

**Lansford Borough Council  
Special Meeting  
December 21, 2021**

**Call to Order**

A special meeting of Lansford Borough Council was to adopt the budget and for general purposes it was held 4:00 p.m. December 21, 2021, at borough hall, 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, PA. The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following council members were present: Martin Ditsky, William Chuma, President Bruce Markovich, Gwyneth Collevecchio, Mayor Michele Bartek, Bob Silver. John Turcmanovich and Marie Ondrus were absent from the meeting.

**Public Courtesy:**

Rose Mary Cannon – 242 W. Ridge St. Asked what is 1 mil in our budget? Bruce Markovich mentioned that he believes it is \$27,000.00. Rose Mary then said that our budget doesn't usually look like this you should show how much of each mil is going into what account. This is just a budget to date.

Joe Genits – 210 W. Front St. Mentioned we need a proposed ordinance.

Bruce Markovich stated that the prep of the budget is done by the Treasurer not the Secretary.

Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that she had another question. Under administration there is an amount of \$70,000.00 for the Secretaries and they are lumped together. Bob Silver said it is. Rose Mary said there should be two-line items. When doing transfers what is debt services being transferred into the General Fund for?

Bruce said on what page. Rose Mary page 2.

Rose Mary – When you assign millage to debt service you can't take it out for anything other than what it is used for.

Bruce said that with everything that Rose Mary brought and everything that Joe brought. Our Treasurer doesn't know what she is doing.

**New Business:**

**2022 Budget:** – Bruce mentioned that we could either postpone the budget and get her to come in and do a new budget that people are comfortable with, or we can pass the budget & re-open the after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Bob Silver said his recommendation would be to pass it tonight and be prepared to re-open it next year. Something about this budget doesn't gel.

Joe Genits mentioned that Rose Mary's questions are all valid and when you mention about passing it tonight that doesn't justify or guarantee that the new people will agree to that. It's up to the new people to decide whether to open the budget or not. They have till Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. I suggest you have the Treasurer go back and look at it again.

Bruce Markovich said that she is the Treasurer.

Bob Silver said the treasurer is appointed by the Council. She was never appointed Treasurer.

Wendy is the Secretary/Treasurer. The other gal is the Part-time Secretary and third-party Quick Books Bookkeeper she doesn't sign checks.

Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that there should have been an audit. She also mentioned that the Assessment for Property millage changed. We need the report from County. Wendy called down and got it for us.

Bob Silver said so what you are saying is you are not sure the \$770,000 tax base is on that paper.

Martin Ditsky said that he is not happy with the format of the budget.

Bruce Markovich said I thought you requested this format.

Martin Ditsky said oh no I did not.

Gwyneth Collevecchio said you stopped coming to the meetings after the first one.

Martin Ditsky said the chairs didn't have their wish lists prepared I was frustrated.

Gwyneth Collevecchio – Well the chairs didn't know to have them ready.

Martin Ditsky– Welcome to politics

Bob Silver mentioned that there were things that needed to be tweaked.

Bruce Markovich mentioned the last time I talked to her everything was ok.

Bob Silver said to her specifications. Joe is asking questions about certain things. Split the secretaries into two positions. Where is her part in the budget?

Bruce Markovich – The next thing is for her to start training to Wendy.

Bob – Where is her going to train Wendy in the budget? When she starts to train Wendy is it part of the \$12,000.00 if it is that is a lot of money.

**Roll call vote was taken on the motion to accept the budget: voting yes- Gwyneth Collevecchio, William Chuma. Voting no – Bob Silver, Martin Ditsky, Bruce Markovich. Motion failed; 2 yes 3 no.**

**Bill McMullen Security updates:** The Borough Engineer was here to talk to everyone about security upgrades to the Borough Office. The changes would affect Code Enforcement, Tax Collector and the Borough. Bill said he believes the estimates should come in at under \$21,000.00.

Martin asked how will they get to the Code Office? Bill said that we can either have them come in or be buzzed in. Bill said he would like to call a contractor in and see what the cost comes in at.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, a second by Martin Ditsky to have the engineer draw up specifications. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

The Mayor asked the Engineer if he had been downstairs to look at making changes at the Police Station. Bill McMullen mentioned that he had and that once you move things you must conform. A new bathroom would cost anywhere from 15-\$20,000.00. Revisions to the downstairs he would see estimates coming in at the 6-figure mark.

Bruce mentioned that the Borough will not fix for \$100,000.00. The floor in the kitchen must be done

**Kennedy Park:** - There were nice activities being held by Friends of the Pool, Lansford Alive and the Chamber. Bruce mentioned that when he attended the events, he noticed how the older people were checking their shoes to make sure that they had not stepped in any dog feces. Bruce mentioned that he would like to amend the Ordinance to NO DOGS. We should do 2 things.

1. Put Signs up
2. If police patrol and see a dog in Kennedy Park they need to let the owner know.

There was talk about maybe putting in a Dog Park. Rose Mary Cannon mentioned that past Council talked about doing that in the past and they found out there is a lot of work to having a Dog Park in the Borough.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by Martin Ditsky for No Dogs Allowed in Kennedy Park. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**Appoint Committee:** purchase former Lansford Train Station

We need a committee to meet with Mr. Hill. There is an interest in the train station for re-development.

Mr. Hill needs an offer now. He needs to know if there is an interest or not, he will hold the building till we are ready.

Bruce stated that he believes we have one opportunity here to purchase this building and to bring trains back through the Borough or to lose the building and the trains and your chance is gone. Then there is no chance to get this opportunity again.

**There was a Motion made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by Martin Ditsky to appoint a committee to purchase the former Lansford Train Station. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

**Adjournment – was at 5:15 p.m.**

**Executive Session followed the meeting for discussions on the Train Station.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Wendy Butrie*

Secretary Treasurer