

The October committee meeting 10/3/2023 was called to order by Borough Council President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following items were discussed by committee topic in a contiguous manner beginning at 4:00p.m.

Council members attending were Gwyneth Collevchio, Jennifer Staines, Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich. William Chuma, Jay Doyle, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were not in attendance.

The Meetings started with a gentleman from St. Luke's his name was Eric Rothstein speaking to Council about the facility at 100 W. Patterson St. and the ability to treat people who are not able to pay for the services that are provided. There are three locations that a like this there is one here in Lansford, one in Hometown/Tamaqua and one in Ringtown. One of the nice things about these sites is you always see the same doctor, not a different doctor every time. The facilities will do vaccines for children if they need them and can't afford them. The whole idea was to fill the Lansford facility the Physical Therapy is on the bottom floor, there is a doctor's office on the second floor and a lab for blood work.

The next gentleman that spoke was Ed Wenger from Lehigh Engineering about the Code Enforcement Officer position. The office is in Pottsville he has been with them for 3 years. Ed spoke about doing our rental inspections. Ed stated that he would like to bundle the inspections into one day a week. Martin asked Ed as a Code Officer how you see this job. Ed responded he provides the service to other communities if a property did not have a rental application, he would send out a letter giving them so many days to become compliant if they do not then he would take it to Council for the next step. Ed stated that we have one of the best rental ordinances around. The good thing about it is you state in the ordinance that if an owner lives more than 20 miles away from Lansford, they need a property manager. That is great because if something happens, I need to know who I can contact if something goes wrong with the property and I do require the either the owner or the manager must be on premise the day of the inspection. I will fill out a two-part carbon copy report and have them sign off at the bottom and give them a copy of it this way there are no discrepancies they know what the issues are that need to be fixed and it saves on mailing.

Bruce asked how it would work for rentals. Ed said he would have a copy of the Ordinance naturally. The Borough would still send out the renewals invoices when they come back, we would let him no. You would handle the mailing at the office. The cost of inspections would be \$83.00 and that would go up \$3-\$7.00.

Katherine Evans – of Summit Hill – stated that she put in a zoning application and is waiting to get the permit back to open a preschool in Lansford. Kathy stated that Jim Dean told her she needed a place that had a play area with a 6ft. fence around it to get the permit she was questioning this. The secretary stated she would investigate it for her and call her.

Bob Gaughan – 348 W. Patterson St. – mentioned that feral cats are being fed on his block and they are multiplying. Bob thought that there was something that Council did in the past about feral cats but was not certain about it. Bob wants to know what can be done about the issue.

Bruce mentioned that he would have the Borough workers go down to the parking lot and take away the blue tote that these people are using to feed the cats.

Bob also mentioned the Oversized Vehicle Ordinance and the fact that he needs to park his trailer on the street to have it inspected. Bob asked if the Borough could set something up so that you can park a

*These minutes are unofficial minutes.

trailer on the street for 24 hours for these issues and then move them. The Borough Secretary told him he could buy a permit daily and that should help you with the issue.

Rose Mary Cannon – 242 W. Ridge St. – Asked if Construction Clearance had moved their stuff into the Kiddie Klothes Factory. Bruce stated that they have not, and they cannot.

Public Works:

The Committee is William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, and Jay Doyle.

William Chuma was not in attendance, so Bruce Markovich stated that Bill mentioned that Bill is getting prices on tires. No qualifying applications for the full-time public works position. Bill also got prices on the tires for the trucks.

Municipal Administration:

The Committee is Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio.

Budget

Bruce Markovich gave the report:

On the agenda we need to approve opening the 2 checking accts. that we talked about with Lacey one for grant money and the other for excess liquid fuels money.

At Kennedy Park that Christine Hunter that was to come in and go over a redesign well she has left the firm and gone over to the state, and they transferred her files over to someone else. Bruce talked to the new lady, and she will be a little behind on everything, but she would like to schedule a meeting up here to go over a design of what Kennedy Park should look like.

Teddy Wallover of Wallover & Assoc., who we spoke to many times about making the splashpads for us, would like to set up a meeting date with us to get more input.

Police Pension is down about \$38,000 it is down to about one million of two million its losing its value we need someone to look at it.

The lights at the skatepark are in. We are getting a price on the lights at Kennedy Park.

Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau will be sending out the payment finally now that we got the w-9 sent into them.

Interviews for the Ploice Chief will be conducted on the 20th of October by the Chiefs assoc. and then after that the Borough gets to interview them.

The grant for the fire company is done. We received a nice letter from Argall's office.

Park and Recreation:

The Committee is Gwyneth Collevchio, William Chuma.

Gwyneth Collevchio gave the report: There is no report.

Zoning and Ordinance:

The Committee is: Jay Doyle, William Chuma

Bruce- There is paperwork here from Ray Swartz the Asst. Code Enforcement Officer for the Borough on the property at 205-207 W. Kline Ave. The owner of the property is Robert Bosco the house a demolition order will be issued. Ray can issue the paperwork for a while. Jim Dean put a letter in to do the rental inspections for us at \$20.00 an hour. The drawback is the Secretaries need to setup the inspections for him and get the paperwork ready for him. A discussion went on about Lehigh Inspections coming on board and doing Rental Inspections and Code Enforcement. We all agreed that someone needs to get out on the streets and see what is going on when we get complaints.

Public Safety:

The Committee is John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio.

John Turcmanovich gave the report: The Mayor has an application for a part-time police officer, and he is hoping that the background on this person is done, and we can hire them.

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John mentioned that he had gotten a lot of emails from testing consortiums, and he thinks that we should investigate them.

Also talked about was the fact that there are 13 houses on his block, 11 of them are occupied and 3 houses are not having their garbage picked up the one of them is going on 8 weeks that it has a lot of garbage piled up in the backyard. So, John stated the there are a lot of bears hanging outside right now.

The meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted, *Wendy Butrie*, Secretary Treasurer