

The Monthly meeting of the Lansford Borough Council for General and Executive purposes was held 6:30 p.m. at the above date and place. The meeting was called to order by President Martin Ditsky and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were 12 residents and 2 Reporters.

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor Romankow read the POLICE PROCLAMATION designating May 15th as Peace Officer Memorial Day and Police week as May 15 through May 21, 2016. All of council was in favor of the declaration.

GUEST SPEAKER

Randall Galiotto of Wade Associates explained the intent of the pool feasibility study and said a draft of the report will be forwarded to the borough on May 27th. Two public meetings were held to get input about what is desired in a new pool facility; to craft the scope of work. Galiotto said the study will present a base plan to relocate the pool building, install a new filtration system with drain and supply lines and install a pool within the present pool shell. There will be a base option and additional options to add recreational facilities and possibly use the concession stand as a revenue generator.

Pat Whalen, 341 W. Ridge Street, asked for a ball park figure of the cost for a new pool. Galiotto said a minimum of \$500,000.00.

Irma Leibensberger, 164 W. Ridge Street, asked about the money being used to pay for the study from the RIRA demolition account; inferring that the RIRA money was inappropriately being used for recreation purposes. Former councilwoman Mary Soberick added that in her experience the RIRA fund was marked as a demolition/building rehabilitation account but at one point, she believes in 2012, the RIRA fund was supposed to be transferred to the general fund (due to the fact the account stood dormant for many years), however because of turnover in office personnel it was never transferred.

Rose Mary Cannon said that according to meeting minutes, the RIRA account was initially setup as a recreation account (RIRA stands for Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Act) and over the years it was noted as a demolition/rehabilitation account. Additionally, Cannon explained that it is not illegal to transfer funds between some accounts.

Gwyneth Collevchio, 116 W. Bertsch Street, asked about the two plan phases for the pool. Galiotto said there is phase 1 with options and phase 2 for development.

Rose Mary Cannon introduced the officers of the newly formed Friends of the Lansford Pool. The group is filing for 501-C3 nonprofit status to raise funds for the pool: President. Nathan Halenar; Vice President, Kevin Collevchio; Secretary Sherry Shellhamer; Co-treasurers Brittany Collevchio, Rosalique Kopp, and Mary Ann Krajnak.

Martin Ditsky said he understood the pool is expected to be closed for two years and asked whether there was an established time line for the project. Rose Mary Cannon explained that no definite timeline is established due to the application processes for Grants; CDBG competitive money, Green Way Grant due in June has a 15% match, and Doyle Heffley has been contacted for grant information.

PUBLIC COURTESY

Pat Whalen asked about the settlement agreement reached between the borough and former police chief (and now councilman) John Turcmanovich. Turcmanovich said the settlement was not completely finalized and would not comment further on the situation.

Whalen mentioned the problem of drugs and heroin use in Lansford and the fact that a "drug" house near her was left in dilapidated condition. Jared Soto explained there is a Carbon County task force formed to help combat the problem. The conversation escalated into a discussion about property maintenance, the safety of the residents and the safety of police officers.

Marie Ondrus, 36 Coal Street, thanked council for recent approval of the Lansford Alive Special Events this summer and explained that the placement of the weeping willow tree has been changed.

David Benevy, owner of the Panther Valley Mini Mall, said the Sewage Transmission fee is being administered incorrectly. He said the rate multiplier, used on some accounts is illegal and that 240 properties do not have water lines but are discharging into the sewer system (for example surface water) and should be billed for sewage transmission. He recommended changing the Sewage Transmission Ordinance; that it be based on water usage. Matthew Walsh agreed that the ordinance should be rewritten. Irma Leibensperger said she is being discriminated against because she has one water line and one sewer line but pays 2 sewage transmission fees. She would like a refund. Her property at 164 W. Ridge Street is charged for the first floor and second floor apartments. Martin explained that changing the ordinance is not a fast process.

Mary Soberick asked to go back to the former police chief's settlement. Rose Mary Cannon said the settlement was decided at the May 3, 2016 special meeting. The approved amount to be paid to John Turcmanovich from the general fund is \$700.00 per month or \$8,400.00 per year. Litigation costs over a two year period were around \$50,000.00.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- April 13, 2016 – Regular Meeting - **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to accept the minutes. Seconded: Matthew Walsh vote. All were in favor, motion passes.**
- May 3, 2016- Special Meeting – **Rose Mary Cannon makes the motion to approve. Seconded: Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Seitz Environmental – Police Dept. mold remediation project is on hold because the police need an office to work out of during the project. Arrangements need to be made with Summit Hill Police Department.
- MRM (Municipal Risk Management) Trust Notes – Insurance forms relayed from Seltzer Group by Martin Ditsky for Police, Liability, Park, coverage were received and have been submitted to Joan Miller at Seltzer Insurance.
- UNIVEST – Police Pension Plan
- Michael S. Greek – Evans Coal Company- Mike Greek explained a precept to settle the case was filed to finalize the borough's obtaining land near the borough garage from Evans Coal Company.
- Turcmanovich v. Lansford Borough – case cancelled due to the parties involved have settled (at May 3rd meeting).
- Attorney Jeffery Stewart – Turcmanovich v. Lansford Borough – case settled
- Lehigh Engineering LLC – The borough received the company's resume for council's review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Municipal Administration- Read by Rose Mary Cannon
- Public Safety- Read by John Turcmanovich
- Fire Department- Read by John Turcmanovich. The department responded to 15 calls in April, 68 calls so far in 2016. Mayor Romankow congratulated those junior fire company members honored at Carbon County Community Day.
- Ambulance- Read by Martin Ditsky. 56 incidents in April. Lehigh Ambulance donated 4 Officer Down kits to the Lansford Police Department.
- Mayors Report- Read by Mayor Romankow.
- Police Report- Read by Mr. Romankow. April police money collected totaled \$3,803.82.
- Parks & Recreation- Read by Rose Mary Cannon. Cannon prefaced her report by stating that RIRA stands for Recreation Improvement and Rehabilitation Act. Estimate to replace the broken slide at the park will cost around \$700.00. It will be installed by borough workers. There are plans to move the skate park and the tennis court macadam will be repaired and painted. There are hopes to put a basketball court placed next to the tennis court. Jared Soto checked with PPL about installing solar lights at the park but found out they are not available.
- Public Works – Read by Martin Ditsky. It was suggested to put a land line telephone at the borough garage. Cost is around \$27.00 per month. Cross walk and line painting will begin as weather allows. Ditsky spoke to Chief Soberick about removing a parking space on Center Street near the intersection of Center and W. Patterson Streets. Milling & repaving 200 & 300 block of W. Water Street, also the intersections of Chestnut & Kline Avenue. Three bids are needed to make repairs at the borough garage.
- Community Development/ Planning /Zoning- Read by Matthew Walsh. Items discussed were Sewage Transmission fee changes, and a property vacancy fee ordinance.
- Code Enforcement- Read by Matthew Walsh.
- Treasure's Report, Bills to be approved, Income Report, P/L Budget Vs Actual. Joe Butrie asked to view the bills From Kovatch Ford; Matthew Walsh questioned Starr Uniform bills. Mayor Romankow explained initial uniforms are supplied for the borough for new full time officers.
Motion to approve the bills be paid was made by Rose Mary Cannon, seconded by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.
- Tax Collector's Report- the April Report was reviewed.
- Carbon County Tax Collection Committee- May 18, 2016 meeting of CCTCC has been cancelled.
- Solicitor's Report- The Lease Agreement for the tax collector has been prepared. The Vacancy Ordinance is being typed will be available at the next committee meeting. A Memorandum of Understanding for Police and Sewer Ordinance changes are being reviewed. Code Enforcement officer Steve Meylach contacted Attorney Greek regarding a subpoena he received to appear in a civil case. Greek explained because Steve is being called as an expert witness for a resident, not the borough, he should request payment from the resident, not bill the borough.
- All Committee Reports are on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Responsible Recycling Event for Lansford- Paid out of Sanitation. The initial fee to the collection company is escalating as well as cost per item. Jared Soto volunteered to check on the details of the event recently held in Coaldale. The topic was tabled.
- Community Yard Sale Date – **On motion of Rose Mary Cannon, seconded by Joseph Butrie, all were in favor, the free community yard sale date was set for May 21 & 22.**
- S & O Computers – Computer Service – Matt Walsh will check, topic was tabled.
- Bobby O'Gurek – Web Design Services – also tabled. **Motion was made by Matthew Walsh, seconded by Jared Soto to use the services of Bobby O'Gurek to oversee the website. All were in favor, motion passes.**
- S.A.L.D.O. – Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance – Michael Greek said he is working on this.
- Clewell Wall – Brimbles Alley – It appears the borough is the owner of the wall and will need to make repairs to the wall. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to ask the solicitor to research**

the property deed to see whether there is any easement about the wall. Motion second by Matt Walsh, all were in favor, motion passed.

- Resolution 2016-05 Establishing wage rates- It was explained that Colton Black no longer was working under the part-time rate as established in Resolution 2016-5, due to the fact that he has worked more than 400 hours for the department, he automatically becomes part of the Teamsters bargaining unit and is automatically raised to part time utility rate \$15.90. Rose Mary Cannon suggested clarifying Resolution 2016-05 by changing the part-time rate to seasonal part-time. After discussion Rose Mary Cannon tabled the topic.
- Appointments to Police Pension Board. The board currently consists of former secretary treasurer Mary Fittos, former chief Turcmanovich and councilman Martin Ditsky. Turcmanovich explained the board should consist of an active police officer, the borough secretary and resident. **Matthew Walsh made a motion to advertise for members of the Police Pension Board, second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passes.**

NEW BUSNISS

- Lansford Alive Special Event Form. Music in the Park June 5,12,19,26, July 17, 2016. The insurance forms are included in the application. **Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to approve Music in the Park at Kennedy Park, seconded by Martin Ditsky, all were in favor, motion passed.**
- Brad Kane Estimate – Repairs to damage at borough garage. \$4,500.00 estimate. **Motion to table was made by Rose Mary Cannon due to the fact that the initial bid is not available.**
- **CD & H Practioners & update.** – Explains CDBG guidelines and amounts received by the county for entitlement communities.
- . Rose Mary Cannon said PADOT Route 209 resurfacing project (scheduled for 2017) will include five traffic light pole replacements and turned the topic over to Jared Soto. Jared explained that he and Mary Soto have been in contact with Cathy Longenecker, PA DOT consultant project manager, to replace five traffic light poles to match the new street light poles to be installed on the unit block of W. Ridge Street in the Streetscape Project currently underway. There will be no cost to the borough. **Jared Soto made a motion to send a letter to Cathy Longenecker specifying the type of traffic light poles to be installed at 5 traffic light intersections as part of the Route 209 resurfacing project, at no cost to the borough. Motion was second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, motion passes.** Jared Soto will compose the letter and forward it to Jill to be signed and sent to Cathy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council entered into executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Martin Ditsky called the group back to session at 9:14 p.m.

Rose Mary Cannon made a motion to offer the position of borough secretary/treasurer to Jamie Williams. Second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passes. Seven applications were received, four candidates were interviewed for the position but Jamie had qualities that stood out.

Matthew Walsh made a motion to allow former secretary/treasurer Mary Fittos to be used as a consultant at a rate of \$25 per hours, limiting the time to 5 hours every 2 weeks for up to 3 months' time. Second by John Turcmanovich, all were in favor, motion passes.

Jared Soto made a motion to assign the title of office manager to Jill Seigendall, remaining at the same salary and remaining as assistant secretary treasurer. Second by Joe Butrie, all were in favor, motion passes.

John Turcmanovich made a motion to offer the position of full time patrolman to the third person on the Civil Service List, under all probationary stipulations. Seconded by Rose Mary Cannon, on roll call vote the motion failed: Opposed were Matthew Walsh, Joe Butrie, Jared Soto, and Martin Ditsky.

Matthew Walsh made a motion to advertise for a full time police officer. Second by Jared Soto, all were in favor except John Turcmanovich and Rose Mary Cannon. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Butrie made the motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Second by Rose Mary Cannon, all were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer