

Committee Meeting Minutes

November 6th, 2024

The November 6th, 2024 Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk.

Council Man Jay Doyle, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Works-

Joseph Butrie spoke about the street sweeper repairs being completed.

Joseph Butrie spoke about borough workers Mario and Bob doing training to operate the street sweeper on Monday November 11th, 2024.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he wants borough workers Greg and Bob to get their tanker endorsement so that they can operate the street sweeper or the vacuum.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the need for a stop sign on East Front Street and Pardee Street.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the need for a stop sign on Oak Street and Edgemont Road.

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to be proactive before an accident occurs.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the International that was inspected and that new steer tires were installed.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the inlet by coal miners bar and grill and stated it was flushed.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the need for the loader to have new tires and the tire pricing he received from a few of the companies he called.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about if Joseph Butrie had contacted co-stars for tire pricing.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the need for new winter no parking signs and that he is going to bring the cost before council to approve at the November monthly meeting.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he would like the sweeper to be able to sweep the streets.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he would like an American Flag to be hung at the Silberline Property.

Michele Bartek spoke about wanting an American Flag on the borough Hall.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the black truck and would like the red truck to be inspected to find out what exactly needs to be repaired.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the police cars that he decommissioned with no expense to the taxpayers.

Tommy Vadyak thanked Joseph Butrie for requiring the borough workers to obtain their tanker endorsement.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the number of leaves that were down at Ashton Park and that he feels there should not have been three workers putting signs up.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how the garbage cans were not cleaned out prior to the Halloween Festival.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how he feels the borough crew should travel the Veteran's Day Parade Route and ensure there are no potholes.

Michele Bartek spoke about the garbage from the Halloween Festival and that the event only had four garbage cans.

Michele Bartek spoke about the condition of the pool concession stand and that it needs to be repaired.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the salt for the winter and that he is waiting on ordering more salt until decisions have been made about the salt shed.

Joseph Butrie spoke about where he would prefer the new salt shed to be placed and that he would like the shed to be built.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how if there is a wait on the salt shed that he would like to place the salt in the Silvex Building.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a complaint she received last year about the snow on the south side of West Ridge not being removed.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how last year's snowstorm resulted in snow piles being left on streets and the danger that posed to traffic.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how the com center needs to be contacted to update the point of contact for snow removal.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he received a complaint asking if a kids crossing sign could be placed at the stadium school bus stop due to the crossing guard almost being hit twice.

Tommy Vadyak inquired if school bus stops were treated the same as school zones regarding parents smoking at the bus stops.

Michele Bartek spoke about the problems surrounding school bus stops.

Joseph Butrie spoke about parking in the downtown business district.

Municipal Administration-

Bruce Markovich spoke about how he feels council should contact the DCED to evaluate the borough office and the police department to have professional eyes identify any building problems that exist.

Bruce Markovich spoke about adding contacting the DCED for the evaluation to the November Agenda.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the borough garage grant was turned down.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how he feels the borough should reapply for the grant and allocate some money towards the grant to increase the likelihood of the grant being approved.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the December 3rd, 2024 Committee Meeting is going to be advertised to start at 5:00p.m. due to Justine Trukris from the Blueprint Communities and Main Street and Downstreet Programs is going to be coming to Lansford to address to council what can be offered to Lansford's downtown through the Blueprint and Main Street Program.

Bruce Markovich stated the fire company radios should be paid through Covid Funds this resulting in the borough garage being the only grant application allowing for a better chance at receiving grant money for the borough garage.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the Covid Funds and how the Treasury Department has suggested the money should be transferred to the borough as a Lost Revenue Expenditure.

Bruce Markovich spoke about a meeting that occurred on October 31st, 2024 with Carbon County to find out why houses have not been torn down in the borough.

Joseph Butrie inquired about the status of Construction Clearance on rent payments.

Tommy Vadyak thanked the borough office for participating in Halloween.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the upcoming garbage contract and that he feels council should consider what Council Woman Staines proposed recommendations for the contract.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about what another town pays for electronic recycling.

Tomm Vadyak spoke about the do-not-pick-lists regularly being updated and sent to Tamaqua Transfer.

Bruce Markovich inquired about how council would feel about an earlier garbage pickup time.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the current garbage pickup time and how the time does not need to be changed but that the garbage men need to begin at the start time not later.

Jennifer Staines stated she does not understand why residents do not contact PP&L about kitchen items such as fridges and microwaves due to PP&L removing and giving credits for such items.

Public Safety-

Michele Bartek spoke about a property that completed a street excavation and that since it was done to borough satisfaction the \$1,000.00 deposit should be refunded.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street inquired about the current amount that is charged for a street excavation permit.

Michele Bartek spoke wanting the hiring of a part-time officer to be added to the agenda.

Michele Bartek stated she would like to be present when the DCED comes to look at the borough office and police department.

Bruce Markovich stated the DCED would speak with all of council.

Michele Bartek spoke about police officers and the need the borough has for more officers.

Michele Bartek spoke about how she is taking classes for grant writing for both state and federal grants.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about why right wheel to curb is not being enforced in the borough.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about handicap parking.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about a property that has many different people going to the property then leaving five minutes later.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about experiences he has had with the police department and that he feels change needs to occur.

Joseph Butrie spoke about complaints he has heard about people parking in no parking areas near fire hydrants.

Parks and Recreation-

Gwyneth Collevchio congratulated Michele Bartek for the Halloween Festival success and spoke about the success the event was.

Michele Bartek spoke about the garbage can shortage at the Halloween Festival.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about the 24 garbage cans that have arrived, and all labels have been placed on the cans.

Gwyneth Collevchio thanked Joseph Butrie for his help with the garbage cans.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about wanting two cans at Kennedy Park for the tree decorating event.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about if council would allow school kids to be able to decorate their trees on November 26th, 2024 depending on if the trees could be delivered earlier.

Tommy Vadyak stated he feel parks and recreation is doing a good job and spoke about improvements he hopes to see.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about funding that other boroughs have received for their parks and recreation through DCNR.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how he feels the borough should do grants to get more funding for the parks and recreation.

Michele Bartek asked if the newspaper would post something about the Halloween Festival Basket Raffle Winners being able to come claim their prizes at the borough hall.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about how a resident talked to her about possibly having more events with music geared towards young people and that the resident's ideas should not cost the borough a lot of money.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about how Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk has been helping with the basketball hoops.

Bruce Markovich stated that the number one request is an organized recreation program.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about the Veterans Day Parade and that she hopes people will come out to support the event.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about the council attendance and that it needs to be recorded.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the how he feels council members should have to be present for meetings.

Zoning and Ordinance-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the sidewalk shoveling ordinance.

Jennifer Staines spoke about an idea that Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ashley McLaughlin presented to her and then asked Ashley to present the idea to council.

Ashley McLaughlin spoke about instead of replacing the handicap doors to instead change the door swing direction, order from Amazon a handicap door opener for disabled people, and then having an electrician install electric to the door.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how an outside door must open towards outside.

Council discussed handicap doors and about potential solutions for how to make the borough hall doors more handicap accessible.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a woman from No-Nonsense Neutering asking if someone from council would be interesting in filing for a \$5,000.00 grant and then the having borough pay the animal neutering invoices through the grant funding.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the No-Nonsense Neutering.

Jennifer Staines spoke about chickens and that chicken complaints are common.

Jennifer Staines spoke about regulations that are listed on the Department of Agriculture pertaining to chickens.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the animal ordinance and that exotic, service animals, dog licenses need to be added to the ordinance.

Jennifer Staines spoke about wanting to change the number of animals allowed in a household.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how all animals outside needing leashes will being walked.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the state law on the number of dogs allowed.

Council talked about a dog that is commonly running loose and was just recently rehomed.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how people should contact the animal control person with Carbon County for loose animals.

Shane Monk spoke about how in October forty complaints were received, and sixteen were unannounced.

Shane Monk spoke about how out of around fifty complaints, eleven properties have turned over and become better.

Shane Monk spoke about a major sewer issue that occurred on Klein Avenue between Klein Avenue and Abbott Street which resulted in sewage going onto Klein Avenue.

Shane Monk spoke about how he has issued 24 inspection tickets for vehicles.

Shane Monk spoke about the expensive cost of certified mail.

Shane Monk spoke about how the BHA has programs that allow kids to do community service as part of their education and if that is something council would be interested in doing in the future.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the woman running the program did come into the office earlier in the year, but paperwork was not submitted before their deadline.

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to get the code vehicle horn fixed.

Tommy Vadyak remarked about the job Shane Monk has been doing to clean up the borough and that the work he is doing is noticeable.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how he feels Shane Monks hours need to be increased to help combat the property violations that are in the borough.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about a discussion he had with police chief Kyle Woodward and how Shane Monk should not be enforcing right wheel to curb and 48-hour trailer notice.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about he feels Shane Monk should not be doing things that the police department should be handling.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how he feels Shane Monk's hours should be full-time and that certain ticket issuance are not his responsibility.

Shane Monk spoke about an email that was received from Kyle Woodward thanking both the office staff and Shane Monk for all the work they do.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the positive changes that have happened on his block since Shane Monk has become code and ordinance enforcement officer.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the fee schedule.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the meeting she had with ARRO and that the borough has two options pertaining to rentals.

Jennifer Stains spoke about either having rentals continue to go through ARRO Consulting or having rentals processed by the borough office.

Jennifer Staines spoke about setting up zoom so that residents can view the meetings from their homes.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a grant writer she found and read off his background to council.

Joseph Butrie spoke about Construction Clearance and that he feels enforcement should be done due to lease violation.

Joseph Butrie inquired about why Construction Clearance is being allowed to have trailers at the doors of the Silvex Building and about the garbage around the building.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he feels Construction Clearance should be treated like other properties that violate their lease agreements.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the burning ordinance and that it pertains to cooking.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how she has talked to Nesquehoning about regionalizing the police force and that discussion about it still needs to happen with Summit Hill and Coaldale.

Jennifer Staines inquired about if council would be interested in regionalizing code enforcement with other boroughs in the area.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how all the towns are working with the Blueprint Community to help combat blight.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the towing ordinance status.

Jennifer Staines spoke about other borough's rental license fees.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the delinquent taxes' lists and that most of them are from rental properties.

Bruce Markovic spoke about the amount of taxes that are not collected and how that largely impacts the budget.

Council discussed possible ways to address the rental license process collection rate and how to increase collection.

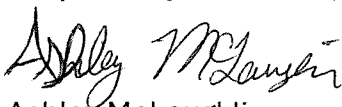
Council and audience members discussed the good landlords that still exist within the borough and the positive impacts they provide.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the importance of having rental enforcement

Joseph Butrie inquired about a sign that is on borough property coming into the Lansford Borough from Coaldale and about possibly removing the sign.

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce Markovich at 7:54p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer