

Committee Meeting Minutes

October 1st, 2024

The October 1st, 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 Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk.

President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Jay Doyle, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance had been recited at the Budget Meeting which was prior to the Committee Meeting.

Public Works-

Due to Vice President Jay Doyle's absence, Joseph Butrie represented the public works committee.

Joseph Butrie inquired if information was obtained about the cost of a salt shed.

Bruce Markovich stated the shed without the pad underneath it will cost \$58,000 and an additional \$20,000 to clear the land.

Joseph Butrie stated he would like the borough to get bids for the salt shed and about possibly having the public works crew clear out the land for the shed to reduce cost.

Joseph Butrie spoke about getting bids to sell the land on Water Street, that the current salt shed resides on once the new salt shed is purchased.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about the status of the street sweeper.

Bruce Markovich stated that the street sweeper needs a water pump and maintenance.

Tommy Vadyak spoke having seen a picture of the street sweeper it looks like tires are going to be needed.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the costs of the sweeper repairs being around \$10,000.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the public workers doing work on the back street of West Abbott Street and that the road should have had signs posted stating the road was closed.

Bruce Markovich stated that a grievance meeting is happening with the public works union due to a council member that is not on the public works committee instructing the public works crew on what they should be doing.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the Borough Office wanting to have the public workers submit their timesheets digitally.

Chief of Police Kyle Woodward spoke about the police department moving away from paper timesheets and instead inputting timesheets digitally into the payroll system ADP which helps provide a more accurate payroll reducing discrepancies.

Martin Ditsky of 330 ½ East Abbott Street inquired if the cost repair for the street sweeper is going to be added for council to vote on in the October 9th, 2024 Monthly Council Meeting.

Martin Ditsky spoke about the street condition of West Abbott Street near the Boyers Supermarket.

Jennifer Staines inquired if Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk has seen the condition of West Abbott Street that Martin Ditsky is speaking about.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the 2008 Dump Truck and that he would like a certified inspector to inspect the vehicle to see what exactly needs to be done for the truck.

Marting Ditsky inquired about the statues of the new borough garage.

Bruce Markovich stated that the borough is waiting for information on the grant that is going to be used for the cost of the new borough garage.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the 2001 Black truck, and the loader needing tires.

Joseph Butrie stated that when the tires are removed from the vehicles that the tires need to be taken at the same time they are removed.

Municipal Administration-

Bruce Markovich spoke about how at the next meeting council must decide on the way Covid Funds are going to be allocated.

Denise Leibensperger of 164 West Ridge Street spoke about a bench that you can handcuff prisoner to and that she feels that is something the council should consider for the police station.

Denise Leibensperger inquired about what is delaying the police department being moved to a new building.

Bruce Markovich spoke about all the components that go into deciding where the police department is going to be moved to.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the handicap accessibility for the borough building and that handicap accessible doors need to be installed.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the borough can reach out to the fire company and see if there is anything they need.

Bruce Markovich spoke about using USDA Grant money for a borough truck.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about wanting to fence in Ashton Park to make it safer for the people that use the park.

Gwyneth Collevchio spoke about wanting to fence in the Abbott Street basketball court.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how the borough should invest in trail cams for the borough courts and parks.

Bruce Markovich stated that PennDOT has not responded to the borough on the four sinkholes located on Route 209/Patterson Street.

Bruce Markovich stated that PennDOT has previously told the borough it is not their responsibility, but he sent an email stating that the borough does not have underground drainage facilities underneath the roadway in those areas, thus it is PennDOT's responsibility to fix the sinkholes.

Bruce Markovich stated that there are properties that claimed to be empty but are putting garbage out and thus are now being billed for garbage.

Bruce Markovich stated that he feels the council should consider signing up for the Main Street Program due to the CRIZ Program having restrictions put on by the state to allow only one municipality to apply for it.

Bruce Markovich stated that the stairs near Andrewsville have been removed and the school bus stop have been moved.

Joseph Butrie inquired about the oversized truck permits and that international travelers' cabs have been sitting in the parking lot for months.

Public Safety-

Joseph Butrie spoke about a letter that he received from the Chairperson of Public Safety that stated he should stop banging on the police door due to the police possibly having someone in the police department under custody.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how difficult it can be to get into contact with the police department.

Joseph Butrie spoke council approving Joseph Butrie to decommission the 2002 old police car that is in the borough garage.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how he had spoken with Michele Bartek and that Michele would like to increase the police officer part-time hourly salary to \$35.00 an hour.

Parks and Recreation-

Tommy Vadyak spoke about how no mulch has been placed at the parks this year.

Joseph Butrie stated that he thinks rubber mulch should be used at the parks because it is safer for the kids and can not be kicked around as easily.

Denise Leibensperger inquired about the status of the police officer applicants.

Bruce Markovich stated that the police applicants are going to be tested on October 5th, 2024 and that council will be receiving the results of the tests.

Denise Leibensperger spoke about the borough needing something that will entice people to want to apply for police officer positions.

Kyle Woodward spoke about the issues that the police department has been facing with attracting police officer applicants.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about two of civil service commission current members and that he feels they should not be on the commission.

Zoning and Ordinance-

Jennifer Staines spoke about a meeting that happened on September 30th, 2024 with Arro Consulting about way rental properties are being handled.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how Arro Consulting wants to allow payments and fees to be paid through the website and for the removal of requiring landlords to supply proof of paid utilities to Arro for a rental license to be issued.

Jennifer Staines spoke about Arro wanting all checks to go to Arro for rental fees and Arro to then disperse the money to the borough.

Jennifer Staines spoke about including tire disposal in with the garbage contract and inquired about the cost of disposing tires at Gary's Tires.

Jennifer Staines spoke about getting estimates to have a company come in and clean up abandoned properties.

Bruce Markovich spoke about having Jennifer Staines look at a property and then approving which properties would receive the cleanup.

Shane Monk spoke about getting information in writing about exactly what the cleanup company would be doing on the properties.

Bruce Markovich stated that the borough would pay the company for the cleanup and then the property owner would have to reimburse the borough the cost.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how she went with both Ray Swartz and Shane Monk are getting non-valid complaints about properties.

Jennifer Staines spoke about looking at properties before sending complaints over to Ray Swartz.

Shane Monk spoke about the complaints he has received and that most in violation are working towards having no violations.

Shane Monk spoke about the cost to send out violations in certified mail.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about issues that are surrounding the garbage cans being placed in the front of the property.

Shane Monk spoke about making a public announcement that garbage needs to be put into garbage cans.

Audience Members discussed the issue with garbage bags being placed on the sidewalk without being in a bag.

Jennifer Staines spoke how Ray Swartz and Shane Monk have been going around and verifying the status of property occupancy.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about a freezer that has doors attached on it that is on 334 West Abbott Street.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about a house on his block that is playing basketball in the middle of the road.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Persona Mall Goodwill taking televisions at no cost.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about what previous council did in relation to electronic pickups.

Jennifer Staines spoke about Shane Monk needing a new car battery for his vehicle and winter work clothing.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the caring is sharing fundraiser that is happening at Boyers Supermarket and that the fire company should get involved because every sale in the supermarket 1% of the sale goes to caring is sharing.

Jennifer Staines spoke about calling Beth Dodson because the magistrate is going to start processing tickets on people in violations and they are going to do 20 tickets at a time.

Audience members spoke about the borough allowing volunteers to help clean up the town.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how he reached out to Attorney Robert Yurchak about opposing assessment appeals due to the borough having received 34 appeals.

Bruce Markovich stated that these appeals would lose the borough a lot of money in tax revenue and thus must be opposed.

Bruce Markovich stated a resolution must be passed stating that whatever is paid for a property is what the property will be assessed at.

Borough Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Mclaughlin spoke about a company that creates free newsletters for boroughs.

Ashley Mclaughlin stated the newsletter has no cost to the borough and the council would get to decide and approve everything in the newsletter before it would be available to the public.

Council discussed ways that the newsletter could be distributed to the public and agreed it is something worth looking into.

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce Markovich at 7:31p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer