

**LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Regular Monthly Meeting 1 W. Ridge Street April 10, 2019 6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** By President Jared Soto at 6:00 p.m. followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**Roll Call:** the following council members were present: President Jared Soto , Mayor James Romankow, Vice President Irma Leibensperger, President Pro Tempore John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Solicitor Michael Greek arrived at 6:30 p.m.

**Executive Session:** was scheduled for borough garage property discussions and personnel however a security issue regarding drug activity was discussed with the police department. Attending were Chief Jack Soberick and two members of the State Attorney General’s Office and Drug Task Force. Executive session ended 6:30 p.m.

- 1. **Vacant Council Seat** - To fill the vacant seat left by the resignation of Councilman Joseph Butrie on 3/13/19. Three Letters of Interest were received; from Martin Ditsky, William Chuma, & Ronald Derr Jr.
  - President Soto called for nominations, each nomination requires a second.
  - **Irma Leibensperger nominated Martin Ditsky. There was no second and the motion failed.**
  - **Bruce Markovich nominated William Chuma. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich.**
  - As there were no more nominations, President Soto closed nominations.
  - **Roll call vote was taken on the motion to appoint William Chuma to the vacant borough council seat: voting yes- Jared Soto, Bruce Markovich, Bob Silver, John Turcmanovich. Voting no - Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus. Motion passed; 4 yes 2 no.**
  - **A Motion was made by Bob Silver to adopt Resolution 2019-04 appointing William Chuma to the vacant seat left by Joseph Butrie (terms ending 12/31/2019). The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.**

Attorney Greek issued the Oath of Office and Affidavit of Residency to William Chuma and he took a seat at the council table.

- 2. **Street Material Bids** – Jared Soto opened the one bid received for street materials from Lehigh Asphalt:

Amount/Description	Unit PriceUnd	UndeliverPrice	Unit DeliverPrice	Delivered Price
500 Tons Type 2 AS3 Antiskid,	\$13.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$18.50	\$ 9,250.00
500 Tons Superpave 9.5mm	\$ 59.95	\$29,975.00	\$68.95	\$34,475.00
500 Tons Superpave 19.0mm	\$ 56.30	\$28,150.00	\$65.30	\$32,650.00
500 Tons Superpave 25.0mm	\$ 51.00	\$25,500.00	\$60.00	\$30,000.00
500 Tons #1B Stone	\$ 15.50	\$ 7,750.00	\$21.00	\$10,500.00
500 Tons #2A Stone	\$ 10.50	\$ 5,250.00	\$16.00	\$ 8,000.00
500 Tons #2B Stone	\$ 12.75	\$ 6,375.00	\$18.25	\$ 9,125.00
				\$134,000.00 Max

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to accept the bid from Lehigh Asphalt Paving and Construction Company, Inc., Tamaqua, for street materials for the contract period April 11, 2018 to April 11, 2019. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.**

- 3. **Public Courtesy:**

**Mary Soberick**, 109 W. Abbott Street - asked whether there is any progress on eliminating the sewer transmission fee.

**Warren Balliet**, 518 E. Bertsch Street, - asked that an ordinance be considered to set time limits on when legal fireworks can be set off in the borough or a specific noise ordinance.

**Jennifer Staines**, 353 W. Abbott Street – also concerned about the fireworks and how the noise affects animals.

**Martin Ditsky**, 330 ½ E. Abbott Street – had a complaint about garbage piling up when people move in and out in his neighborhood, the poor condition of roads and NIMS training. He is against limited parking in the business district.

**Rose Mary Cannon**, 242 W. Ridge Street – Regarding sewage transmission - spoke about the number of EDU's (equivalent dwelling units) allowed in the borough. The current moratorium on new connections to the sewer system is based on a specific number of EDU's.

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes :**

March 13, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and the following was noted:

1. Irma Leibensperger asked for redaction of a sentence from Rose Mary Cannon's public courtesy remarks as well as Mary Soberick's public courtesy remarks about reviewing minutes in the borough office.
2. Bob Silver pointed out there was no second to a motion allowing Lehigh Valley Inspection Services to monitor the Zona demolition for return of the fire escrow money. (After listening to the recording, that motion was made by Irma Leibensperger and second by Jared Soto.)

**A motion to approve the 3/13/19 minutes with the above two corrections was made by Bob Silver. The motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor except Jared Soto who was opposed. Motion passed, 6 yes, 1 no.**

5. **Correspondence (enclosed):**

- **PA Dept. of Weights and Measures** – training for public works employees as certified parking meter inspectors. Topic was tabled.
- **Panther Valley School District** – Asking whether any bus stop changes are being considered for 2019-2020 school year. Council was asked to give Jared Soto suggested changes. Mr. Soto will contact the school district before May 10, 2019.
- **PA DCED** – Notification was received, approval of \$40,444.00 LSA Grant 2019 for Streetscape improvements. Marge Ryan at DCED needs a response on how the borough plans to proceed with this project; reduce the project scope or provide the balance of the project funds. The original application estimate was \$179,025.00 for 8 streetlights in the business district. Council agreed to rewrite the narrative and cost estimate to accommodate the grant quote. Jared will contact Marge Ryan.
- Mayor Romankow left the meeting at this time. 7:15 p.m.
- **Federal Census Bureau** – Looking for workers. Chris Noreika, Federal Census representative, met with Jill Seigendall & Marie Ondrus in borough hall on March 29<sup>th</sup> to explain the hiring process, the need for census workers and to make the public aware of the positions available. An advertisement about the jobs available was placed on the borough's Facebook page.

6. **Correspondence not enclosed to save paper-** copy available upon request

- **Windstream** – Notification of voluntary petition for Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy
- **Chapter 94 Waste Load Report for 2018** - from Carbon Engineering is on file
- **Friends of Lansford Recreation** - Agenda and financial information is on file
- **PennDOT** – revisions to the Route 209 Traffic Signal Permits and maps
- **PA DEP** –notice of surface Mining Permit renewal for LCN Mine Operation
- **Carbon County Workforce Training** – Summer youth employment program. No workers are requested this year.
- **Allied Benefits Group, LLC** - Lansford Borough Police Pension Quarterly Report

7. **Committee Reports** - from February committee meetings held April 3, 2019 :

**Parks & Recreation** – April meeting was cancelled.

**Public Works** – No written meeting report. The Fire Works Ordinance was discussed. The street sweeping schedule will be published in the Times News newspaper and on FaceBook. The cost of snow ordinance signs will be investigated and demolition of the old borough garage on Spring Street was discussed.

**Municipal Administration** – No written meeting report; Irma Leibensperger talked about offering residents the choice of paying sanitation, residential rental licensing and Sewer Transmission using credit cards. The cost to the borough is \$33.45 per month (401.00/yr.) for each department. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

**Zoning & Ordinance** – No written meeting report

**Public Safety** – No written meeting report. There was discussion about changing the stop signs at the “T” intersection of Center and W. Ridge Streets. At the current time there is one stop sign (unless making a right turn) for motorists traveling north on Center Street needing to make a left turn and one stop sign for motorists traveling east on W. Ridge Street.

**John Turcmanovich made a motion to have Attorney Greek create an ordinance to make the “T” intersection a complete three way stop at the intersection of Center and W. Ridge Streets; to add a stop sign on Center Street traveling north and a stop sign on W. Ridge Street for motorists traveling west. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**A Motion was made to renew the agreement with Northeast Highway Central Safety Network, Pottsville, to continue with help for sobriety checkpoints. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to have Lansford Police Officer Jarrod Bulger participate in the State Attorney General’s Drug Task Force - Local Office Full Time Assignment. Bruce Markovich requested Attorney Greek review the agreement. The topic was tabled.**

**8. Municipal Reports:**

**Mayors Report** – March report shows \$1,464.88 collected; year to date total \$6,420.31.

**Police Report** – March report shows 440 calls, 13 criminal arrests, 27 traffic citations, 9 non-traffic citations, 38 parking/ordinance tickets, 1 quality of life ticket.

**Fire Department** – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 - March report shows 17 calls; 13 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill

**Ambulance** – March report shows the Lehighon Ambulance responded to 55 incidents with an average response time of 8.33 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

**Code Enforcement** – No report

**Carbon County Council of Governments (COG)** – At a special meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the courthouse, Lynne Newman, partnership coordinator of the 2020 Census, spoke about how Pennsylvania will organize to collect census data and the jobs available. Lansford is in the Allentown Census Office area and is listed as a Low Response Area on the census map. She encouraged each municipality to form a Complete Count Committee focused on promoting census awareness.

**Tax Collector’s Report** - \$90,964.93 collected in April before this meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report** –Total bills to be approved \$25,780.20. Breakdown: General Fund \$ 6,965.06; High Way Liquid Fuels \$8,093.27; Street Light \$4,993.38, Sanitation \$520.00, Sewer Transmission \$5,208.49. Enclosed is the monthly checking account activity for all accounts, monthly projection.

**A Motion to approve payment of the bills totaling \$25,780.20 was made by Bruce Markovich and second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in approval, Motion passed.**

**Sanitation Delinquents** – \$6,000.00 cost for the borough to file civil suits and liens at courthouse using the services of Attorney Michael Greek and tracking them at the borough office versus collection agency Portnoff collecting and tracking them.

**A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to continue with civil suits and liens for sanitation delinquents using the services of Attorney Michael Greek. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Water shut off for delinquent Sewer Transmission Accounts will be held on April 30, 2019.

End of Month Balances 2019

No.	Account Title	Feb	March
7673	General Acct	\$175,267.85	\$124,131.22
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	\$7,333.33
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$141,211.40	\$120,067.57
0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct*	\$51,703.36	\$51,712.14
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,151.34	\$12,152.31
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$94,805.43	\$161,020.95
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)*	\$164,705.75	\$164,733.73
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res acct)	\$152,834.89	\$152,834.89
1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$50,567.80	\$50,654.31
7722	Local Service Tax	\$29,666.39	\$26,396.61
7764	Street Lights	\$10,875.81	\$13,417.32
7748	Fire	\$35,366.03	\$27,593.50
7706	Treasurers Special HI Way	\$52,203.78	\$168,976.00
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,370.27	\$41,373.56
7756	Recreation	\$64,413.75	\$65,111.26
		<b>\$1,089,657.29</b>	<b>\$1,192,688.81</b>
	<b>LOANS</b>	<b>Est Balance</b>	<b>Est Balance</b>
	Tax Anticipation Note	100,000.00	100,000.00
	Sewer Separation Project	900,512.06	885,060.98
	MEM Street Light Loan	130,384.11	130,384.11
	2017 Police Expedition	13,204.09	13,204.09
	2018 Dodge RAM Police Truck	42,073.00	42,073.00
		<b>1,186,173.26</b>	<b>1,170,722.18</b>

**Solicitor Report :**

- Attorney Greek received notification that bond needed to be set for Tax Collector Terrance McCall and he did so.

- The public notice for vacating the borough owned property at the southern end 5,500 sq. ft. of Tunnel Street has been advertised. It includes the rights for all utility easements.

**A Motion was made by Bruce Markovich to set a hearing date for vacating the borough owned property 5,500 sq. ft. at the southern end of Tunnel Street (that portion south of Water Street). The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in approval, Motion passed.**

**9. Unfinished Business:**

a. **Tyrone Rarick** - 327 W. Bertsch Street Garage. Lease expires April 11, 2019. Mr. Rarick is asking for \$800.00 per month rent. Mr. Silver will contact Mr. Rarick to see whether the monthly fee can be negotiated to a lower amount.

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the \$800.00 monthly lease payment, to be a month to month lease, to Tyrone Rarick for his garage at 327 W. Bertsch Street, with the hopes that he may reduce the price. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

b. **Ordinance 2019-02** - Public Displays of Fireworks – follows what the state law has in effect; the draft was reviewed by council and will be discussed at the next committee meetings.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma to advertise the Fire Works Ordinance 2019-02 as presented. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

c. **Carbon County FY 2015 CDBG Grant Funds** – Jared Soto will get three estimates for landscaping of the former Elks lot, 6 E. Ridge Street; \$6,370.00 grant is expected; July 1, 2019 deadline.

- d. **Carbon County FY 2019 CDBG Grant Funds** – project ideas are for Edgemont Bridge and Brimble’s Wall projects. Jared will get an income survey for Edgemont Road and Oak Street residents to see whether it qualifies for grant funds.
- e. **Resolution 2017-19:** The Borough Office Fee Schedule was provided to all of council. No changes at this time.
- f. **Upgrade computer system in borough office** – Joseph Lyons estimates the cost around \$500.00. Council agreed to move forward with the upgrade.
- g. **Code Enforcement Software** – Jared Soto asked for a motion to purchase a public works & code enforcement software from IWORQ’s. The three quotes are:
  - IWorQ - \$4,600 includes implementation fee and \$2,750.00 annual fee
  - Comcate - \$13,187 includes \$5,356 implementation fee and \$7,831 annual fee
  - Dude Solutions - \$17,120 includes \$7,620 implementation fee and \$9,500 annual fee

**A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to purchase public works/code enforcement software from IWORQ’ at a cost of \$4,600.00 implementation fee and \$2,750.00 annual fee. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Jared Soto announced there will be a special meeting to meet with all the applicants for Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and U.C.C. Official.

#### 10. New Business

- Community Free Yard Sale Date  
**A Motion was made by Bill Chuma to hold two free yard sales weekends on May 25 & 26, 2019 and August 3 & 4, 2019. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.**
- Consider an ordinance to address removal of snow along borough streets in the absence of sidewalks . (Leighton was considering this). There was previous discussion about the absence of sidewalks and a walking path in the winter at the 400 block of West Bertsch Street, south end of the football stadium.
- Rental Inspection Training – Jared Soto attended on 4/3/19
- Joseph Lyons IT service agreement is being considered for maintenance of the system, replacing Jeff Leslie.

**Bob Silver made a motion to not advertise an ordinance prepared (since the March meeting), changing parking on the south side of E. Ridge Street (between Springgarden and Tunnel Streets) and W. Ridge Street (between Center and Cortright Streets) from angle parking to parallel parking. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor except for Jared Soto who was opposed. Motion passed.**

Noting the decision by the Roman Catholic Church to reject any groups appeal to reopen St. Katherine Drexel R.C. Church, Bruce Markovich pointed out that the borough did not condemn the former St. Katherine Drexel R.C. Church, 124 E. Abbott Street, Lansford. The scaffolding erected around the church was cited as an unsafe structure by the borough’s Code Enforcement & U.C.C. Official, Lehigh Valley Inspection Services.

- 11. The meeting was adjourned by Jared Soto.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jill Seigendall*  
Secretary Treasurer