

The April 12, 2017 regular monthly meeting of Lansford Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council persons attending were President Martin Ditsky, vice president Rose Mary Cannon, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich, Mayor James Romankow and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent were Colin Jones and Matthew Walsh. In the audience was Donald Gildea, Robert Gildea, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger, Chris Reber of the Times News Newspaper, and Irene Novak. Joe Bennett arrived after public courtesy.

### **Public Courtesy**

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, spoke regarding the Lansford pool and grants requiring matching funds. Soberick calculated that in 2016 the park budget shows \$31,736.28 not spent. She asked council to use this portion, at least \$25,000.00, as matching funds for grant applications. Rose Mary Cannon commented that residents have voiced opposition to using tax money on the pool project however in the past tax money appropriated to park and recreation has gone to pool improvements. Secondly, Mary Soberick requested that her name only be listed in the meeting minutes if she addresses council, not listed as an attendee.

Irma Leibensperger, 164 W Ridge Street, asked what money was spent on parks last year. She remarked that Lansford Alive used money to repair the coal car and it should be included in money spent on the park. Jared Soto and Rose Mary Cannon reviewed several projects done at the park in the past.

Bob Silver, 17 E. Ridge Street, stated that the new sidewalks installed as part of the Streetscape project last year are already showing deterioration. Martin Ditsky spoke to the project contractor Bruce George and borough engineer Eric Snyder. The contractor is going back to the concrete supplier/manufacturer for examination of the condition of the concrete mix. The contractor is responsible for the work for 1 year after completion.

The meeting minutes for March 8, 2017 were considered for approval. **Jared Soto made a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 minutes with the removal of Mary Soberick's name as an attendee. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky. The motion passed.**

### **Correspondence:**

- **Local Share Account (LSA) Streetscape Improvement Project-Phase II** – A letter was received from Scott Dunkelberger, Director of Commonwealth Financing Authority, that the grant application was denied.
- **LSA Reconstruction and Renovations of Lansford Pool** –A letter was received from Scott Dunkelberger, Director of the Commonwealth Financing Authority, that the grant application was denied.
- **Anthracite Triathlon** – Council discussed a request from Rob Gould, to hold the annual YWCA Triathlon, route runs between Coaldale, Lansford, & Summit Hill, on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve the Triathlon event. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor and the motion passed.**
- **Park and Recreation Board vacant seat** – A letter of interest was received from Shawn Clark, whose term on the board ended December 31, 2016. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to reappoint Shawn Clark to that expired seat on the Park and Recreation Board. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- **201 W. Bertsch Street borough property** –Two Letters of Interest in purchasing the property were received from Howard Tokosh & David Bargeron. Both letters were read by Martin Ditsky. Rose Mary Cannon asked that the topic be discussed in executive session.
- **Lansford Civil Service Commission** - A letter of recommendation listing two officers to hire was tabled to be discussed in executive session.
- **Lansford Alive** – Saturday, April 22, 2017 “Community Pride Day” cleanup at Kennedy Park, 9 a.m.
- **Snow storm observations** – a letter to council from a resident, to be discussed in executive session due to the fact that personnel are mentioned in the letter.

- **Lansford Little League** - verbal invitation to council to attend Opening Day, April 29, 2017, 2:00 p.m. celebrating 60 years this season.

Below is additional correspondence received since last month's meeting and is on file in the borough office:

- **MRM Trust** dividend luncheon April 28, 2017, Martin Ditsky will attend.
- **Carbon County Conservation Awareness** meeting will be held April 25, 2017 at Big Creek Grange, 275 Grange Road Lehighton if interested contact Chris Storm 610-377-4894 or e-mail [carbmgr@ptd.net](mailto:carbmgr@ptd.net).
- **Carbon County Conservation District** – Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Pave Funding. Early deadline extension to June 2, 2017 and late season deadline Sept. 1, 2017
- **CERT – Community Emergency Response Team** – Training at 911 Building in Nesquehoning, in April or September, call Tom Newman at 570-325-3097, for more information.
- **Earth Day** is Saturday, April 22, 2017; “Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful” March 1 to May 31st
- **Derr Enterprises**, Construction Services, Hazle Twp., request to be put on project bidders list.
- **CC Council of Governments** – 3/28/17 meeting minutes
- **PA Office of Open Records** - final determination denying Robert Silvers Right To Know Request

#### Committee Reports:

- **Municipal Administration** – Rose Mary Cannon stated the highlights from the March committee meeting report. The meeting was held April 5, 2017.
- **Public Safety** – No paper report, No meeting, no quorum at the March 27, 2017 meeting.
- **Fire Department** – The March meeting report was read by Jared Soto. There were 10 calls in March; 3 in Lansford, 5 in Summit Hill, 2 in Nesquehoning. Additionally, Chief Joseph Greco jr. sent a Memo to the Public Safety Committee itemizing the services of the fire co. during storm Stella on 3/14/17. A total of 386.5 hours of service were recorded during the storm.
- **Ambulance** – The March report included 57 incidents with an average response time, from time of dispatch to arrival on scene, of 8.8 minutes.
- **Mayors Report** – Mayor Romankow reported a monthly total of \$2,840.00 and a yearly total of \$11,817.46. He read a letter from the Victims Compensation Assistance Program, recognizing the Lansford Police Department for responding consistently within an average of 15 days or less to the Commission on Crime and Delinquency. This ensures compensation in a timely manner to help victims and their families in the aftermath of a crime.
- **Police Report** – The police reported 479 calls in March; 15 criminal arrests, 16 Traffic citations, 12 non-traffic citations, 13 Parking/Ordinance tickets and 16 Quality of Life Tickets.
- **Parks & Recreation** – The report from the March meeting held April 5<sup>th</sup> was outlined by Rose Mary Cannon, committee chairperson. She noted the 9:00 a.m. April 22 clean up scheduled at Lansford Parks, a soup sale to be held on April 30th & a golf tournament on June 11th. Jared Soto identified a lot across the street from Kennedy Park (near the parking lot & former Kiddie Klothes building) for the community garden if it loses its current location at 201 W. Bertsch Street. The Community Garden group, represented by Mary Soto, asked council to appropriate this property for its garden.
- **Public Works** – No paper report, no meeting, no quorum, at March 27, 2017 meeting.
- **Code Enforcement** – Report enclosed. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned the program on blight held by Step-up Carbon on 3/30/17. She wished more people would have attended the event. Two meetings were held between borough code, council, Attorney Greek & Police to identify and cite properties that are dilapidated and form a plan to improve these properties.
- **Planning, Zoning & Code** – No paper report, No meeting, no quorum at March 27, 2017 meeting.
- **Carbon County Council of Governments** – next meeting is 4/25/17, 7:00 p.m., Courthouse Annex.

- **Treasurer’s Report** - Total bills to be approved \$51,222.81; General Fund bills \$19,307.11, Sewer Transmission \$2,004.09, Liquid Fuels \$29,911.61. The monthly checking account activity, Income Report, Profit/ Loss Budget vs Actual for all funds was reviewed by council. Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passes.

**Bank Accounts**

End of month balances 2017

<b>FUND/Saving &amp; Cking</b>	<b>AcctNo</b>	<b>End Feb</b>	<b>End March</b>
General Fund	0132	\$238,763.06	\$176,300.68
Sanitation Fund	0222	\$82,526.90	\$64,724.77
Sanitation Fund	0283	\$51,493.98	\$51,502.73
Sewer Transmission	1198	\$164,045.30	\$164,073.17
General Fund	4685	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	4842	\$2,180.00	\$2,180.00
Lansford Pool A	1905	\$1,329.69	\$1,329.71
Hi Way/Liq Fuels Fund	3886	\$28,972.00	\$24,940.82
General Fund	4585	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sewer Transmission	5537	\$123,783.89	\$181,491.96
Sewer Transmission	5402	\$202,607.81	\$202,607.81
LST	5772	\$31,896.12	\$33,231.50
Sanitation Fund	6036	\$12,155.70	\$12,155.71
Fire Tax Fund	6283	\$36,702.05	\$32,740.02
Park & Rec Fund	6291	\$63,571.33	\$64,231.33
Street Light Fund	6309	\$5,180.35	\$11,801.98
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,048,208.18</b>	<b>\$1,026,312.19</b>
<b>Loans</b>		<b>Est Balance</b>	<b>Est Balance</b>
LOAN-M&T Bank	899-5	1,255,268.54	1,241,091.50
LOAN M&T Bank	0059	125,000.00	125,000.00
LOAN Jim Thorpe Bank	0060	162,664.11	162,664.11
LOAN-John Deere	3501	42,486.70	42,486.70
LOAN-Com FirstNat'l	New	36,521.57	36,521.57
		<b>1,621,940.92</b>	<b>1,607,763.88</b>

- **Solicitor’s Report –**
  - **613-615 E. Ridge Street lot combination request** – Attorney Greek received a letter from Attorney Robert Yurchak representing Mr. & Mrs. Steve Foster, seeking to combine two adjoining lots at 613-615 E. Ridge Street. Since the borough does not have a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance the decision is up to council. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have Attorney Greek write a letter to Attorney Yurchak stating that in the absence of a subdivision and land development ordinance the council is not opposed to the reverse subdivision. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky, all were in favor, motion passed.**
  - **100 W. Ridge Street Demolition** - Mr. Joseph Bennett, owner of the former All Staffing/Jet Data building, 100 W. Ridge Street, located on the west side of the intersection of Coal and W. Ridge Streets, presented a letter to President Ditsky informing council of complications halting demolition. In the letter Bennett said a complaint was received from the sites neighbor, Mr. Russell Fletcher of 106 W Ridge Street. Bennett’s intention in the letter was to sign the lot over to the borough because it would no longer be financially feasible for Bennett to demolish the building. Joe Butrie voiced opposition to taking possession of the lot. Furthermore, Bennett said that Mr. Fletcher made complaints to Lansford Code Enforcement as well as governmental agencies. The complaints brought demolition to a standstill by demolition contractor Frank Martin, The Building Recyclers LLC, on 3/11/2017; however paperwork from DEP to stop demolition was never received by Bennett or at the borough office. Attorney Greek advised council to have code enforcement direct Mr. Bennett to complete demolition (per permit) due to the properties current hazardous conditions. The building is surrounded by a chain link fence, enclosing the halfway demolished building, demo equipment, piles of bricks and metal debris. Bennet explained that he expects

DEP to present him with instructions for detailed and costly asbestos removal measures (air monitoring and individual tile removal) because of Mr. Fletcher's complaints. Bennett said the building is a moldy mess and an area was identified with asbestos tiles and he planned to wet down the asbestos areas as it is removed. **On advice of Attorney Greek, Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have to Steve Meylach, code enforcement, written a letter to proceed with demolition. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.**

#### **New Business:**

- Martin Ditsky discussed using funds from the Sewage Transmission Fund for replacing inlets along Route 209, the lease of a mini excavator with jack hammer and operator (\$83.00 per hour), and a turnpike truck. A meeting with PA DOT estimates that ADA ramps will be installed in Aug 2017 along Route 209; at least 16 inlets along the route are in need of replacing. The estimated price of an inlet is \$790 each. More durable inlets are \$1,000.00 each. Martin recommends ordering 20 inlets. Road materials for the project have already been estimated in the street materials bid. Rose Mary Cannon questioned the purchase of a large turnpike truck, that a smaller truck would be more practical. Jared asked for a more detailed account of what is needed for the project.
- There was discussion about what date to set for the free community yard sale. **Joe Butrie made a motion to set July 8, 2017 as the free yard sale date. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor except Martin Ditsky and Rose Mary Cannon who voted no, motion passed.**
- **Resolution 2017-03** – Supporting the coalition to eliminate the prohibition against municipal police using radar. The resolution was read by Martin Ditsky. **A motion to approve Resolution 2017-03 as read was made by John Turcmanovich. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Resolution 2017-04** – Supporting changes to House Bill No. 290, Session of 2013, removing the limit in prizes for games of chance. **A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to adopt Resolution 2017-04 as read. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Resolution 2017-06** – Opposing the elimination of the CDBG Block Grant Program. The Resolution was read by Martin Ditsky. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-06 as read. The motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- **Resolution 2017-07** – Recognizing the contributions of Lansford Little League for 60 years. The Resolution was read by Rose Mary Cannon. **An error was found in the second line stating "Lehigh High School" which should have been "Lansford High School". Joe Butrie made motion to accept Resolution 2017-07 with correction of the error. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Resolution 2017-02 needs correction-salaries for non-union employees; it was discussed that the wrong amount was listed on Resolution 2017-02 for Part-time CDL driver. It was determined to make the correction on Resolution 2017-02 correcting the CDL driver amount from \$10.20/hr. to \$13.50 per hour. **A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to make the correction. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- A photo of a dilapidated borough wall near 362 W Snyder Ave. was reviewed. The wall was examined by Engineer Eric Snyder in 2016 and it was determined to be an expensive fix. Rose Mary Cannon and Joe Butrie asked that the topic be tabled until estimates and more information is obtained.
- **Ordinance 2017-02** – amending the definition of "owner" in Property Maintenance Code Ordinance 2007-02. The Ordinance has been advertised and was read by Martin Ditsky. **Rose Mary Cannon made motion to adopt the Ordinance 2017-02. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- There was discussion about P.V. S.D. Bus Stop changes. Joe Butrie asked that the E Ridge & Jones Street bus stop be moved back to E Patterson Street because children are crossing E Patterson to get to both the E Ridge and E Bertsch St bus stops. Of more concern was the middle school bus stop because the police get calls

about parking at the American Fire Co and recommendations are suggested to change it to the vacant lot at the corner of Tunnel and E. Bertsch Streets. **A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to have Martin Ditsky meet with school board to discuss these problems. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote, in favor are Joseph Butrie and John Turcmanovich, opposed are Jared Soto, Rose Mary Cannon and Martin Ditsky, motion fails.**

Martin Ditsky called a short recess after which council went into executive session at 8:35 p.m.

**Executive Session for personnel purposes & discussion of property;** Teamsters 773 Contract, employment applications, 201 W. Bertsch Street property, participation in CC workforce training,

Council reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

**Jared Soto made a motion to approve the five year contract (had expired December 31, 2016) most recently offered by the Teamsters Union 773. The final decision included a 1.00/hr. contribution to pension plan and payroll deductions of \$15 from each pay (biweekly) for single healthcare coverage and \$25.00 for family coverage. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.** Additional terms of the contract are: 3% hourly wage increase for each worker for the first 3 years and 4% increase in the fourth and fifth year, increasing holidays from ½ day Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to a full day for both, an additional personal day (with 24 hour notice to the borough), life insurance coverage raised from \$30,000 to \$35,000, and short term weekly disability raised from \$300.00 to \$325.00.

**A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to hire John Poko as a part-time worker (30-32 hours per week) in the Public Works Department at the current pay rate. The motion was second Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion unanimously passed.**

Council considered the letter from the Civil Service Commission showing the examination dates (written exam 1/28/17, physical agility exam 2/18/17, oral exam 3/18/17) and eligibility list of officers to be considered for full time officers for the Lansford Police Department. The two qualified officers are Anthony Leonard Campanell Jr. and Joseph Robert Starosta. Additionally, the Commission reported that oral testing for Sergeant of Police was held 3/18/17 and written exams have been ordered from the Pa. Chiefs Commission. Mayor James Romankow recommended hiring two police officers. **John Turcmanovich made a motion to hire the 2 officer candidates as listed, employment being conditioned on successful physical, psychological and polygraph testing. The motion was second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, motion passed.**

Regarding the two letters of interest in purchasing borough owned property at 201 W. Bertsch Street, one from David Bargerone for his client restaurateur Frank Longo and one from Howard Tokash, Delray Beach, Florida, who expresses no plan to develop the property and it could remain a community garden. The property was advertised for sale at auction two times without a successful bidder. **Joseph Butrie made a motion to have Attorney Greek conduct a private sale of the property at a price not less than \$2,300.00 and include wording that the sidewalk would be replaced, per borough ordinance, as a condition of the sale. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor and the motion passed.**

Approval was given to Chief Soberick to send letters to part-time officers no longer working in the borough to return borough issued items.

Regarding the demolition of the former Jet Data building, 101 W. Ridge Street, (100 W Patterson Street) by Joe Bennett; work was stopped due to possibility of asbestos. **Joseph Butrie made a motion to have President Martin Ditsky write a letter to the borough code enforcement company, Lehigh Valley VIS to write a letter to Joe Bennet telling them to proceed with demolition of 100 W. Ridge Street. Second by Jared Soto, all were in favor, all approved**

**Joe Butrie Made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jill Seigendall  
Secretary Treasurer*