

Committee Meeting Minutes

May 7th, 2024

The May 7th, 2024 Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by President Bruce Markovich. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joesph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevechio, Vice President Jay Doyle, President Bruce Markovich, Council man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Works-

Jay Doyle-

The street department needs seasonal help, Dennis Anderson is willing to provide seasonal help to the borough. For the St. Mike's the street crew is currently waiting on a bracket to complete the pipe job. Once that is complete, Radocha can begin the work there, since all the trees are cut down already.

The cost for the purchase of a zero-torque lawnmower is \$8,899 from M&S Hardware in Tamaqua, PA. The borough currently has an account with them, and the lawnmower can be serviced right in Tamaqua. The street department is looking into purchasing a new weedwhacker and push mower as well from M&S hardware if the costs can be fit into budget.

The street department inspected West Abbott to reinspect the street excavation that was not completed. The gentleman still needs to put more gravel, pave it, and then black top the street to be given his street excavation deposit back.

Tommy Vadyak- 334 West Abbott, Lansford

The trees are hanging down to far into the road and need to be cut down on the street going from West Abbott Street down to Boyers Supermarket.

Bob Silver- 17 East Ridge Street, Lansford

The trash cans have been removed from downtown and would like to know why they have been removed.

Jay Doyle responded that he was the one who ordered them to be removed because they were filling up too quickly and that people were putting their household garbage into them as well. The borough is currently looking into getting permanent and bigger ones, due to the current ones not being big enough to carry anything.

Gwyneth Collevecchio responded that currently new garbage bags are being ordered that are bolted to the ground with a cost of \$146.99 and that she ordered 24.

Municipal Administration-

Bruce Markovich-

The Panther Valley School District inquired if the Borough would like to move any bus stops. The School District would like to know because they do not want to change bus stops mid-school year.

Joesph Butrie responded that he would like the bus stop located on the corner of East Ridge Street and Jones Street to be moved to Patterson and Jones Street. That the bus stop needs to be placed on Patterson Street because children run across Patterson Street without even looking. The number of cars parking on the corner of Jones Street is resulting in the school buses having difficulty turning onto Jones Street.

Jack Soberick and Gwyneth Collevecchio express how they are against a bus stop being on Patterson Street because of safety concerns.

Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and the Borough Engineer went over to the Panther Valley School to discuss the parking lots down at the stadium. A memorandum of understanding is going to be prepared between Panther Valley School and the Lansford Borough. The memorandum of understanding is going to state what the school is going to be paying for as far as design, engineering fees, and everything that is needed for a grant. The borough is then going to submit a grant on behalf of the school to get sidewalks replaced from Cortright Street all the way around to Jim Thorpe National Bank.

Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Jay Doyle attended a shared services meeting in Summit Hill. The discussion at the meeting was about all the equipment the borough has and the equipment it needs. During the meeting a mid-sized excavator was talked about, due to the borough having to borrow an excavator and not always being able to use it when the borough

needs it. Thus, at the May 8th, 2024 Monthly Meeting Bruce Markovich is going to ask for the okay to apply for a grant to purchase the excavator. \$100,000 is going to be used to purchase the excavator.

Lenny Kovatch-

The borough should be spending an excavator is an unneeded machine and the borough should purchase a new camera with a locator on it because the borough does not have one. The cost to fix and maintain an excavator is very high and the excavators must be fixed in a certain way.

Bruce Markovich-

Bruce Markovich and Michele Bartek attended a meeting with the sewer authority along with the boroughs of Coaldale, and Summit Hill over the 537 plan and most of the meeting was that the sewer authority is not going to take over the sewer lines in Lansford. Bruce Markovich has contacted the Department of Engineering and is going to be meeting with them in June for them to discuss what is going on with the sewer authority currently.

Proposes that for the 2024 LSA or 2024 Community Development Block Plan that Cortright Street located between West Abbott Street and Water Street is repaved. There is a current opening from the 2024 GBD Funds that would allow for the project to be completed.

The borough would like to institute a no-cash policy to pay borough bills. The office allows for credit card/debit card payments, checks/money orders, and online payments. With the multiple different ways of payments, the borough would like to be no-cash.

The borough would like to purchase another computer to be used for the purpose of zoom training and grants.

Tommy Vadyak-

The sanitation and sewage transmission bills should be sent out in an envelope so that no one can see the price of the bill.

Public Safety-

Michele Bartek-

The security system for the police department is almost completed. The police department is just waiting for their government emails and the police

guns have been ordered. Would like the council to vote on increasing the cost for handicapped signs and business signs. Kevin Zucker would like to come and speak with the council at the monthly May 8th meeting about his zoning permit that was refused by Arro. Wants the Zimmerman Building added to the agenda and for a commercial realtor to appraise the 32 acres the Lansford Borough owns near the Panther Valley School to possibly sell it to a developer to bring revenue into the borough.

Bruce Markovich inquires about if the council would want to offer to sell the land to Panther Valley School.

Michele Bartek has been working to amend the garbage ordinance. Would like an ordinance that would not allow animals to defecate downtown Lansford.

Would like to vote on the applicants for the police commission.

Denise Leibensperger- 164 West Ridge Street, Lansford

Would like for the borough to do something for the police for police week, such as a catered luncheon or something similar to show appreciation for the police officers. Inquired about the borough possibly donating Jack Soberick's police gun to him instead of him having to purchase it.

Joeph Butrie-

Would like the No Turn on Red sign on Patterson Street and Chestnut to get fixed due to the sign hanging in a way that it could fall on someone's car.

Parks and Recreation-

Gwyneth Collevecchio-

On April 24, Bruce Markovich, Michele Bartek, and Gwyneth Collevecchio went to Jim Thorpe with Pocono Vacation Bureau, Jim Thorpe's Police, Jim Thorpe Borough, Nesquehoning Borough, and Lansford Borough, for the purpose to discuss if the borough's would help with Jim Thorpe's parking when Jim Thorpe have their busy weekends such as in October. Kimm Wittig sent an email asking about the boroughs lists of events, use and location of parking lots, number of spaces and the cost to park. Jim Thorpe borough would display information about things happening in Lansford. Lansford would then offer parking spaces for tourist to park and then be shuttled back to Jim Thorpe.

Joseph Butrie-

Would like to know the status on the lines being painted on the East End Court.

Jay Doyle responded that the lines being painted is going to be done it just is not going to be done right now because of other things that must be done first.

Gwyneth Collevchio-

Backboards are to be ordered for the basketball court located by The Zoo. The backboards cost \$315.00 for one, with a total of two to be ordered. Wants the basketball court to be leveled as well.

Tommy Vadyak-

Questioned about having condemned properties being put on the agenda.

Jack Soberick responded that he has reached out to Beth Dodson from the magistrate and that she has agreed to meet with the council and discuss what can be done about condemned properties.

Jennifer Staines responded that she has been working on getting a lists together about which properties are condemned.

Bruce Markovich-

A few bankers are going to be talking to council about investments that the borough could make.

John J. Jablowski, Jr-

M&T Bank has a division that is dedicated to government banking. M&T does business with about 1,000 school districts, authorities, and local governments within his team. The bank has a couple of investment accounts the borough could invest in. The borough should invest in sweep accounts which have the highest return on investment currently with M&T Bank.

Jacky N. Mizele-

Community Bank has 23 branches with most being in the Lehigh Valley area. The bank has a group that solely focuses on municipal banking. Community Bank offers simple deposit and fund transfers, retirement plan consulting, and online banking. Community Bank focuses on providing good customer

service, high rates, and money security. Community Bank depending upon the amount has no problem matching the rate that is currently offered by their competition.

Bruce Markovich-

The June monthly meeting is when a decision is going to be made about which bank the borough is going to be banking with.

Joe Genits-

Advertisement should be done for both the planning and recreation commission.

Jay Doyle-

Committee chair members should be the ones addressing issues with their committee's. Chair members should be the ones that the secretaries contact pertaining things in the chair's committee.

The meeting was adjourned by Council President Bruce Markovich at 7:12p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer