service committee. There was only one applicant for full time officer. Cannon said advertising for full time applicants was only done in the Times News newspaper. There was discussion about different advertising options. Solicitor Greek recommended extending the deadline for civil service testing to accept more patrolman applicants. **Matt Walsh made a motion to expand advertising to other media and extend the application period. Second by James Romankow, all were in favor, motion passed.** The part time police application from James McFeeley was passed around for all of council to review.
- Fire Department- Read by Rose Mary Cannon – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 answered 16 calls in May.
- Ambulance- Read by Martin Ditsky – The Lehighon Ambulance responded to 52 incidents during the month of May. Average dispatch time is 8:52 minutes.
- Mayors Report- Read by James Romankow - Monthly total collected for May is \$2,719.20. There was a short discussion about selling police car 101, purchasing another car and the use of a K-9 unit; a police service dog.
- Police Report- Read by James Romankow – During the month of May there were 17 criminal arrests, 9 traffic citation, 3 non traffic citation, 8 parking tickets and 32 Quality of Life tickets.
- Parks & Recreation - Read by Rose Mary Cannon - The pool feasibility study should be done by June 10th, mulch will be ordered, skate park to be moved closer to the roadway, and a new slide (replacement board) has been installed. Mayor Romankow asked about fund raisers being planned by Friends of Lansford Recreation and questioned whether the concession stand is prepared for the season? Cannon said events are scheduled to be held at the pool playground. She has approached the water authority to have water turned on to the concession stand only. The pool bathrooms will not be used during events; portable toilets will be used instead.
- Public Works – No meeting due to it falling on Memorial Day.
- Community Development/ Planning /Zoning – There was no written report however Matt Walsh reported the pile of dirt at the end of Tunnel St was discussed, also the vacant property ordinance; Matt said the rough draft needs to be adjusted. Rose Mary Cannon said she is concerned about who will enforce the vacant property ordinance. The Sewage Transmission Fee was discussed. Matt would like to go back to the \$90 fee for both commercial and residential units.
- Code Enforcement – no report.

- Treasure's Report, Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Joe Butrie questioned and reviewed the bills for tires from Krajcirik's. Rose Mary Cannon questioned the bill for a reel at the tennis courts. Total Bills to be approved \$56,435.17 from the following funds.: General \$ 22,403.60; Street Light, \$5,672.39; Sanitation \$ 25,335.84; Sewer Transmission, \$829.96; Park & Rec, \$1,025.10; Hi Way, \$355.28; Fire Tax, \$813.00 . **Motion to approve the bills was made by Matthew Walsh, second by Jared Soto, all were in favor. Motion passed.**
- Tax Collector's Report- For the last 2 week period in May, May 15 to 27, Terry McCall collected \$210,504.69. So far this Year total collected is \$ 708,660.59.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- no report, the May 18th meeting was cancelled.
- Solicitor's Report – Attorney Greek explained that the Planning & Zoning Commission needs to put together a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). He recommends a professional firm/consultant be contacted to develop a plan that fits the borough's needs.

All Committee Reports are on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Recycling Electronics Event – Jared Soto contacted Coaldale Borough. He is waiting to see whether they would agree to split the cost of having a combined electronics recycling event.
- Estimates were passed around for repairs at the borough garage. Rose Mary Cannon pointed out that the 3 estimates did not list identical repairs. Discussion was changed to repairs at the bridge leading to Edgemont. Joe Butrie explained how to temporarily fill in the hole on the bridge. Matt Walsh switched back to the garage repairs. **Matt Walsh made a motion to accept the estimate from Brad Kane for \$4,500.00. Second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

- .St Luke's Special Event, Sept 17, 2016, 5K run & walk. **RMC makes motion to accept, Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion passes.**
- Grace Community Church 8th annual Block Party, Sunday Aug 21, 2016, on W. Ridge between Tunnel & Coal Street. **Motion to approve was made by Matthew Walsh conditional that the borough is not responsible for any mishaps overnight. Motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor. Motion passes.**
- Lansford Alive Ethnic Festival - on July 9, 2016, 11:30 am to 7 p.m. at Kiddie Clothes/Kennedy Park. The event will include blocking off Cortright between W. Patterson & W. Bertsch Streets.. **Motion to approve the event was made by Jared Soto, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in flavor, motion passed.**
- St Katherine Drexel R.C. Church will hold it last Blood drive (the church is closing) on June 13th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Rose Mary Cannon made motion to approve, second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- The Borough office will close this Friday, June 10th at noon on Friday.
- A Resolution was read by Martin Ditsky recognizing & honoring the service of Daniel J Wynn, retired tax collector for 32 yrs. Wynn served as a Little League coach and manager, treasurer of the Italian Club, and a board member of Our Lady of the Angels Academy . **Motion to approve the resolution was made by Rose Mary Cannon, second by John Turcmanovich, motion unanimously passed.**
- Joe Butrie asked for a moment of silence for residents Jack Andersen & Alex Makita;

both passed away recently.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A short break was taken at 8:10 p.m. followed by a 20 minute executive session.

Out of Executive Session

- **John Turcmanovich made a motion to start the procedure to arrange for testing for police sergeant position, second by Matt Walsh, motion passed, Joe Butrie was opposed.**
- **Jared Soto made a motion to hire Charles J. McFeeley as a part time officer. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passes.**
- **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to change Jill Seigendall from assistant secretary treasurer to secretary treasurer at the rate of \$18.00 per hour. Matt Walsh second, motion passes. Joe Butrie was opposed.**
- **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to advertise for a part time assistant secretary treasurer, second by Matt Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **John Turcmanovich made a motion to start the process of purchasing a police vehicle, one without all the bells and whistles, prices and options will be determined by the police department. Motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, Joe Butrie opposed.**
- **Matt Walsh made a motion to put the old police car 101 up for auction. Joe Butrie second the motion, all were in favor, motion passes.**
- **Rose Mary Cannon noted that the borough hall ceiling has begun peeling in spots. Another call will be made to Caputo painting to fix it.**

ADJOURNMENT

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary/Treasurer