

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

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

**BID OPENING** - Five bids for heating fuel oil were opened and read by Martin Ditsky (all are fixed prices):

Peter J. Radocha & Sons, Coaldale	1.779/gallon
Kattner Coal & Oil Co., Nesquehoning	1.699/gallon
Evans Coal & Fuel Oil, Summit Hill	1.769/gallon
K & K Oil Co. Lehighton	1.850/gallon
Fegley Oil Co., Tamaqua	1.799/gallon

**A motion was made by Jared Soto to accept the lowest bid \$1.699/gallon from Kattner Coal & Oil Company for the contract year August 1, 2017 through July 31, 2018. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### Public Courtesy

**Christopher Ondrus**, 10 Edgemont Road, asked about the Agenda item "uncopied correspondence" from Attorney Michael Greek regarding the civil suit between Barbara Goncalves and the borough. The solicitor was not in attendance to respond to the question. Ondrus asked whether any policy is considered for security of the borough office and the distribution of office keys. Jared Soto said he contacted Summit Hill and they do not have a written policy. Ondrus demanded an answer from each member of council for their opinion on the topic. Ditsky said he appreciated the interest. Ondrus pointed out that in the Elks project bid documents the contractor is required to pay for all permits however 2 permit payments (one \$50 & one \$150) were approved at last months' meeting. The borough secretary will submit the invoices for reimbursement from Northeast Demolition Services.

**Bob Silver**, 17 E. Ridge Street, asked about the accuracy of the March 8, 2017 minutes stating that \$18,000.00 was approved for siding of the adjoining building at 4 E. Ridge Street as part of the Elk's demolition at 6 E. Ridge Street. There was consideration to correct the minutes however after investigation it is noted that the March 8<sup>th</sup> minutes are correct. Mr. Silver questioned why there were high balances on the Sewer Transmission accounts of a borough landlord and he believes there are 288 vacant properties in the borough.

**Jennifer Maynard**, 4 Edgemont Road, asked whether there is a timeline for restoration of Edgemont Bridge. She is concerned about the school bus going over the bridge when classes begin in the Fall. Ditsky explained a metal plate has been placed over the hole on the bridge. He met with Bill Hanley from U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright's Office for funding for the project as well as PA Representative Doyle Heffley's Office and alternative methods to repair the bridge. He is waiting to hear from Bill Hanley.

**Joseph Butrie**, 443 E. Ridge Street, asked if Marie Ondrus and Irma Leibensperger are members of Lansford Alive. Both answered yes.

### Minute's approval:

The June 14, 2017 meeting minutes were considered for approval. Joseph Butrie asked that it be inserted into the minutes that he left the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and John Turcmanovich made a correction on the price and leasing of Tasers.

**John Turcmanovich made a motion to lease four Tasers From AXON for five years at a cost of about \$1,200.00 per year, the quote states \$6,037.32 total. The motion was second by Martin Ditsky. Jared Soto**

wanted to see more options. On roll call vote John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon and Joseph Butrie voted yes. Jared Soto and Matthew Walsh Voted no because they feel more options should be considered. Motion passed.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes with the noted corrections. Martin Ditsky seconds the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

**Correspondence Reviewed by council included:**

- LCJ Water Authority meeting minutes; May 24, 2017”
- A letter from resident Mary Demyanovich, 4 E. Ridge Street, regarding Elks demolition was read by Martin Ditsky. Rose Mary Cannon said the situation has been referred to Eric Snyder and the situation is being taken care of.
- **Martin Ditsky read a letter of resignation from Park & Recreation Board member Kevin Soberick effective immediately. The letter was accepted with regret with a motion made by Matthew Wash. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.**
- A letter requesting Heart & Lung Benefits from Officer Shawn Nunemacher was read by Martin Ditsky. Officer Shawn Nunemacher was injured in a car accident on 7/28/17. While on duty he was delivering paperwork to the District Magistrates office in his own vehicle, traveling east on E. Patterson Street when he was hit by a motorist traveling north on Springgarden Street, running a red light.  
**John Turcmanovich made a motion to approve the Heart & Lung benefits for Officer Shawn Nunemacher. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**Correspondence requiring no action, copies not enclosed to conserve paper, copy available on request:**

- PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program funding - opportunity to improve public transportation
- Auditor General’s Liquid Fuels Audit for the period January 2015 through December 31, 2016
- Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh Accountants, Closing Audit on the Streetscape Grant No. C000057591 and acknowledgement of receipt from DCED.
- Hutchinson Gillahan & Freeh Accountants, 2016 DCED-CLGS 30 Annual Financial Audit
- Notice of Property Assessment revisions from CC Tax Assessment office
- Notification of judgement entered in favor of the borough in the case of Carole German vs. Lansford Borough regarding Sewer Transmission fee.
- From Michael Greek, Esq., Preliminary Objections filed by Robert Yurchak, Esq. on behalf of Joseph Genits in the case of Barbara Goncalves, et.al Vs. Steve Meylach, et.al No. 16-3231
- Letter from Carbon Engineering notifying the borough of the CLSH Sewer Authority’s intent to renew its discharge permit for the existing sewage treatment plant
- Carbon County Opiate Task Force, Three Year Strategic Plan, May 2017-May 2020
- Magisterial District Court 56-3-03 – 2016 Statement of receipts, disbursements with all county municipalities.

**Committee Reports:**

**Municipal Administration** – The July 5, 2017 meeting report was enclosed for councils review. Rose Mary Cannon commented on the publics’ scrutiny and insinuation that council is not being transparent with its finances. She explained her position on what has transpired in the past year; volunteers were not approved to update the Residential Rental Licensing list and as retaliation the office has been barraged with Right To Know Requests to the point that it affects the productivity of the borough office. Surrounding municipalities were contacted to see whether residents help with public billing, none do this.

**Public Safety** – The June 26, 2017 meeting was not held.

**Civil Service Commission** – advertised deadline for full time police applications is today, There are four applicants.

**Fire Department** – American Fire Co. June reported shows the company answered 10 calls in June; 6 in Lansford, 2 in Summit Hill and 2 in Nesquehoning.

**Ambulance** – The Lehigh Ambulance June report shows responses to 64 incidents with an average response time of 8.52 minutes.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Romankow congratulated Lansford Alive for the Ethnic Festival, the Fridays in Lansford Program, and the No. 9 Mine Museum for Heritage Days. The June Mayors report totaled \$1,641.17 and the year to date total is \$18,737.64.

**Police Report** – Arrest report shows 31 Criminal Arrests, 22 Traffic citations, 14 non traffic citations, 1 meter ticket, 13 parking/ordinance tickets and 33 Quality of Life tickets. Juvenile probation workers cut weeds and grass and an adult on probation is scheduled to perform community service in the borough.

**Mayor James Romankow left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.**

**Parks & Recreation** – The July 5, 2017 meeting report was reviewed. There is one estimate \$3,035.00 from Valley Home Improvements for a fence at Kasmer's basketball court. Cannon spoke on the value of park & recreation and its association to home values and the health of a community and its residents. Jared Soto showed a sketch and reported on relocating and resurfacing the skate park as well as lighting and installing a basketball court.

**A motion was made by Jared Soto to allow the Farmers Market to be held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> instead of June 16<sup>th</sup> due to the forecast of rain on Friday. Rose Mary Cannon second the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.**

**Public Works** – The June 26, 2017 committee meeting was not held, no quorum.

**Community Development / Planning/Zoning** – The June 26, 2017 committee meeting was not held, no quorum, however Duane Dellecker, from Lehigh Valley Inspection Service, spoke with Martin Ditsky and Matthew Walsh about the inconsistency between the borough's zoning ordinance requiring fencing for pools containing water 2 ½ feet deep or more and the state code requiring fencing for pools containing water over 2 feet deep.

**A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to advertise an Ordinance to amend the Lansford Borough Zoning Ordinance, Section 306, Private Noncommercial Swimming Pools, to match the state pool water depth of 2 feet or greater. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**Mayor returned to the meeting at 7:50 p.m.**

**Tax Collectors Report** – The June report was reviewed. Borough taxes collected in June total \$23,570.22. 2017 collections to June 30, 2017 total \$704,018.35.

**Code Compliance** – The June report shows that 40 past due notices were sent for Residential Rental Licensing, 13 final notices were sent, and 5 inspections and 23 reinspections were performed. Nine property maintenance complaints were investigated.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bills to be approved total \$16,540.87; General Fund \$10,499.79, Liquid Fuels Fund \$1,050.58, Sewer Transmission \$2,178.11, Park & Recreation \$2,468.37, Sanitation \$344.02. Council's meeting packet includes Income Statements, Checking Account balances, and Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for all funds.

2017 End of Month Balances

Acct No	Account Title	May	June
0132	General Acct	\$511,579.12	\$491,358.54
0222	Sanitation Fund	\$88,738.81	\$69,097.08
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,520.95	\$51,529.42
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,129.01	\$164,155.99
4685	Escrow for 22 W(E) Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4842	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.00	\$2,180.04
1905	Lansford Pool Account	\$1,329.76	\$1,329.78
3886	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$111,068.61	\$110,017.80
4585	DCED Grant/Fire Co	\$0.00	\$0.00

5537	Sewage Transmission	\$199,278.42	\$190,753.81
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,628.13	\$202,638.45
5772	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$36,137.29	\$36,175.81
6036	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,155.73	\$12,155.74
6283	Fire	\$47,257.50	\$53,129.45
6291	Recreation	\$73,459.55	\$92,772.68
6309	Street Lights	\$31,733.15	\$27,562.65
		<b>\$1,536,196.03</b>	<b>\$1,507,857.24</b>
<b>Loan#</b>	<b>Paid from Fund</b>	<b>Est Balance</b>	<b>Est Balance</b>
899-5	Project/Sewer Transm#5537	1,212,580.63	1,198,251.55
0059	TAN/ General Fund#0132	125,000.00	45,000.00
0060	MEM/Street Light Fund#6309	154,859.11	154,859.11
00635	Loader/ Liquid Fuels #3886	42,486.70	42,486.70
New	Explorer/Gen Fund or LST	36,521.57	36,521.57
		<b>1,571,448.01</b>	<b>1,477,118.93</b>

Jared Soto made a motion to pay the remaining balance of \$45,000.00 on the 2017 Tax Anticipation Note plus interest to M & T Bank. The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor, motion passed.

A motion to pay the bills totaling \$16,540.87 was made by Matthew Walsh. Rose Mary Cannon seconds the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

#### Unfinished Business

**Brimble's Wall** - An estimate of \$35,250.00 was received from Axis Stabilization to repair the wall.

A motion was made by Joe Butrie to have Eric Snyder of Keystone Engineers prepare bid documents to proceed with the project. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. After some discussion priorities put the restoration of Edgemont Bridge first because the road along the wall, Brimble's Alley, can be closed if necessary, whereas Edgemont Bridge cannot be closed for any extended amount of time. The motion was rescinded by Joe Butrie. Council was advised to look at the wall and the bridge for discussion at the August meeting. A motion to table the issue was made by Martin Ditsky.

**Mayor leaves the meeting at 8:05 p.m.**

**Borough Property Sale – 201 W. Bertsch Street** – Frank L. Enterprises, purchaser of the property, requests that two mortgages and one municipal lien be discharged before the property is legally transferred. Council was aware of the encumbrances and made the following motions:

A motion was made by Jared Soto to record a Mortgage Satisfaction Piece to discharge the \$7,207.58 debt on parcel 122A1-25-D24, 201 W. Bertsch Street, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Carbon County, PA. (the mortgage was originally recorded to Renie Weaver on 6/27/97 in Mortgage Book 708, Page 699.) The motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by Rose Mary Cannon to record a Mortgage Satisfaction Piece to discharge the \$10,000.00 debt on parcel 122A1-25-D24, 201 W. Bertsch Street, in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Carbon County, PA (the mortgage was originally recorded to Renie Weaver on 11/10/94 in Mortgage Book 601, Page 410.) The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to record a Praecepto To Satisfy to discharge the debt of \$164,000.00 on parcel 122A1-25-D24 for municipal lien No 02-2631 in the amount of \$164,657.50, (originally recorded against Renie Weaver 11/18/2002). The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed. It was explained that this lien was originally placed on the property when the building, housing three floors of automobile tires, was demolished at the borough's expense following a roof collapse.

**Blighted Property Ordinance** - Council reviewed revised Ordinance 2017-04.

**A Motion was made by Joseph Butrie to advertise Ordinance 2017-04 as written. Martin Ditsky seconds the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**VISA CommUNITY Credit Card** - At the June meeting Sec. Treas. Seigendall explained that some vendors will only take credit cards; (Staples & Amazon) and both she and Asst. Sec. Treas. Wendy Butrie have used their person credit cards to save money purchasing office supplies. Seigendall asked that the borough apply for a VISA CommUNITY Credit Card, used by municipalities, with only one person in charge of the card.

**Joseph Butrie made a motion for Jill Seigendall to apply for the VISA CommUNITY credit card on behalf of the borough. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**Key Bank** - Sec. Treas. Jill Seigendall explained the banking situation with Key Bank; new fees, previously waived, are being charged on the borough's twelve accounts on the June banking statements, amounting to \$87.59.

BANK	ACCT NO	Account Title
KEY Bank	0132	General Acct
KEY Bank	0222	Sanitation Fund
KEY Bank	4685	Escrow for 22 W(E) Kline Ave
KEY Bank	4842	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave
KEY Bank	1905	Lansford Pool Account
KEY Bank	3886	Treasurers Special HiWay
KEY Bank	5537	Sewage Transmission
KEY Bank	5772	Local Service Tax/EIT
KEY Bank	6036	Sanitation Fund Mny Mkt Acct
KEY Bank	6283	Fire
KEY Bank	6291	Recreation
KEY Bank	6309	Street Lights

Community Bank, 12 W. Ridge Street, sent a proposal with a comparison of charges showing fewer fees however Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank does not have the new fees and was more in line with the borough's past banking experience (before Key Bank acquired First Niagara Bank and initiated the new fee charges.)

**Joseph Butrie made a motion to move the twelve borough accounts held at Key Bank to Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Mayor Romankow returns to the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

### **New Business:**

**Office Alarm System** - It was discovered that the current emergency alarm notification system in the borough office does not automatically notify the 911 Communications Center. A quote was received from Control Security of Jim Thorpe to install an alarm system (panic button system) for \$745.00. This will work in coordination with the Carbon County Telecommunications Center which will charge the borough \$75.00 a year.

**Matthew Walsh made a motion to have the existing alarm system from My Alarm System discontinued and the new alarm system installed by Control Security at a price of \$745.00. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**Phone System** - A quote of \$6,659.29 was received from Guyette Communication Industries to install a NEC SV9100 Communication Server to combine the phone lines for the borough office, code office & police department. Once installed the system would be billed monthly by Blue Ridge Communications for business. The Blue Ridge quote for 12 months is \$217.70 per month. Council asked that more quotes be obtained and the subject was tabled by Rose Mary Cannon & Martin Ditsky.

Matt Walsh left the meeting at this time, before executive session.

James Romankow left the meeting at this time, before executive session.

**Executive Session:** Personnel issues, contract negotiations for full time police, Teamsters crossing guards, & final Teamsters contract for public works were to be discussed.

Out of executive session at 9:30 p.m., Martin Ditsky appointed Joseph Butrie and Jared Soto to serve on the negotiating committee for the Teamsters Crossing Guard contract and the full time police contract.

**A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve the Public Works Teamsters 773 Contract as written. Martin Ditsky seconds the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Butrie, second by Rose Mary Cannon. All were in favor and the group disbursed.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jill Seigendall*  
Secretary Treasurer