

The July Lansford Borough Council meeting was held 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street. The meeting was called to order by President Jared Soto and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken by secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall. Council persons attending were Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Irma Leibensperger and Mayor James Romankow. Attorney Michael Greek arrived at 6:37 p.m. after the opening of Fuel Oil bids. Absent were council persons Matthew Walsh and John Turcmanovich.

Executive Session

President Soto called the group into executive session to discuss property options to house the borough public works department; the borough garage and personnel issues.

Bid Opening for Heating Fuel Oil

President Soto opened the following sealed bid envelopes for heating fuel oil for the upcoming contract year August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Price per Gallon</u>
Kattner Coal & Oil, Inc.	33 W Railroad St, Nesquehoning	\$2.399 (bid written \$239.9)
Evans Coal & Fuel Oil	309 W. Holland St, Summit Hill	\$2.499
K & K Oil Company	1257 Municipal Road, Lehighton	\$2.21
Fegley Oil Company, Inc.	551 West Penn Pike, Tamaqua	.10 per gallon off the daily price

(Fegley Oil did not give a fixed price per gallon so the bid was disqualified from consideration)

Joseph Butrie said that the bid does not need to be awarded to the lowest bidder that it goes to the lowest “responsible” bidder. He said the low bidder, K & K Oil (\$2.21/gallon), was the borough’s oil provider in a past contract year and there were incidences of missed deliveries.

Joe Butrie made a motion to approve the second highest bidder, Kattner Coal & Oil Company (\$2.399/gallon). The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger, all were in agreement and the motion passed.

Attorney Greek arrived after Mr. Blum’s request was resolved (below) in public courtesy, former council woman Rose Mary Cannon asked whether the incidences of missed oil delivery were documented in case K & K Oil Company challenges the approval of Kattner Coal & Oil’s bid. Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall said she did not recall any delivery problems with K & K Oil and there was no documentation. On advice of Attorney Greek, Joseph Butrie rescinded his previous motion and all agreed the situation required a new motion and all votes were withdrawn.

Bob Silver made a motion to accept the K & K Oil Company \$2.21 per gallon bid for the 2018-2019 contract year. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor except Joseph Butrie, motion passed.

Handicap Parking Request

Daniel Blum was denied a street side handicap parking spot at the June 13th council meeting and asked why he was denied after the handicap parking committee recommended approval. Additionally, he asked council to change the handicap parking ordinance to allow applicants to apply for a handicap parking space if they possess a handicap placard, before having the expense of obtaining a handicap plate because he spent \$51.00 to get a plate, as required by the ordinance, and he was denied the parking spot. He asked council to take another vote on his application. Attorney Greek arrived during Mr. Blum’s statement and Jared Soto asked whether another vote may be taken. Attorney Greek said that another vote can be taken and Jared Soto asked for a motion.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to take another vote on Daniel Blum’s handicap parking application. The motion was second by Jared Soto. On roll call vote: Joseph Butrie voted no because he did not review the application, Jared Soto voted yes, Bob Silver voted yes, Marie Ondrus voted yes, Irma Leibensperger yes. Motion passed; 1 no, 4 yes.

Public Courtesy

To run a more efficient meeting, Jared Soto read a statement of procedure for public input asking the speakers to keep to the 3 minute time limit and gave other options to the public: attend a committee meeting, write a statement or comment to be answered by mail, phone, or e-mail, submit a Right to Know Form or contact president Soto through the borough office.

Theresa Papay, 100 W. Abbott Street, is concerned about the safety of a new bus stop at the intersection of W. Abbott and Coal Streets. She reported littering, parking, safety concerns, and rumors of drug dealing at this intersection. She said children for the school summer program are already sitting and playing on her lawn. She asked why this location was picked, why there was no notification, and asked for reconsideration. Jared Soto said he had a meeting in April with authorities at the Panther Valley School District and more bus stops were made because the existing stop at 15 E. Bertsch Street, (the former middle school next to the fire company) was too big and there were safety and parking concerns. He will bring up Mrs. Papay's concerns with the school. Joseph Butrie suggested Mrs. Papay post no trespassing signs and tell the police department of her concerns.

Gail Yasson, 20 W. Abbott Street, said she sees drug dealing and needles near the same new bus stop location, multiple times a day. Council woman Marie Ondrus lives in this neighborhood and agrees with Mrs. Papay and Mrs. Yasson.

Samantha Rose, 40 Coal Street, said that often, drivers don't stop at this intersection and she is concerned about its safety. She also voiced her opinion against the new bus stop.

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, asked whether there was any advertisement of the new bus stops and said this should be done so the residents affected can voice their opinions before the start of the school year in September.

Jesse Hiles, 390 W. Snyder Avenue, doesn't understand why he has two sewage transmission fee bills when there is only one water line to his property. Jared Soto explained the \$90.00 yearly sewage transmission fee is per residential or business unit not per line. Mr. Hiles owns a business (Sports Zoo Bar) and his home. Bob Silver said he is working on eliminating the sewage transmission fee and many people pay more than one sewage transmission fee; it is the way the ordinance is written. Joe Butrie suggested the fee be based on water usage.

Chris Lukasevich, Jim Thorpe, thanked council for considering Resolution 2018-07 in support of concerned citizens' stance on the placement of wind turbines in Penn Forrest Township. He explained that property value rates could drop 12% to 40 % if wind turbines are installed and property reassessments are requested.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, said Mr. Blum should be told why he was denied a handicap parking space at last month's meeting. He met the criteria but was denied and never answered.

Don Gildea, 107 W. Kline Avenue, asked about the correspondence from the LCJ Water Authority warning that fire hydrants are not to be used by borough employees unless it is an emergency. Bob Silver said one of the Lansford employees used an illegal hydrant in Coaldale. Mr. Gildea said to be careful about who it appoints to the water authority.

Council person Marie Ondrus thanked the public for attending Lansford Alive's Ethnic Festival. It was a great success.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 11, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to approve the June 11, 2018 minutes as written. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in agreement and the motion passed.

Correspondence

Jared Soto reviewed the following correspondence which was given to all of council:

- The Employment Alliance of Municipalities (T.E.A.M.) Agreement
- Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority – from Authority Solicitor James Nanovic reminding municipal employees that they do not have full access to Authority Fire Hydrants. The fine is \$500.00.
- Lehigh Engineering, LLC, Offering Municipal Consulting Engineering services

Correspondence not copied to save paper- copy available upon request:

- CC Municipal Waste Plan – from David Bodnar, Office of Planning & Development
- COSTARS Membership profile update was completed
- Novation Enterprises – installation of TV offer that supports local veterans organizations

Committee Reports, committee meetings (originally scheduled for July 4th) were held July 9th:

Jared Soto said Councilman Matthew Walsh has been removed from his committees; Park & Recreation and Municipal Administration. He asked council members to volunteer for the vacant positions before the August 8th meeting or he will make appointments.

Parks & Recreation – The report was submitted by Jared Soto and reviewed by Joe Butrie: Marie Ondrus asked for a sign at Kennedy Park for no smoking and no animal feces. Mary Soto asked about landscaping the Elks lot. Playground rubber mulch estimates for 77 cubic feet were presented: Home Depot \$683.89; Lowe's \$778.47, Bestrubbermulch.com \$599.00. The rubber mulch will be ordered from Bestrubbermulch.com for August delivery. Marie Ondrus added that Matt Dunn has been at Kennedy Park removing and trimming the trees.

Public Works – no printed report. Joseph Butrie will get three estimates to replace the truck body on the red 2008 Ford F350 pickup.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to have a feasibility study done to move the borough garage to either the Panther Valley Lumber property (99 Riley Street) or the former Kutz's Garage property (408-410 W. Kline Avenue) now owned by Tyrolean Enterprises, Lou Albertini. There were questions about the motion and the motion failed due to no second.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to appoint Keystone Consulting Engineers on a case by case basis to perform the feasibility study on the two properties identified. Irma asked what the cost will be. The motion failed due to no second.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to appoint Keystone Consulting Engineers as the borough's engineer. The motion failed due to no second.

Municipal Administration – No meeting, no written report. Irma Leibensperger checked into CD rates at Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank: 1.9% for 12 months.

Irma Leibensperger made a motion to open a 12 month CD at Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank for \$50,000.00 using funds from Sewer Transmission Account #5402, the Loan Proceeds Account. The motion was second by Bob Silver, all were in favor except Joseph Butrie who was opposed. Motion passed 4 yes, 1 no.

Code, Planning & Ordinance – The report was submitted by Jared Soto. Zoning Officer Tracey Herman's hours have been increased for June 25 through Aug 31, 2018. She will ride with police to identify any visible code violations. Mr. Soto reviewed code enforcement software, Accela. He will get more information on the cost and he will contact Paul Jarrett about his offer to help pay for Comcate software which is used by LVIS.

Public Safety – No meeting, no written report

Mayors Report – Police receipts report from Mayor Romankow, June total \$1,533.71. Year to date total \$ 9,847.34. The mayor congratulated the Lansford Alive members on the success of the Ethnic Festival.

Police Report – June report shows 22 criminal arrests, 26 traffic citations, 17 non traffic citations, 3 parking ordinance tickets, and 13 quality of life tickets. The mayor asked Attorney Greek about the possibility of using individuals needing to fulfill community service requirements, to cut grass and weeds on properties in violation of the Quality of Life Ordinance. Attorney Greek said the borough is at risk. By ordinance, borough employees can cut weeds or a third party company can be hired to do the work and then the borough can bill the property owner for the costs, however, when this was done in the past the bill was rarely paid.

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No. 1. - June report shows 10 fire calls in June; 6 in Lansford and 4 in Summit Hill. The public was urged to support the fire company fund raisers.

Ambulance – Leighton Ambulance - June report shows the ambulance responded to Lansford 39 times in June. The average time from dispatch to arrival on scene was 7.67 minutes.

Code Enforcement – The June Report from Zoning Officer Tracey Herman shows 9 permits were issued for renovations, 8 Rental Registration notices sent, 8 Residential Rental License inspections performed, and 3 inspection notices sent. Eleven property maintenance complaints were investigated and 5 files were closed. Joseph Butrie said a resident, Joe Genits, is using a business card stating he is Lansford code enforcement. He gave the card to President Soto. Mr. Butrie wants the public to know Mr. Genits is not Lansford Code Enforcement.

Mayor Romankow stepped away from the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – No written report on file. Jarred attended the June 26th meeting. There is a grant writer available to assist with writing a grant for a dog park. The COG is planning two more training sessions; one for secretaries about documentation to apply for loans and tax anticipation notes and another for public works road masters with the District 5 planner. COG is also working on bidding a county wide sanitation contract to bring down the cost for all municipalities. The COG Street Sweeper is scheduled to be delivered in September or October.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – Council reviewed House Resolution No. 291, which approves a study of the Pa. Department of Revenue takeover of EIT collection (Berkheimer does it now). Representative Doyle Heffley is on the committee creating Resolution No. 291.

Tax Collector’s Report – Payment Report for June - total collected \$17,980.55. Year to date total \$771,005.65. (Tax amount billed for 2018: \$949,653.83)

Treasurer’s Report –Total bills to be approved \$ 37,979.89. Breakdown: General Fund \$34,151.98; Sewer Transmission \$3,420.01; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$407.90. Council received the list of bills and the monthly activity for all checking accounts.

A motion to pay the bill totaling \$37,979.89 was made by Irma Leibensperger. The motion was second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, motion passed.

- The 2020 Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) has been completed and sent to the U.S Census Bureau.
- Council’s packet included a list of sanitation delinquent accounts totaling \$95,986.48 previously sent to Powell Rogers and Speaks for collection. It lists delinquents since 2015 that have made no effort to pay. Options to collect the monies will be discussed at the next meeting.

2018 End of Month Balances 2018

	Account Title	May	June
7673	General Acct	\$387,629.14	\$573,760.69
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$110,027.46	\$88,594.54
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,626.08	\$51,634.57
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,459.57	\$164,486.60
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11

4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	\$7,333.33
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,339.36	\$41,342.64
7706	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$135,270.92	\$134,754.25
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$187,623.22	\$174,286.90
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,749.74	\$202,760.07
7722	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$34,322.03	\$34,594.92
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,142.27	\$12,143.23
7748	Fire	\$44,369.45	\$53,106.25
7756	Recreation	\$53,950.48	\$63,554.95
7764	Street Lights	\$20,476.65	\$43,975.84
		\$1,458,499.81	\$1,651,508.89
Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15	1,037,154.32	1,022,191.69
	Street Light Fund#6309 11/12/09	138,724.11	138,724.11
	Liquid Fuels #3886 10/28/14	22,256.35	22,256.35
	Gen Fund or LST 1/5/17	36,521.57	36,521.57
2018 Police RAM	Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18	42,073.00	42,073.00
		1,276,729.35	1,261,766.72

Tax Anticipation Note

A motion was made by Bob Silver to pay \$50,000.00 to M & T Bank on the \$100,000.00 2018 Tax Anticipation Note. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

Solicitor's Report –

- Public Auction Sale of basketball court at the south end of Tunnel Street, parcel 123A-24-H48 will be advertised in the Times News on 7/16/18. The auction will be held at borough hall 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 7/31/18, minimum bid is \$2,500.00.
- Jesse Hiles vs. Borough of Lansford post-verdict motions were filed by Jesse Hiles. The judge will rule on them. If the judge denies Mr. Hiles claims, Mr. Hiles has the option to appeal the case to the PA Superior Court.
- Route 209 sink hole is the result of a sewer problem at 234 E. Patterson Street; the homeowner has been notified by Attorney Greek.

Unfinished Business

Parking Meters - Many meters located in the business district are in need of repair and replacement. An e-mail from Jim Thorpe Borough Manager Maureen Sterner was read by Jared Soto. Jim Thorpe Borough is selling 111 meters but only 80 to 90 works. The entire lot of meters is for sale and offers are being accepted until noon tomorrow, July 12th. Joseph Butrie is against purchasing the meters because too much is unknown about them. Bob Silver agreed that at this time we don't know what we plan to do with the borough's meters and whether the Jim Thorpe meters are comparable to what we need. Jared will let Jim Thorpe Borough Manager Maureen Sterner know that we cannot respond at this time.

CDBG LSA Pool Grant C000069361 - Commitment Letter and contract (Contract C000069361) for \$35,000.00 pool grant to be signed. The funds are to be used by June 30, 2021. Jared Soto and Jill Seigendall will sign the documents and return them to Mandy Book at the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Ordinance 2018-01 - To make Tunnel Street (at police station; between W. Ridge and W. Snyder Avenue) One Way South, for police vehicles only, was considered for advertisement. No motion was made.

Ordinance 2018-02 - To increase the time period for processing zoning applications, the ordinance was recently advertised in the Times News Newspaper.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to adopt Ordinance 2018-02 which amends Ordinance 2005-01, changing the time limit the Zoning Officer or Borough Office has to approve or deny a zoning permit application from 5 days to 30 days. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Resolution 2018-07 support for citizens' concerned with placement of wind turbines in Penn Forest Twp. No motion was made and Jared Soto tabled the Resolution.

Lansford Code of Ordinances/Codification update - Two estimates was received. One more estimate is expected. The cost will be considered for the 2019 budget.

Route 209 PennDOT resurfacing project – Bob Silver reported that the street department has completed 95% of the inlet replacements along Route 209, Patterson Street; all are expected to be completed before the resurfacing.

2019 LSA Grant opportunity with Jim Thorpe Borough – Jared Soto spoke to Maureen Sterner about a combined application for funds. Jim Thorpe is building a new borough garage and seeks funding. Jared will contact Ms. Sterner and explain that Lansford does not have a definite plan for its borough garage and cannot provide a narrative for the grant.

At 8:00 p.m. Mayor Romankow returned to the meeting.

New Business

Elks Lot – Carbon County 2016 CDBG funds will soon be available for seeding & fencing (\$20,000.00 grant minus reimbursement to general fund of \$13,629.80 leave \$6,370.20 for the Elks Lot improvement. Jared Soto asked if he could get a motion to get an estimate from Keystone Consulting Engineers for landscaping due to drainage concerns.

Joseph Butrie made a motion to get three estimates for fencing and seeding for the lot. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment

Jared Soto adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer