

**Lansford Borough Council
Special Budget Meeting
August 19, 2019**

Call to Order

Lansford Borough Council held a budget meeting at 6:00 p.m., Monday, August 19, 2019, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford. The meeting was called to order by President Jared Soto. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken. All council members were present: Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, and Irma Leibensperger. Mayor James Romankow and Solicitor Michael Greek were absent.

Public Courtesy

There were 2 residents in the audience that had no budget concerns.

Budget Discussion

Each council person received the Budget vs. Actual for the General Fund. Jared Soto went around the conference table and asked each council person for questions concerns or input to create the 2020 Proposed Budget. The following was decided:

1. Members of the municipal administration committee; Irma Leibensperger, Bob Silver and Bruce Markovich, will arrange time to meet with the treasurer to go over any questions about line items in the budget and prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming budget meetings. The committee will make recommendations based on those conversations.
2. It was agreed, committee chairs would have discussions with members of their respective departments to see what needs to be included in the budget for next year. Recommendations will be brought to the September or October budget meeting. It was recommended to see if each committee could cut costs by 10% as a starting point.
3. Insurance concerns: collect information on all insurance plans and divide insurance expenses to each department instead of using the current line items under 480. Miscellaneous Expenses. A suggestion was made to get bids on insurance services or find comparable plans to see if money could be saved. If changing carriers, the borough must provide insurance equal to or better than what is in the current collective bargaining agreements.
4. Real Estate Taxes: Council would like to see a proposed budget during the September budget meeting. A more accurate estimate of real estate tax statistics will be available in Oct-Nov. It was agreed to use the 20% uncollectible for accounts receiving tax funds.
5. Council will not be able to anticipate borough garage costs at this time.

The next special budget meeting will be held at borough hall on Monday, September 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Irma Leibensperger, second by William Chuma, at 7:00 p.m. and everyone disbursed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall,
Secretary/ Treasurer