

The August meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. August 12, 2020 at borough hall.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance - by President Bruce Markovich.

Roll Call: Attending council persons: Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Bob (Robert) Silver, Marie Ondrus, and Mayor Michele Bartek. Council Person Irma Leibensperger was absent, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak arrived at 6:10 p.m. during executive session.

Executive Session: Held 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss acquiring the Silberline property to be used for the future borough garage, a police personnel issue and sewer problem at 400 E. Snyder Avenue.

Bid Opening for #2 Heating Oil for contract period 8/15/20 through 7/31/2021:

President Bruce Markovich opened two sealed bids:

Fegley Oil Company, Tamaqua \$1.799 fixed price OR fluctuating price .10 discount from daily price

Kattner Coal & Oil Inc., Nesquehoning \$1.519 fixed price

A Motion was made by William Chuma to accept the low bid from Kattner Coal & Oil Inc, \$1.519 per gallon. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Public Courtesy:

Mrs. Ellen Sargent, 527 E. Ridge Street, asked whether there is any solution or timeline regarding the sewer problem at her property, 400 E. Snyder Avenue. Mrs. Sargent sent a letter to solicitor Yurchak dated 7/28/2020 asking how the borough plans to proceed. Bruce Markovich is waiting to hear about a grant for the project, expected September 15, 2020.

Tonya Gould, 375 W. Ridge Street, and **Eve Lynn Jones**, 380 W. Ridge Street, – Complaints about loud music at the Sports Zoo Bar, 390 W. Snyder Avenue. The music is now directed East towards residential homes whereas it was formerly directed West toward Coaldale. The Mayor will talk to the officers and the owner of the Sports Zoo to resolve the situation.

Christopher Ondrus, 10 Edgemont Road, questioned Martin Ditsky about the delivery of mulch 7/25/20 to Ashton Park which resulted in a down PPL electrical wire and light fixture, and the repair of the wire and fixture. He also asked whether council plans to apply for LSA (Monroe County Gaming) grants.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, a former chairman of Park & Recreation committee, thanked council for ordering the mulch for the parks.

Mayor Bartek and Councilman Ditsky met with county commissioner Chris Lukasevich and David Bodnar of the CC Planning Office to discuss state and federal grant opportunities for sewer improvements. Mr. Bodnar explained the information required to apply for funding; copies of sewer maps, sewer plans and identification of problem areas.

Approval of Minutes:

July 7, 2020 Special Meeting to interview Engineer & UCC Companies

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the July 7, 2020 special meeting minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.

July 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by Bob Silver, to approve the July 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed 5-Yes, 1-No.

Correspondence:

- **Thomas Sullivan**, letter asking borough council to waive the Residential Rental Licensing Fee on his rental property which is occupied.
A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky, to deny Mr. Sullivan's request to have the Residential Rental Licensing fee waived for this property at 329 W. Patterson street. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- Handicap Parking Application - 245 E. Ridge Street, Linda Remmel
A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky to deny the applicant. No second, Motion failed.
A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to grant a handicap parking space to Linda Remmel at 245 E. Ridge Street. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky and Marie Ondrus who were opposed, Motion passed, 4 - Yes, 2 - No.
- Handicap Parking Application - 307 E. Bertsch Street, Elizabeth Sweeney
A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, second by William Chuma, to grant a handicap parking space to Elizabeth Sweeney at 307 E. Bertsch Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **Valor Clinic Foundation** – Special event request to hold a drive-thru school supplies distribution at Ashton Park parking lot on Saturday, 8/22/20, 9:00 a.m. to noon. No borough resources were requested.
A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the Valor Clinic drive-thru school supply event, on 8/22/20 at Ashton Park Parking Lot, second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **Carbon County Commissioners** request for a letter of support to construct an emergency services training center on the Broad Mountain, Nesquehoning.
A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to send a letter to the Carbon County Commissioners in support of the emergency services training center to be built on the Broad Mountain. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **Roy Christman**, letter outlining his impressions regarding gerrymandering in PA, the 7/15/20 letter was distributed to all council members.
- **Panther Creek Valley Foundation/No. 9 Mine & Museum** – letter of August 10, 2020 seeking LSA Grant Funds/Application Request (Resolution from Senator Yudichak's office was not received before this meeting.)
- **CC Tax Claim Bureau**, Notification of September 15, 2020 Tax Upset Sale, "No individual whose landlord license has been revoked in a municipality pursuant to its ordinance may purchase property in the county in which the local municipality is located at a tax sale under this act"
- **PA Dept. of Environmental Protection** – letter of July 22, 2020 - Silberline Approval of Risk Assessment Report. No further remediation required at the property.

Correspondence not copied – available on request

- **Carbon County Planning & Development** invitation to participate in CC Hazard Mitigation Planning Process, Wednesday, August 19, 2020, Virtual Daytime meeting 10-11 am or Virtual Evening Meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

- **Carbon County Controller**, Mark Sverchek, 2019 statement of Receipts and Disbursements for Carbon County District Count 56-3-03. The disbursements to Lansford Borough total \$13,376.03. This matches borough receipts.
- **Worker's Compensation assessment of Loss Control**, from Linda Sanchez, Optimus Risk Services, the Work Safe recommendations were given to the public works chairman.

Committee Topics:

Zoning & Ordinance – Bob Silver would like more information about software for code enforcement.

Public Works – William Chuma said there is a need for materials to repair sewer inlet and he expects to start street paving in the middle of next week. He presented a quote for concrete highway jersey barrier bin blocks; sizes 52”H X 12’L, \$125.00 each, and 34”H X 12’6” L, \$125.00 each. Delivery \$350-\$400 per truckload (9 blocks per truck), planning to purchase 27 blocks as barriers at the north ends of Springgarden, Walnut and Chestnut Streets. The topic was tabled until more information is obtained.

PVSD Business Manager Jesse Walck explained a paving project the school proposes to accomplish through shared services agreements with Coaldale, Summit Hill, and Lansford. The school wants to pave the Panther Valley School District parking lot. Mr. Walck asked Lansford to provide 2 maintenance workers for 2 days for the project. In return the borough may use a paver (purchased for Summit Hill Borough) on future shared services projects. An Agreement and Resolution for the project were reviewed by Council and Solicitor Yurchak.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to sign the Agreement with the Panther Valley School District to provide manpower through intergovernmental cooperation to complete a paving project at Panther Valley High School parking lot this summer. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky and Marie Ondrus who were opposed. Motion Passed, 4-Yes 2-No.

Resolution 2020-14 Municipal Agreement with Panther Valley School District

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt Resolution 2020-14 approving the PVSD shared services intergovernmental cooperation agreement between Lansford Borough and the Panther Valley School District for the purpose of sharing equipment and personnel. The Motion was second by Bob Silver, all were in favor except Martin Ditsky and Marie Ondrus who were opposed. Motion passed, 4-Yes, 2-No.

Municipal Administration – Route 209 Storm Water runoff; A letter was sent to Cathy Longenecker, Penn DOT, on 7/23/20 about the flooding caused by handicap sidewalks ramps installed on street corners by PennDOT along Route 209; Patterson Street.

The moratorium on sewer connections poses a problem for building the new borough garage. Bruce Markovich is researching sewer connections that have been eliminated since 1992. The borough will file for a waiver from Department of Environmental Protection to allow for the borough garage sewer connection and perhaps make 6 more connections available.

A bid of \$5,000.00 dated 7/29/20 was reviewed from Dunn's Tree Service to take down and remove all trees on the Silberline lot where the garage is proposed to be built.

Bruce Markovich said the borough did not apply for PA DCED multimodal transportation grant to replace sidewalk handicap ramps at Kennedy and Ashton Parks. Eligible costs had to be over \$100,000.00 and estimates were not that high.

Bridget Horvath signed an agreement to give her property at W. Patterson Street for demolition should the borough get a grant for demolition.

Downtown Streetscape project – The bases for new streetlights can only hold a 12' pole. The cost to remove the existing 18 steel light poles is \$310.00 per pole.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to have PPL replace 18 metal streetlight poles on Ridge Street, in the business district, with 11 fiberglass lamp style poles. The cost will be \$3,850 to have outlets installed on the 11 fiberglass poles (\$350.00 each). PPL will charge an additional \$5,270.00 to remove all the metal poles. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Park & Recreation – An estimate of \$1,850.00 was reviewed from Berk's Customs LLC, BJ Berk, to remove and replace cedar roof shingles on the gazebo in Kennedy Park. Mr. Berk's insurance is on file.

Public Safety – John Turcmanovich and the Civil Service Commission provided a letter dated 8/10/2020, announcing that Officer Matthew Houser successfully passed the Civil Service Exam appointing him as a permanent full-time officer for the Lansford Police Department. Officer Houser was originally made full time 4/21/20 as a provisional appointment due to COVID-19 pandemic and needed to qualify through Civil Service Testing.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to appoint Officer Matthew Houser as a regular full-time officer for the Lansford Police Department. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Municipal Monthly Reports:

American Fire Co. No. 1 – Answered 14 fire calls in July: 3 in Lansford, 7 in Summit Hill, 4 in Coaldale.

Leighton Ambulance Report – The ambulance responded to 75 incidents in July with an average response time of 8.4 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Bartek reported monthly total of \$2,895.88 with the following breakdown: magistrate \$2,575.88, miscellaneous reports \$15.00, parking violations \$305.00. Year to date total: \$10,329.92.

Police Report – Mayor Bartek reviewed the July police incident report. She said 2 police vehicles have transmission problems and the department plans to purchase firearms. She will provide estimates at a future meeting.

Solicitor's Report – No written report

Tax Collector's Report – July collections total \$114,025.22. Year to date total is \$901,736.23.

Treasurer's Report – Bills were offered for approval totaling \$98,416.02; Breakdown: General Fund, \$41,497.07, Street Light, \$4,645.29; Sewer Transmission, \$15,141.96; Park & Recreation, \$6,727.31; Liquid Fuels, \$2,292.39; Sanitation, \$28,112.00.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$98,416.02 was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor except for Marie Ondrus who was opposed, Motion passed, 5-Yes, 1-No.

Tax Anticipation Note: The remaining balance \$50,000.00 plus interest, \$450.83.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to pay the remainder of the Tax Anticipation Note \$50,450.83 to Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Sewer Transmission CD #1277: Original investment \$50,000 in Aug 2018, current value is \$51,244.08.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to renew Sewer Transmission CD#1277 at Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank after checking CD (yearly) interest rates at other local banks. If a higher rate is available, move the investment CD to that bank. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky, all were in favor, Motion passed.

Water shutoff for nonpayment of the 2019 Sewer Transmission Fee has been set for September 15, 2020. About \$20,000.00 is delinquent. Letters will be sent this week to all delinquent account holders to pay by September 9, 2020. Houses will be posted three days before the water shutoff date. If the past due amount is not paid by the end of the day September 14, 2020, a \$40.00 water disconnect/reconnect fee will be added to the account.

Bank Accounts 2020

End of month			2020	2020
FUND/Saving & Ckg	No.	Account Title	June	July
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$640,541.90	\$597,797.18
General Fund	7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
General Fund	7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	5725	Escrow for 2 E Ridge St	\$40,000.00	\$0.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$170,203.50	\$216,924.89
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,841.65	\$51,850.43
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,167.58	\$12,168.61
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$119,064.39	\$91,087.58
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission	\$165,146.29	\$165,174.27
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,950.00	\$152,957.54
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,233.58	\$51,244.08
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$16,379.16	\$17,196.24
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$56,084.08	\$55,977.26
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$46,072.74	\$42,858.81
Sp HiWay LiquidFuel	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$159,066.21	\$157,167.84
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,425.56	\$41,429.07
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$60,572.56	\$61,156.10
Total			\$1,787,929.31	\$1,720,170.01
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Tunnel St/StormSep	\$18,689.23 per mo.		\$646,457.96	\$630,086.19
MEM Debacle	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May&Nov		\$104,239.11	\$104,239.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	\$32,351.80	\$26,440.52
Total			\$833,048.87	\$810,765.82

Unfinished Business:

Remediation Plan 2020 – Submitted with Remediation Grant was reviewed by Council

Resolution 2020-12 UCC Fee Schedule

ARRO UCC Consultants – Professional Services Agreement and Resolution

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt Resolution 2020-12 to establish Arro Consulting UCC Fee Schedule. The Motion was second by

New Business:

YARD SALE - William Chuma made a Motion to hold a free Yard Sale Weekend on August 29 & 30, 2020. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, at 8:00 p.m. and everyone dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer