

The Monthly meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for General and Executive purposes was held at the above date and place at 6:30pm. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 10 residents and 2 Reporters.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Treasurer Mary Fittos took roll call. Those present were Martin Ditsky, Rose Mary Cannon, Matthew Walsh, Mayor James Romankow, Joe Butrie, Jared Soto, Colin Jones and Solicitor Michael Greek. John Turcmanovich was absent.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Vice President, Rose Mary Cannon said this will be the last meeting for our Borough Secretary Treasurer who has accepted a position elsewhere. On behalf of council and herself, she would like to wish Mrs. Fittos good luck and thanked her for the work she has done for the Borough. (Residents Clapped)

David Benevy would also like to convey on his behalf and many others thanks to Mrs. Fittos for her tenure here and she has done a great job. Mrs. Fittos thanked him. Mr. Benevy said its time for council to look at hiring a Borough Manager to handle the affairs of this town. There was some discussion on this between Mr. Benevy and council for a few minutes.

Mr. Benevy also mentioned the situation with the Palace and how the developer pulled away from the project and was just having a hissy fit. Mr. Romankow corrected him and confirmed he did not pull away from it, but there was a disagreement. There was some discussion on this for a few minutes.

Mrs. Fittos, thanked council for the time she was here and serving to the capacity that she did. She said she was grateful to everyone for giving her this position, especially for Rose Mary Cannon for always being there and helping and also thanked former councilwoman Mrs. Soberick for assisting. She said thank you and she will miss everyone.

Joe Butrie mentioned the plaque dedication and asked permission to use the Borough's generator at Abbott Street, as there is no electricity there for the ceremony. Ms. Cannon said there was a misunderstanding. In the May minutes, it was discussed to erect the plaque along Abbott Street and Councilman Vadyak agreed, but it was never put to a motion. Mr. Robert Siesputowski wants the ceremony at Kennedy Park. Mr. Ditsky said this topic is under correspondence and would welcome a motion then.

Mr. Ditsky and Ms. Cannon met with John Hadesty of BET regarding the dumping situation for materials from the Palace demolition project, 101 W Bertsch St. At that time he learned that the palace owner, Mr. Bennett, and contractor Peter Radocha had also had a meeting with a representative of BET. Ms. Cannon stated the records indicate the borough owns a parcel of approximately 27.1 acres, but it is not in the area the borough presently is using as a clean fill dumping site. We do not own that parcel.

Mr. Ditsky said the Bureau of Mines and DEP are involved.

Mr. Romankow spoke on behalf of Mr. Bennett stating that Joe Bennett is here to ask permission to dump; that he received permission from BET and has all of his papers registered with DEP but in order to get to the dumping area, he needs to cross borough land. At this time Mr. Bennett, who was in the audience, took the floor. Mr. Bennett went over the history of how this project came to be. He related that he was told to come to a council meeting after December 2015 when there would be new council members. There was some discussion at this point from members of council. When the decision to give permission was rescinded, he expected someone to call him rather than read about it in the newspaper. Ms. Cannon said a call could not be made until council voted on the issue to rescind. A letter was sent immediately, but unfortunately it was in the papers before he received the letter. Atty. Greek then clarified the situation for Mr. Bennett who then asked, I guess I should not be here then asking these questions? Greek once again stated that we do not own the land in question. Mr. Bennett left the meeting. There was more discussion on this for about 10 minutes and ended with the council confirming they cannot give permission to Mr. Bennett to dump on Borough property.

Bobby O'Gurek, Summit Hill Pa, came to discuss providing website services for Lansford Borough. There was some discussion on this from Mr. Soto and Mr. Greek and it was decided to bring it up under New Business so members can look at the proposal. The proposal is for monthly updates.

MATERIAL BIDS

- Lehigh Asphalt- Mike Greek said this was the only bid. The bid is on file. **Joe Butrie makes the motion to accept this bid. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- March 9, 2016 – Mr. Walsh had one correction on page 2 “John Bowman” should be changed to “Ron” Bowman. **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept with changes. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- April 7, 2016- Special Meeting – **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Carbon County Board of Elections Letter- Primary Election held April 26, 2016
- Mauch Chunk Bank letter- Dianne Ahner is retiring.
- Thank you card from Dianne Ahner
- C.A.R.E.S. - Volunteer Service. There was some conversation on this resulting in a request for Jared Soto to contact them.
- PA DOT-Open House 4/20/16 @ Lansford Fire Co. Mr. Ditsky said he will attend.

- Navy Club Dedication 4/17/16 @1pm, location to be determined. There was some discussion on this and council decided to have the plaque at Kennedy Park. **Colin Jones makes a motion to put the monument in Kennedy Park between the two pine trees. Seconded: Matt Walsh vote. Opposed: Joe Butrie. Motion passes.**
- Seltzer Group Dividend Lunch 4/26/16 @12noon. Mr. Ditsky said he will attend.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Municipal Administration- read by Rose Mary Cannon
- Public Safety- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Fire Department- Read by Rose Mary Cannon
- Ambulance- Read by Martin Ditsky
- Mayors Report- Read by Mr. Romankow
- Police Report- Read by Mr. Romankow. **Colin Jones makes the motion to allow Mr. Rehatchek to detail the police vehicles for free. Seconded: Matt Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Parks & Recreation- Resolution for Matching Grant. Read by Rose Mary Cannon. Discussion on Lansford Alive Group that was present at the committee meeting regarding projects Lansford Alive want to work on. **Jared Soto makes a motion to allow Lansford Alive events committee to do the projects they proposed to the Borough Office on February 10, 2016 down at Kennedy Park. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** There was some discussion on this regarding the bricks that will be used on the project.
- Public Works – Read by Martin Ditsky. There was discussion on the street sweeper and paving streets.
- Community Development/ Planning /Zoning- Read by Colin Jones. There was Discussion on the Sewer Transmission fee and the Sewer ordinance should be amended. Also Discussion on the Vacancy Ordinance. Mr. Walsh requested that Mr. Greek receive the copy of the vacancy ordinances on file from other boroughs. Ms. Cannon said she will send it to him.
- Code Enforcement- March. Mr. Jones asked about the house that burned down on Front Street. There was brief discussion on this for a few minutes. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that council approved the cell tower. Mr. Jones said there was a request to advertise that Lansford is zoned. Mr. Walsh feels that it would make more sense to purchase signs as they are permanent. **Matthew Walsh makes the motion to purchase 3 signs to be placed at the entrances of Lansford stating it is a zoned community and permits are required. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.** The solicitor will have the correct wording.
- Treasure’s Report, Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Mr. Ditsky mentioned that he received a phone call from a Matt Johnson from reading Northern and he was told Mr. Ditsky said not to pay the bill for \$1,000. Mr. Ditsky said he did not say that so we are paying it. Mrs. Fittos went over the breakdown for the Real Estate Taxes which was a total of \$72,878 was collected. She also went over the Quick Analysis and what was to be deposited Thursday. The balance in the General Fund would be roughly \$100,000. After all the bills are paid, the carry over to May should be about \$53,000 plus there should be another deposit next week for Real Estate Taxes. Mrs. Fittos reminded council not to forget to pay back the Tax Anticipation Loan of \$125,000 to M & T Bank. She also went over the pricing for the “Standard Speaker” to advertise in as the “Morning Call “was very expensive. Mr. Walsh didn’t feel the ads were worth it for the pricing. Ms. Cannon said in the past they used the Standard Speaker and did receive applicants. Mrs. Fittos said she put together a list of what should be paid but it’s up to council. She mentioned a letter received from Summit hill regarding a Tar Buggy that was given to the Lansford Borough from Summit Hill Borough, but they are charging half the price for the tar Pallet which is \$775. The letter states that Lansford Borough approved this charge. Summit Hill paid \$1,550. **Joe Butrie makes the motion to advertise the Secretary/ Treasurer Position on Monster.com, Career Builder and any potential free job websites. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote.** Mr. Romankow asked if Jill Seigendall will be given the opportunity and Mr. Ditsky said yes. **Colin Jones makes the motion to approve the bills that Mrs. Fittos has suggested including the bill from Summit Hill Borough for the tar. Seconded: Matt Walsh vote. All in favor, motion passes.** Mrs. Fittos suggested that Jill Seigendall keep a running balance of the funds.
- Tax Collector’s Report- No Report
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- Next Meeting May 18th
- Solicitor’s Report- Edgemont, BET Cell Tower. These topics were addressed. Mr. Greek said he did not receive anything on Edgemont Bridge.

All Committee Reports are on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Responsible Recycling Event for Lansford- Paid out of Sanitation. There was a brief discussion on this. **Colin Jones Tabled it.**
- CCCOG Ordinance #2016- 09 to be adopted. Mr. Greek said he believes it was advertised. He said council agreed the Agreement and also the Ordinance was adopted last year although it was not advertised. Mr. Greek re-typed it to fit the Lansford Borough. He suggested it get adopted. Ms. Cannon asked that Mr. Greek explain the first paragraph. The Ordinance is on file. **Colin Jones makes the motion to adopt Ordinance #2016-09 as it’s written. Seconded: Jared Soto Vote. All in favor, motion passes.**
- Engineering Projects- Various projects/ Status. There was a brief discussion on Brimble’s Alley which is the retaining wall. Ms. Cannon said the engineer suggested council speak to the solicitor to look back at the deed to see exactly what responsibility council has to the wall. Mr. Ditsky said we have not heard anything on the LSA grants. Ms. Cannon mentioned there is a sewer that

needs repair by the Ankle & Foot Dr. Mr. Ditsky said the engineer says the sewer line needs to be flushed out. Mr. Ditsky said the camera goes under water. There was discussion on this for about 5 minutes.

- Garage Repair- Estimate from Bruce Mertz \$9,478. Mr. Ditsky said he would like to see another estimate from a different contractor. Mr. Jones was not aware of what happened. Someone hit the garage over the weekend a few weeks ago which damaged the overhead door and some of the wall. Mr. Butrie would like to see more bids. Ms. Cannon said the right way would have been to receive several at the beginning.

NEW BUSINESS

- Health Inspector would like 2 inspections per year for the following food establishments: Edgemont, Bobo Garden and Cabrera's. Ms. Cannon asked if this was in writing. Mrs. Fittos said yes, Mr. Tower emailed her. Mr. Greek said it's up to him if he wants to do an inspection twice.
- S&O Computers- Service Agreement to be reviewed. His yearly fee is \$3,000 and includes the website maintenance. **Ms. Cannon tabled it.** Mr. Walsh said he will contact S & O Computers to negotiate.
- Bobby O'Gurek- Web Site Maintenance Agreement to be reviewed. Mr. Walsh said his pricing is fair. **This was also tabled.**
- Reading Northern Railroad- release of info/ Phone call with Matt Johnson. Mr. Ditsky asked who owns the bridge. Mr. Greek said the Borough owns it. Just because the Borough's bridge is on part of the railroads land, the Borough is still responsible. They are a railroad. A portion of the bridge is on their land but it's the Boroughs Bridge. Mr. Ditsky asked if we can send the survey over to Matt Johnson who happens to be in the public relations dept. with the Railroad. Mr. Greek said the Borough is Liable and it should be repaired. Mr. Ditsky said he will contact Mr. Johnson and inform him that council will take appropriate steps to repair the bridge.
- PennDOT Auction to be approved with a bidding amount. Starts April 20th / Ends May 1st. Mrs. Fittos said the Street Dept has already signed up on the website. Mr. Ditsky said they will also have to look at the equipment. Mrs. Fittos mentioned that we received a reimbursement from a project regarding Ann Toole and the amount was \$8,700 reimbursed from Summit Hill Borough. Ms. Cannon said it was a recreation project. Mr. Jones asked what kind of vehicle is requested. Mr. Butrie said a 10 ton Dump Truck, single axle. Mr. Ditsky asked if this can be paid out of Liquid Fuels and Mrs. Fittos said no because we are paying for the John Deer out of Liquid Fuels and do not want to exceed the allowable 20% for major equipment. **Colin Jones makes a motion to not go above \$7,500 bidding amount. Seconded: Joe Butrie. Discussion:** Mr. Butrie said preferably diesel and standard shift dump truck. He said council does not want a gas engine. Jill Seigendall will log in on her computer and Greg and Mario will do the bidding while Jill watches it. Mr. Walsh was inquiring who will go to look at the equipment. Mr. Ditsky said our street Dept and maybe a borough worker from summit hill will go with them. **All in favor, motion passes.**
- Updated Resolution with rate increase for Assistant Secretary- Resolution # 2016- 05- Ms. Cannon asked to speak about this in Executive session.
- Plaque for Dan Wynn - Mr. Ditsky said we should get something together to present to Mr. Wynn. Ms. Cannon said she tried to get information from Mr. Gallagher. Ms. Cannon asked if anyone can more information it would be helpful.
- Advertisement request from Code Officer – This was addressed. Signs will be purchased.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:40pm to discuss personnel matters and exited at 9:18pm. Mr. Greek mentioned that the civil service put together a certified list of Full – Time Police Officers and that list was received by the Borough of Council.

Matthew Walsh makes the motion based upon the civil service testing to hire as a Full Time Officer, Derek Marouchoc subject to all terms of the contract. Seconded: Colin Jones vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Matthew Walsh makes a motion based upon the civil service testing, to hire as a Full Time Officer, Philip Shedlacer subject to all terms of the contract. Seconded: Jared Soto vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky. Motion passes.

Matthew Walsh makes the motion to promote current officer in charge, Jack Soberick to the position of Chief of Police with an official hiring contingent upon the contract negotiated between himself and Borough of Lansford, effective immediately upon execution of the contract.

Seconded: Colin Jones Vote. Opposed: Martin Ditsky. Joe Butrie is not voting and Rose Mary Cannon abstained. Motion passed. 3-2 Roll Call: Yes= Colin Jones, Yes= Jared Soto, Yes= Matthew Walsh. No= Martin Ditsky, No= Joe Butrie.

ADJOURNMENT

Colin Jones makes the motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Second: Rose Mary Cannon vote. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fittos

Secretary/Treasurer

Updated by

Jill Seigendall

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer