

The April meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held at 6:00 p.m. April 11, 2018 at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford. 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 Jared Soto, Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Joseph Butrie, Bob Silver, John Turcmanovich, Matthew Walsh and Mayor James Romankow. Absent were junior council person Isabella Blasko and Solicitor Michel Greek. Attorney Greek arrived late, when executive session ended.

Executive Session - Jared Soto called the group into executive session to discuss borough garage property and personnel.

At 6:30 p.m. the group came out of executive session. About 13 people were in the audience.

Street Material Bid Opening

The first order of business was to open bids for street materials. Attorney Greek opened the one bid from Lehigh Asphalt.

<u>Amount/Description</u>	<u>Unit PriceUnd</u>	<u>UndeliverPrice</u>	<u>Unit DeliverPrice</u>	<u>Delivered Price</u>
500 Tons Type 2 AS3 Antiskid,	\$12.50	\$ 6,250.00	\$18.00	\$ 9,000.00
500 Tons Superpave 9.5mm	\$ 57.85	\$28,9 25.00	\$67.85	\$33,9 25.00
500 Tons Superpave 19.0mm	\$ 54.25	\$27,125.00	\$64.25	\$32,125.00
500 Tons Superpave 25.0mm	\$ 49.50	\$24,750.00	\$59.50	\$29,750.00
500 Tons #1B Stone	\$ 14.50	\$ 7,250.00	\$20.00	\$10,000.00
500 Tons #2A Stone	\$ 10.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$15.50	\$ 7,750.00
500 Tons #2B Stone	\$ 11.75	\$ 5,875.00	\$17.25	\$ 8,625.00
				\$131,175.00 Max

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to accept the bid from Lehigh Asphalt Paving and Construction Company, Inc., Tamaqua, for street materials for the contract period April 11, 2018 to April 11, 2019. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.

Public Courtesy

Christine LeClair, 12 E. Abbott Street, representing American Legion Post 123, explained the Hometown Hero Banner program. The Legion will hang and remove the banners on PPL poles along the usual parade route and in the Lansford business district. Applications are available at the American Legion and the cost is \$200.00 each for 3 years.

Bob Clewell, 229 W. Water Street, explained that the wall along Brimble Alley needs to be repaired. He is concerned someone will be hurt because concrete is crumbling into the yard at Mr. Clewell's property at 362 W. Snyder Avenue. He said there are rails inside the wall and water is seeping through. He also had a complaint about a garage in the back of 306 W. Bertsch Street.. Pigeons and cats are living inside the abandoned structure and he said it needs to be torn down. Matt Walsh asked him to fill out a complaint form for code enforcement. Joe Butrie suggested Mr. Clewell contact the owner directly.

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, Asked whether there has been any headway to eliminate the Sewer Transmission fee. Bob Silver said nothing has been discussed yet. Mrs. Soberick asked about the advertising requirements for the second round of bidding for the borough garage pole building. Attorney Greek thinks it must be advertised at least one time.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, asked what the topic was for this meetings executive session. Jared Soto responded that it was to discuss personnel and the borough garage situation. Ms. Cannon addressed Bob Silver about eliminating the sewage transmission fee. She asked why if he campaigned to do away with it, why is there no plan and asked whether he knew the expenses related to the sewer transmission

fee. Mr. Silver responded that if he was on council when the 3 million dollar loan was taken out he would have setup the debt service tax account to pay for the loan.

Christopher Ondrus, 10 Edgemont Road, said that council transferred funds from the sewage transmission fund to other funds to pay borough bills. He is concerned about funds (\$7,179.91) transferred from the RIRA Fund (closed by motion of council in August 2016) to the Park and Recreation Pool Fund. He said RIRA was a demolition account, not a park account. He asked council to return the money to a demolition account or use it for the borough garage. No action was taken. He remarked on the following Agenda items: Regarding the Caron County Tax Claim Bureau request for approval of repository properties and sheriff sales; he asked what the borough does before these sales. He recommends the borough check past due taxes and utilities, be proactive and inspect the property, and meet with the owner to have them repair the property. He pointed out a misprint in the Agenda for "Codification of Borough Code". Mr. Ondrus asked about the parking meters in the business district. He said a lot of time and effort was spent to paint the meter poles and install flag holders. He is against removing the parking meters. He asked about the Borough vs. Barbara Conclave's hearing and questioned the legal representation of LVIS employee Steve Meylach who was named in the case. Attorney Greek answered that the case has been 'dismissed with prejudice' by the judge, therefore Barbara Goncalves cannot refile the complaint.

Martin Ditsky, 330 W. Abbott St, spoke about the Clewell wall property along Brimble's Alley and added that an estimate of the wall repair from Axis Construction is on file in the borough office. He pointed out (as former council president) the RIRA account money had not been used for years so it was transferred to the Park & Recreation Pool Account.

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, (former borough secretary treasurer) said sewer transmission started in 2001. In 2008 there was time when money was needed to pay borough bills; instead of raising taxes, sewage transmission funds were transferred. In 2009 there was a schedule to pay back Sewer Transmission money (\$19,472.00) Resolution 2009-03 shows a payback schedule for years 2009 through 2012. Mrs. Soberick resigned in 2010 so she does not know whether the schedule was completed.

Patricia Whalen, 341 W. Ridge Street, is concerned about coal mine blasting. Her letter to the police department and Department of Environmental Protection was reviewed by council. She is concerned about the intensity of the blasts and that no one is evaluating the blasts. She was asked to send her concerns to the coal company.

Mary Soto, 335 E Patterson Street, asked about the greenspace left by the Elks demolition at 6 E. Ridge Street. The Carbon County Office of Planning & Development requires the borough submit a plan to the state office of historic preservation. There is a possibility that CDBG grant funds, previously approved for handicap doors, may be used to erect a fence around the lot.

Irene Hudasky, 427 E. Patterson Street, said the public courtesy 3 minute time limit should be adhered to.

Meeting Minutes Approved

Council reviewed the meeting minutes of March 14, 2018 regular meeting.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to approve the March 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

Council reviewed the meeting minutes of March 26, 2018 special meeting.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve the March 26, 2018 special meeting minutes. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence

CC Board of Assessment – 3/12/18 Assessment Recap Report. Summary totals \$33,188,840.00 property tax values

CC Board of Assessment – Appeal scheduled for 335 E Bertsch Street 5/16/18 at 9:45 a.m.

CC Housing Authority – Request No Parking lines near midrise at 430 E. Bertsch St. Bob Silver looked at this and will get back to Mr. Horvat.

CC Tax Claim Bureau – Repository sale bids for 803 E. Patterson & 21 ½ Center Street were reviewed.

A motion was made by Matthew Walsh to approve the sale of 803 E. Patterson Street and 21 ½ Center Street. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

U.S. Census Bureau – Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) materials have been received.

Lansford Alive – Annual Cleanup date set for April 21st, 9 a.m. at Kennedy Park. Memorial Day events planned, request free community yard sale be scheduled for May 26 & 27 weekend.

327 W. Bertsch Street, line painting request from Tyrone Rarick

PA Dept. of Labor & Industry noncompliance letter, Order to show cause, response requested within 30 days.

Anthracite Little League donation request. Per The Borough Code, Lansford cannot contribute.

Pat Whalen Letter, 341 W Ridge Street – Mine blasting.

Carbon County Council Of Governments – Street Sweep demonstration Wednesday, April 18th, 10:30 a.m. White Street in Weissport.

Correspondence not copied to save paper- copy available upon request

UNIVEST Police Pension investment performance report for 2017 & Allied Benefits Group Police Pension Quarterly Report 1/1/2018 thru 3/31/18

E-Mail from Eckley Miners Village –invitation to 50th anniversary party and Jim Thorpe premiere of Molly Maguire's movie at Mauch Chunk Opera House April 19th; tickets \$20, pre film party & movie \$50.

Letter from new owners of Turkey Hill - newly formed Turkey Hill Minit Markets LLC,(THMM),Kroger Co. has sold its "C Stores" to THMM.

Sheriff sale properties: Notification of the following properties for sheriff sale: 402 E. Patterson St., 316 W. Bertsch St., 120 W Abbott St, 306 E. Bertsch St.

Committee Reports

Parks & Recreation – April 4th meeting report was reviewed by Jared Soto . Trees to be cut and trimmed at Kennedy Park will be marked with ribbons. The group discussed re-appropriating the W. Ridge Street Park into a dog park and constructing a new walking path through Kennedy Park. Jared Soto was notified that a State Farm Grant to replace the gazebo at Kenney Park was not awarded to the borough.

Public Works – April 4th meeting report was reviewed by Bob Silver . A letter from Labor & Industry stated the borough has not lived up to the conditions set forth in its letter of violation because the public works department was not able to vacate the borough garage on Spring Street within 30 days. Mr. Silver has been in contact with Labor and Industry and expects another letter of violation before the borough can vacate the Spring Street garage by May 1, 2018.

Mr. Silver reported that the Route 209 repaving project will begin with replacement of handicap accessible curbing at intersections along the Route. The curbing will be installed by Heim Construction. The PennDOT Route 209 resurfacing project will be constructed by Popple Construction. Popple Construction will have Pipe Services Corporation on site May 1, 2018 to do a pre-construction video inspection of the 4' x 4' stone culvert in West Patterson Street.

The borough needs part time plow drivers. Mr. Silver recommends raising the part time driver rate to \$15.50.

Bob Silver made a motion to raise the part time driver rate to \$15.50 on the Salary Resolution. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor except Joseph Butrie, motion passed. The updated resolution will be presented at the May council meeting.

The Lease Agreement with Tyrone Rarick for the borough to lease Rarick's garage at 327 W. Bertsch Street for public works equipment, has been signed by Tyrone Rarick. Equipment may be moved into the property May 1st.

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church has approached council to approve no parking behind the church on Kline Avenue for access to its handicap ramp. Bob Silver originally suggested a sign "No Parking here to corner" from the church to the corner on Kline Avenue. All of council was asked to check the location at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to deny any sign restricting parking at the handicap ramp behind St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, on Kline Avenue. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed. A letter will be written informing the church.

Municipal Administration – There was discussion about posting "permits required" signs at the three entrances to the borough; to remind residents to get moving, zoning and construction permits.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to purchase and post "permit" signs at the three entrances to the borough; at the east and west ends of Route 209 entering the borough and on Route 902 entering from Summit Hill. Cost estimate of the signs from Bradco Supply Company, Towanda, is \$17.55 each. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.

Code, Zoning and Ordinance – The report was read by Jared Soto. Lehigh Valley Inspection Services offered to increase the work hours of Zoning Officer Tracey Herman to 32 hours per week and eliminate the \$50.00 fee per rental inspection. The committee will look into the cost of increasing the zoning officer's hours for June through August to see how it impacts the budget. Council made no changes at this time. Matt Walsh made a motion to rescind Lansford Borough Ordinance 2005-01 which amended the 2003 Zoning Ordinance –limiting the time periods for processing residential (within 5 days) and commercial (within 10 days) zoning applications. Section 1302.3 of the 2003 Zoning Ordinance allows 30 days. There was discussion whether the ordinance should be rescinded or amended. Motion died for lack of a second.

Public Safety – John Turcmanovich gave a verbal report of the committee meeting. There was discussion about the parking meters in the business district on Ridge Street. The topic will be on the May Agenda. The Police Collective Bargaining Agreement has been signed by both parties and will be in effect January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022. Turcmanovich looked into The Employment Alliance of Municipalities (TEAM) program offered through the PA Association of Boroughs. The program provides Legal Advice on Labor and employment issues.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to join the TEAM program. The motion was second by Matthew Walsh. All were in favor, motion passed.

The committee researched 2 types of vehicles for the police dept.: 2018 Explorer (same model as car 101) and 2018 Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup Truck. They recommend the RAM Pickup.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to purchase 2018 Dodge Ram Pickup truck from New Holland Auto Group, a CoStars participant, at an estimated price of \$41,573.00 with a 5 year lease at 4.87 interest rate through Fulton Leasing Company, Lancaster, PA., estimated yearly payment is \$15,444.00. The motion was second by Bob Silver. On Roll call vote, voting yes were John Turcmanovich, Jared Soto, Bob Silver and Irma Leibensperger. Voting no were Matthew Walsh, Joseph Butrie and Marie Ondrus. Motion passed 4 yes, 3 no. Once the loan is approved, the vehicle will be available in 3-4 weeks.

The public works department blocked off a section of sidewalk with caution tape on the south side in the unit block of E. Ridge Street due to an 11 foot piece of roofing material falling onto the sidewalk. Council was concerned whether the borough is liable should an accident occur. Joseph Butrie wants to remove the barriers but Bob Silver disagrees. Attorney Greek advised that if the borough blocks the area off it may create a liability issue for the borough. Coincidentally, a hearing was held today with that property owner who was ordered to secure the roof immediately. Bob Silver said he will have the borough public works department remove the caution tape tomorrow.

Councilman Matthew Walsh excused himself from the meeting at 8 p.m.

Mayors Report – Mayor Ramankow said the police were not advised by PennDOT of the Route 209 project so they called PennDOT. The ADA ramps will be installed first, second will be replacement of stop lights and third the milling and paving of the street. Perhaps at night. There is concern about the noise, parking, detours, safety of the PennDOT workers, and fire company entrances. Bob Silver recommends meeting with PennDOT and Popple Construction, in June.

The February & March mayor's report was read by Mayor Romankow. Monthly total is \$3,298.97. Year to date \$5,623.97, Mayor Romankow suggested if a dog park is made, it be named in honor of Charles Schoch, a Lansford native who worked with military dogs. About \$1,500 was raised at the dart tournament organized by the mayor to benefit the fire company.

Police Report – March report enclosed 29 criminal arrests, 16 traffic citations, 6 non-traffic citations, 20 parking/ordinance tickets, 8 quality of life tickets.

Fire Department – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 March report: 12 total calls, 8 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 1 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – In March the Lehighon Ambulance responded to 42 incidents with an average response time of 8.05 minutes from time of dispatch to the arrival on scene.

Code Enforcement – March Report from Tracy Herman (enclosed) 4 Residential Rental Licenses were closed, 7 new rentals were added, 19 inspections were performed with 5 re-inspections 3 re-inspection notices were sent. 11 Property maintenance complaints were investigated and 3 files were closed.

Carbon County Council of Governments – Jared Soto attended the recent meeting. The group is discussing ways for recycling electronics for the entire county, what recycling is in place and how to get it cleaned up.

Treasurers Report – Total bills to be approved \$20,730.47. Breakdown: General Fund \$ 10,767.42; High Way Liquid Fuels \$3,435.12; Street Light \$5,241.93, Sanitation \$20.00, Sewer Transmission \$1,266.00. Council received the monthly checking account activity for all accounts and Profit/ Loss Budget vs Actual for all funds. Ms. Seigendall explained that tax money is expected on April 16th however the balance of the Street Light fund is \$3,460.38 and the current street light PPL bills total \$5,241.93

Joseph Butrie made a motion to pay the Street Light bills from the General Fund if sufficient tax money isn't received by April 20th, to be reimbursed by Street Light funds once tax money is received. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

A motion was made by Joe Butrie to pay all other bills as funds are available. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Residential Rental Licensing - Yearly \$50.00 fee for Residential Rental Licenses were mailed to 558 landlords on March 1, 2018, billing \$27,900.00. Payment was due April 1, 2018. Receipts to date total \$21,045.00. The twenty dollar monthly penalty has been applied for April.

Sewage Transmission Fee – Yearly \$90.00 fee was mailed February 15, 2018 billing \$169,920.00. Receipts to date total \$124,057.74. Two hundred eighty-four delinquent account letters (for 2017 nonpayment) have been sent, date for water shut-off is May 8, 2018.

Sanitation – Quarterly bills were mailed to residents April 1, 2018, billing \$92,180.00. Receipts to date are \$27,750.00.

The 2017 financial audit by Hutchinson, Gillihan & Freeh is scheduled for May 23, 24, 25, and 2018.

2018 End of Month Balances 2018

	Account Title	Feb	March
7673	General Acct	\$159,425.39	\$82,182.79
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$95,917.75	\$80,152.47
0283	Investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,599.07	\$51,608.83
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,375.69	\$164,404.61
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	\$0.00	\$7,333.00
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,328.94	\$41,332.34
7706	Treasurers Special HI Way	\$23,329.23	\$137,006.56
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$102,424.53	\$167,403.90
5402	Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct)	\$202,709.75	\$202,729.41
7722	Local Service Tax/EIT	\$39,364.10	\$31,266.94
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,139.21	\$12,140.21

7748	Fire	\$36,820.74	\$32,953.28
7756	Recreation	\$40,136.19	\$40,893.26
7764	Street Lights	\$6,422.42	\$3,460.38
		\$981,173.12	\$1,060,048.09
Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15	1,081,706.68	1,066,915.14
	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	23,317.48	36,521.57
		1,266,004.62	1,264,417.17

Unfinished Business

Changes to bus stops- Jared Soto will be meeting with school district personnel to discuss possible changes. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

Parking Meters – (discussed earlier) to be discussed again in May.

Trees to cut down at Kennedy Park – (discussed earlier) estimates will be reviewed at the May meeting.

New Business

Community Free Yard Sale Date; Coaldale is May 19 & 20; Summit Hill is July 7th.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to hold free yard sale weekends on May 26 & 27 and on Aug 4 & 5, 2018. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

2018 CDBG Application period is open – project ideas are needed. Jared Soto asked all council to get project ideas to Jared or Jill before April 20, 2018.

Codification of Borough Code of Ordinances. The office is in contact with 4 companies: Municode, General Code, American Legal Publishing Corporation and Code Publishing. The borough needs to send information to each company before an estimate can be received. Irma Leibensperger mentioned that there are grants available for codification.

Adjournment

No other business was suggested and a motion to adjourn was made by Joseph Butrie, second by Irma Leibensperger and the group dispersed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer