

The August 9, 2017 meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held at the borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall. Councilmen attending were President Martin Ditsky, Vice President Rose Mary Cannon, Joseph (Joe) Butrie, Jared Soto, John Turcmanovich and Solicitor Michael Greek. Absent were councilmen Matthew Walsh and Colin Jones.

Public Courtesy:

Mary Soberick, 109 W Abbott Street, requested that the June 14, 2017 council minutes be corrected. Two of the public courtesy paragraphs of June 14, 2017 meeting minutes refer to Mary Soberick being let go from her position as borough secretary/treasurer and this is incorrect. The position which was being spoken of is Zoning Officer. One paragraph is when Joe Genits spoke and the other is when she replied to his comments. Solicitor Greek advised that confirmation of the language be checked with the audio.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to correct the June 14, 2017 minutes in the two paragraphs under Public Courtesy; changing the wording from 'Secretary/Treasurer' to 'Zoning Officer'. The motion was seconded by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Jay Gallagher, 8 Leisenring Street, asked who enforces the Moving Permit Ordinance. Mayor Romankow said that the police enforce all ordinances. Joe Butrie urged residents to call the office or police to report suspicious moving vans & u-hauls. Irene Novak, suggested the borough erect a sign stating that Moving Permits are required.

Bob Silver, 17 E. Ridge Street, asked about the status of the properties he reported last month that owed Sewer Transmission fees. Mike Greek explained that the property owner of those parcels is in Chapter 13 Bankruptcy. Mr. Silver said he found some delinquent Sewer Transmission accounts and asked why the water was not turned off at these properties. Mr. Silvers was directed to bring the properties to the borough office for research.

Don Gildea, 107 W. Kline Avenue, sees the topic "inlets" listed on the Agenda under unfinished business. He saw Keystone Engineering employees on the street with a flashlight looking into inlets. He asked how many inlets will be replaced. Martin explained, we don't know when the inlets will be replaced, originally there were 15 inlets on Patterson Street to be replaced, however right now 8 were cleaned to be replaced. Penn DOT was going to pay to replace the 8 inlets but now, because of the combined sewer system in town, all must be paid by the borough.

Sandray Scinicariello, 33 W. Bertsch Street, said she is having a problem with rats since the Palace and Jet Data buildings (101 W. Bertsch and 100 W. Ridge Streets) have been demolished. She said people are taking photos and videos of drug deals going on in town and she has called the police to the Turkey Hill parking lot to pick up needles last year and was told it is under investigation. She has also been asking to have the crosswalk painted in the unit block of Patterson Street between the mini mall and Turkey Hill. Joe Butrie explained Patterson Street is a state road and PennDOT does not recognize a crosswalk in the middle of a block. She also voiced opposition to the fact that Susquehanna Trailways Buses will no longer come to PA after Aug 31st.

Irma Leibensperger, 164 W. Ridge Street, thanked the police department for doing a great job; her garage door was open and they notified her.

Mark Jancsics, 408 W. Bertsch Street, filed a complaint about 512 E. Bertsch St. He said code compliance is not aware that his complaint exists. He spoke about the 3 strike rule in the Residential Rental Licensing Ordinance. He will be in Monday to file another complaint.

Approval of Minutes:

The Meeting Minutes for the July 12, 2017 meeting were reviewed by council. John Turcmanovich said a change was needed in the description of the building that formerly stood at 201 W. Bertsch Street. The building was demolished by the borough due to the roof collapsing (not by fire as written in the draft minutes).

A motion was made by Jared Soto to accept the minutes with the correction. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Zoning Hearing Board Appointment:

Due to the death of Joseph Orsulak, a vacancy exists on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Orsulak's unexpired term (until December 31, 2017) needs to be filled as well as an alternate position.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to adopt a resolution to appoint Tim Kurchak, a resident of the Borough of Lansford, to serve as a member of the Lansford Borough Zoning Hearing Board to fulfill the unexpired term, vacated by the death of board member Joe Orsulak, term ending 12/31/2017. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to adopt a resolution to appoint Bob Silver to serve as the alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board, term ending 12/31/2017. The motion was second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence was reviewed from the following:

- **Public Notice** - Zoning Hearing for Joe Bennett scheduled Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m. in borough hall related to the construction of a medical office building and related parking at 101 W. Bertsch and 100 W. Ridge Sts.
- **Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority minutes**, June 28, 2017 meeting.
- Lansford Alive letter from Donna Valent asking to hold **Annual Vendor Craft Fair 9/30/17**. Valent will submit a Special Event form.

The following correspondence received in July was not copied to conserve paper, copies were available on request:

- Invitation to PSAB Fall Leadership conference, Oct 13-15, 2017 at Kalahari Resorts, Pocono Manor.
- PSAB Municipal Budgeting Class Sept 19th in Wilkes-Barre
- Invitation to NEPA Annual Dinner 6:00 p.m. 9/28/17 at the Hilton Scranton Conference Center
- UNIVEST Second Quarter Report on the Police Pension Plan
- DCED - Keystone Communities Program Funding Guidelines
- List of Emergency Services Training coordinated by Carbon County EMA
- Tamaqua Transfer & Recycling Tonnage Report January through June. Garbage 1,019.18 tons ;Recycling 54.78 tons

Committee Reports:

Municipal Administration – Rose Mary Cannon read the August 2, 2017 meeting report which included budget preparation, Edgemont Bridge, plans for the borough garage, siding for the Elks building, switching bank accounts from Key Bank to Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank, and code inspections. It was discovered that the borough has been paying the quarterly sewer bill for the American Fire Company building at 26 E. Patterson Street, former location of the borough office prior to 2012. It is believed that when the borough office moved from 26 E. Patterson Street the sewer authority never corrected the address and the borough office staff assumed it was for the current building location, 1 W. Ridge Street, because the LC Joint Water Authority changed its billing address for the borough office. After investigation it was discovered that the CLSH Sewer Authority waives the quarterly bill for the borough office, 1 W. Ridge Street. The Am. Fire Company bill, 26 W. Patterson Street, will now be mailed to the fire company building at 26 W. Patterson Street. Over the past four and a half years the bill paid on behalf of the fire company totals \$748.00.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have the Coaldale Lansford Summit Hill Sewer Authority correct the address and from now on, send the sewer bill for 26 E. Patterson Street (The fire house location) to the American Fire Company. No effort will be made to collect \$748.00 from the Fire Company. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Regarding the Elks building; there has been a delay in installing the siding on the neighboring building at 4 E. Ridge Street, owner is Mary Demyanovich.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to have the president of council send a letter to William Williams of Northeast Industrial Services Corporation asking if a contractor has been approved to do the job and if there is a timetable for completion. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, motion passed.

Public Safety – John Turcmanovich read the July 31st meeting written report. Highlights included discussion of the closure of Tunnel Street between E. Ridge Street & Snyder Avenue and police department electrical contractor inspections and upgrade by electrician Jim Dulcey. There are reports of car repairs being done on borough streets. The public will be made aware through social media and newspaper articles that this is illegal.

Civil Service Commission – Commission Chairman John Turcmanovich reported that physical and written testing for full time officer applicants will be held on August 26th By Gibson Associates. Mayor Romankow asked if sergeant testing will also be held. Turcmanovich explained that both candidates for sergeant need to be working. At the present time Officer Shawn Nunemacher is off of work due to a car accident. Sergeant testing will be considered if Officer Nunemacher is back to work.

Fire Department – American Fire Co. July report enclosed. The department responded to 12 calls in July; 7 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale, and 1 undefined.

Ambulance – The Leighton Ambulance responded to Lansford 57 times in July with an average response time of 9.12 minutes from the time of dispatch to time of arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – The July report shows a monthly total of \$1,920.38 and a year to date total of \$20,658.02

Police Report – The July Police report showed 11 criminal arrests, 15 traffic citations, 5 non-traffic citations, 7 parking/ordinance tickets, and 26 Quality of Life Tickets.

Parks & Recreation – Aug 2, 2017 meeting report was read by Rose Mary Cannon. Two estimates were received for a chain link fence at Kashmer's Basketball court; \$3,035.00 from Valley Home Improvements and \$1,500.00 from Sterling Electric and Remodeling.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to accept the \$1,500.00 bid for fencing from Sterling Electric and Remodeling. The motion was second by Joe Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

At 7:41 p.m. Mayor Jim Romankow left the building.

The prices of swings are being researched. Replacements are needed for 2 baby swings destroyed due to children needing to be cut out of the rubber baby swings. The price for a handicap accessible swing is \$940.00. A sign will be erected about weight restrictions. A dirt pile has been deposited by a resident blocking a borough owned parcel of property at the south end of Tunnel Street where there is a basketball court. Rose Mary Cannon asked the borough to write a letter to the person who dumped the dirt there. Martin Ditsky said he will sign the letter. Cannon also explained that a line item for tree maintenance should be included in the 2018 budget and also a line item for public works summer time part-time help. Jared Soto sent out specs to get estimates for resurfacing the skate park and basketball court; to get an idea of the cost to resurface in spring 2018. Soto is also looking into

PennDOT's Adopt a Highway Program, a two year agreement to clean up the area between Lansford and Summit Hill. Another area considered is property between Lansford and Coaldale along the pool.

Public Works – Martin Ditsky read the July 31st meeting report. Paving has been done, with the assistance of shared services, on a section of Center Street between W. Abbott & W. Bertsch Streets, Sharpe Street between W. Water and W. Abbott Street, Cummings Road near Water Street, and a section of Dock Street. Eight sewer inlets have been cleaned in preparation for Route 209/ Patterson Street PennDOT repaving project. The borough is looking to purchase 2 pieces of equipment; a line painter \$1,197.00 and a welder. Parking meters between Tunnel & Coal Streets need to be repaired. The borough employees need to be recertified to repair them. Line painting is requested on E. & W. Water Street, W. Patterson Street, and W. Bertsch Street.

Community Development / Planning/Zoning – July 31st meeting, no quorum, no meeting. Martin Ditsky asked Jared Soto to serve on the committee with Joseph Butrie, Matthew Walsh and Colin Jones. Jared accepted the appointment.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – The COG Auction is scheduled to be held September 30th at the East Penn Social Hall in Ashfield beginning at 9 a.m. All items to be sold must be at the social hall by Sept 27th. All items need to be catalogued and labeled for Houser auctioneer. Rose Mary Cannon and Martin Ditsky will identify the items the Borough will put up for sale. Mayor James Romankow returns to the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Carbon County Tax Committee – Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9/20/17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lehigh Area School District administrative office.

Tax Collectors Report – July report enclosed. Borough taxes collected in July total \$107,901.39. Total collected in 2017 to July 31, 2017 is \$831,823.92.

Code Compliance – July Report from Zoning Officer Duane Dellecker enclosed.

Treasurer's Report - Bills to be approved total \$73,578.90; General Fund \$15,450.93, Liquid Fuels Fund \$20,361.15, Sanitation \$25,335.84, Sewer Transmission \$12,131.19, Park & Recreation \$299.79. Council packet includes: Income Statements, Checking Account balances, and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for all funds.

Motion to pay the bills totaling \$73,578.90 was made by Rose Mary Cannon. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, motion passed.

2017 End of Month Balances

Acct No	Account Title	June	July
0132	General Acct	\$491,358.54	\$399,917.34
0222	Sanitation Fund	\$69,097.08	\$103,648.56
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,529.42	\$51,538.17
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,155.99	\$164,183.87
4685	Escrow for 22 W(E) Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4842	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.04	\$2,180.04
1905	Lansford Pool Account	\$1,329.78	\$41,330.35
3886	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$110,017.80	\$108,691.03
4585	DCED Grant/Fire Co	\$0.00	\$0.00
5537	Sewage Transmission	\$190,753.81	\$175,464.71
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,638.45	\$202,648.45
5772	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$36,175.81	\$36,318.72
6036	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,155.74	\$12,155.75
6283	Fire	\$53,129.45	\$50,116.39
6291	Recreation	\$92,772.68	\$38,366.21
6309	Street Lights	\$27,562.65	\$40,965.57
		\$1,507,857.24	\$1,430,525.16

Loan#	Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
899-5	Sewer Transm#5537	1,198,251.55	1,183,867.43
0059	General Fund#0132	45,000.00	0.00
0060	Street Light Fund#6309	154,859.11	154,859.11
63501	Liquid Fuels #3886	42,486.70	42,486.70
New	Gen Fund or LST	36,521.57	36,521.57
		1,477,118.93	1,417,734.81

Solicitor's Report: Michael Greek reviewed the following correspondence he sent to the borough:

- For 201 W. Bertsch Street property sale - filing of 2 Mortgage Satisfaction Pieces; \$7,207.58 & \$10,000.00 parcel 122A1-25-D24, originally for Renie Weaver and filing of Praecipecto to Satisfy municipal lien No 2002-2631 originally filed 11/18/2002 in the amount of \$164,657.60.
- Filed a temporary easement at 6 E. Ridge Street to the benefit of neighboring 4 E. Ridge Street, in the Recorder of Deeds Office.
- Notice of Appeal and opinion of Judge Serfass regarding Sheriff sale and distribution of taxes in the Panther Valley School District vs. CC Tax Claim case
- Condemnation by Lansford Borough of easements for sewer improvements on the line in the 300 block of W. Abbott & W. Water Streets; all property owners have been served.
- Sheriff sale of 22 Tunnel Street; mortgage foreclosure
- Complaint, Pretrial Memorandum, response, and reconvene of civil trial (September 22, 2017) regarding Jesse Hiles vs. Lansford Borough civil case docket no. 16-2229

Unfinished Business :

Request from CC Tax Claim - Asking the borough to forgive \$845.72 portion of borough taxes, for 435 W. Patterson Street, due to sheriff sale. At the May meeting Attorney Greek looked into the request. He will respond to the situation again.

Brimble's Wall/ update – No new information

Inlet replacement/update – was discussed in public courtesy and during public works report.

Edgemont Bridge – An example quote (for a Plymouth Township bridge) of \$11,380.00 was received through Senator John Yudicahk's office for a Portable Bridge from ADM Welding & Fabrication, Warren PA. Martin Ditsky called the company and found out the bridge could be put in place within 6 to 10 hours if there is an emergency. The portable bridge can be made into a permanent bridge. Emergency Management Agency Mark Nalesnick has been advised of the condition of the bridge. Martin Ditsky asked for a motion to have a structural engineer look at the bridge

A motion was made by Joe Butrie to have a structural engineer from Keystone Engineering inspect Edgemont Bridge. Rose Mary Cannon seconds the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Ditsky estimates that it will cost \$2,000.00 for the engineer's inspection. He noted that Penn DOT, the railroad, and DEP, will need to be involved in the rehab or replacement of the bridge.

Parking Lot Survey – The parking lot in the 300 block between W. Patterson & W. Bertsch Streets was surveyed by Mike Kafkalas at a cost of \$1,200.00. No action was taken on the topic.

Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance SALDO - reminder for the Planning Commission to meet.

New Business:

Review of a Special Event Application and proof of insurance from Lansford Alive to hold its 5th Annual Fall Craft Festival on 9/30/2017 in the downtown section (unit block of W. Ridge Street) of Lansford.

A motion was made by Joe Butrie to approve the Fall Craft Festival event for 9/30/2017. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Review of a Special Event Application, without the required insurance information, from Jesse Hiles to hold an ACS fund raiser at the Sports Zoo, 390 W. Snyder Avenue, "Zoostock 2017" on 9/4/17.

Joe Butrie made a motion to approve the event "Zoostock 2017" conditioned upon receipt of proof of insurance. There was discussion about the notation on the application asking to have W. Ridge and Cortright Streets blocked and use of the borough basketball court for parking. The streets must allow for egress in the event of an emergency. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor except for Martin Ditsky who voted no. The motion passed.

Review of a Special Event Application and proof of insurance from Kerri Quick of St. Luke's University Hospital Miners to hold a 5K Run/Walk beginning at the Panther Valley Stadium to Coaldale and back, on 9/16/17.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve St. Luke's 5K Run/Walk event scheduled for 9/16/17. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Police Department Copy Machine – A quote was received from Cyan Sky Copiers for purchase and/or lease of a copier/printer for the police department; purchase price \$2,590.00. The copier is model Kyocera 360ci.

A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to purchase the copier for \$2,590.00 plus the \$90 quarterly maintenance fee. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

PPL Street Light Conversion to LED - Christy Stenglar, Business Account Specialist with PPL Electric Utilities, sent the borough an e-mail asking whether the borough is interested in converting its 336 street lights to LED. Christy states there is no upfront cost to the borough and she attached the study and estimated savings to the borough of about \$215.00 per month. Payment of this PPL bill is from the Streetlight Tax account.

A motion was made by Jared Soto to convert the streetlights to LED bulbs as proposed by PPL with no upfront cost to the borough. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky. On roll call vote, Martin Ditsky, Jared Soto and Rose Mary Cannon voted for the motion. John Turcmanovich and Joe Butrie voted against the motion. Motion passes.

Council reviewed a request from Carbon County Tax Claim about a bid of \$774.00 on Repository property, 223 W Kline Ave, parcel 122A1-25-E29. Tax Claim requests approval or disapproval of the sale. The purchaser is Mazzella Enterprises.

Joe Butrie made a motion to approve the sale. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

At 8:45 p.m. President Ditsky called for a short break followed by Executive session to discuss personnel, update council on the status of negotiations for full time police officers and Teamsters crossing guards contracts as well as the Hiles civil suit.

At 9:00 p.m. Council came out of executive session.

John Turcmanovich made a motion to have Attorney Greek complete a petition to appoint a Board of Review for the borough property in the Hiles vs. Lansford Borough civil suit. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Adjournment:

Joseph Butrie made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed and the group dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer