

**Call to Order** on December 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m., 1 W. Ridge Street, by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call by the secretary treasurer.

**Council members attending** were Martin Ditsky, Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Gwyneth Collevechio, Mayor Michele Bartek and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Absent were Bob Silver and Marie Ondrus.

**Executive Session:** 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss the purchase of Silberline property for the borough garage, the status of the easement for the sewer project at 400 E. Snyder Avenue, and police personnel issues.

**Public Courtesy:**

6:30 p.m. No one in the audience

**Approval of Meeting Minutes requested for:** October 27, 2020 budget meeting, November 10, 2020 budget meeting, November 11, 2020 monthly meeting, November 24, 2020 special meeting.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Gwyneth Collevechio, to approve the October 27, 2020 budget meeting minutes as written. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Two residents and Chris Reber of the Times News entered the meeting room.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to approve the November 10, 2020 budget meeting minutes as written. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky, to approve the November 11, 2020 monthly meeting minutes as written. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to approve the November 24, 2020 special meeting minutes as written. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Correspondence :**

**PA Department of Military & Veterans Affairs** - Real Estate Tax Exemption Requested for Ursula Lazar, 534 E. Patterson Street, Lansford.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, Second by John Turcmanovich, to approve a real estate tax exemption for Ursula Lazar, 534 E. Patterson Street, Lansford, effective January 1, 2021. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**First Impression Textile Service** notified the borough that it will no longer be able to provide carpet replacement service to the borough police department. A comparable quote was received from Dempsey Uniform services however the contract was for five years with a possible 5% increase per year. Estimates are expected from Aramark and Cintas.

**Lansford Alive** – Letter of December 8, 2020 was reviewed.

**Public Courtesy** – requested by Christopher Ondrus

**Christopher Ondrus**, 10 Edgemont Road, thanked the public works department for putting up holiday decorations. He asked that Lansford Alive be advised of any projects for the parks. The group has a grant for Cherry Trees and flowers they would like to plant along Route 209 in Kennedy Park. Ondrus pointed out that a member of council was on the delinquent sanitation list and he asked whether a councilman's wages could be garnished to pay the bill.

**Douglas Knauss**, 217 W. Patterson Street, thanked assistant secretary treasurer Wendy Butrie for her help in obtaining a Moving Permit.

**Correspondence not copied:** available on request

Tommy Vadyak – e-mail of 12/4/20 distributed in mailboxes

ARRO – Schedule of Hourly Rates for 2021 for engineering and permitting consultation

Jane Rodriguez – letter of 11/27/20 with religious flier

CC Council of Governments – November Agenda and October 27th meeting minutes

St. John Slovak Lutheran Church, received proof of insurance for 3/27/20 Chili cookoff

Radocha Excavating submitted shop drawings to Corey Perry at Lehigh Engineering for 400 E. Snyder Ave sewer project

**Committee Topics :**

**President Bruce Markovich set the following committees for 2021:**

**Zoning:** (Chair) Bob Silver, Marie Ondrus, Bruce Markovich

**Public Works:** (Chair) William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky

**Municipal Administration:** (Chair) Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio

**Park & Recreation:** (Chair) Martin Ditsky, William Chuma, Marie Ondrus

**Public Safety:** (Chair) John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio

**Additional Committees to be created if needed:**

**Business Park/Industrial Park:** To oversee development and rental of buildings within the Silberline Complex

**Redevelopment/Economic Development:** To take advantage of funding opportunities available through various state programs.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevchio, second by John Turcmanovich, to advertise monthly committee meetings, to be held in a contiguous manner starting at 4:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the following order: Zoning, Public Works, Municipal Administration, Park & Recreation, Public Safety. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Bruce Markovich remarked that written records of committee meetings are needed. The chairman of each committee is supposed to submit a written meeting report. In recent years chairman give verbal reports instead of written reports. The Sunshine Law requires records of all public meetings.

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to have the borough secretary/treasurer or assistant secretary/treasurer attend committee meetings and write the minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Martin Ditsky asked about compensation for the secretary attending committee meetings. The secretary's conditions of employment include a 40-hour week, attendance at meetings, and hours worked over 40 per week may be paid as overtime or compensatory time, at time and a half.

**Zoning & Ordinance** – Bob Silver, Chairman, no report.

**Public Works** – William Chuma, Chairman, gave a verbal report included cleaning up leaves, cleaning up the pool area & Kennedy Park, cutting and trimming trees, winterized trucks. Installation of signs and reflectors on back roads. There was discussion about what color to choose for the new public works truck.

**Municipal Administration** - Bruce Markovich, Chairman, submitted a written report including explaining the No. 9 Mine and the Historical Society will administer its own LSA Grant funds by signing an Agreement with the borough to do so. An LSA Grant was not filed for a new borough building oil burner, estimates were not received in time. There was an emergency sewer problem at borough hall/police station and a section of the sewer line had to be replaced at a cost of about \$5,000.00. The sewer backed-up into the

police kitchen, damaging the kitchen sink, cabinets, and wood floor. The insurance deductible is \$5,000.00. Regarding PennDOT removal of the Route 209 bridge near Andrewsville, there is still a dispute about ownership of property surrounding the bridge. The Carbon County CDBG Brimble's Wall project is expected to go out for bid soon with the project beginning in the spring.

**Park & Recreation** – Martin Ditsky, Chairman; Reported that a boy scout troop is interested in doing a project at Ashton Hill Park; some ideas were: refurbishing picnic tables, constructing a handicap walkway, pouring a cement pad beneath picnic tables, clearing the picnic area. Bruce Markovich said Joe Hutta used a camera to check the return lines in Ashton Park Pool and did not find any leaks or breakages. He will pressure test the system. If nothing is found the borough will need to find another company to do more testing.

**A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevchio, second by Martin Ditsky, to execute the Agreement between Lansford Borough and Bradley Bartholomew for murals he will paint on buildings at Ashton Hill Park Pool. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Public Safety** – John Turcmanovich, Chairman, gave a verbal report about full time police applicants.

**A Motion was made to hire Cody P. Searfoss as a full-time officer, in an emergency “provisional” appointment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lansford Civil Service Commission will give Officer Searfoss a verbal test. At the cessation of the pandemic Officer Searfoss will qualify through regular Civil Service Testing. All were in favor, Motion passes.**

**Municipal Reports:** for November

**American Fire Co No 1** – The fire company answered 17 calls: 6 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 7 in Coaldale, and 1 in Tamaqua. Four training sessions were held.

**Lehigh Ambulance** – Responded to 65 incidents with a response time of 9.64 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

**Mayor’s Report** – October receipts totaled \$195.00. Year to date amount received is \$12,715.00.

**Police Report** – November Report of calls is filed at the borough office

**Solicitor’s Report** – Attorney Yurchak advertised the Ordinance 2020-01 ordaining East Street and the 800 block of E. Bertsch Street as streets.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Ordinance 2020-01, ordaining East Street and the 800 block of E. Bertsch Street as borough streets to be included on the Liquid Fuels Map. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Carbon County Tax Collection Committee** – ZOOM meeting is November 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**CC Council of Governments** – No report

**Tax Collector’s Report;** November collections \$5,892.86; Year to date \$939,525.25. 2020 total was \$916,693.35. \$22,831.90 increase compared to 2020.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bills to Pay Total \$108,682.22; Breakdown: General Fund \$61,802.14, Street Light \$4,645.29, Sewer Transmission \$1,911.57, Park & Recreation \$5,121.68, Liquid Fuels \$2,262.79, Sanitation \$28,112.00. Council received financial information for all checkbook registers, Budget vs. Actual, monthly income and expenses for each account and a general fund projection.

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to accept the Treasurer’s Report. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$108,682.22. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

End of mo Balances	2020	NOVEMBER	2020	2020
FUND	No.	Account Title	Oct	Nov
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$495,593.90	\$530,934.52

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	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$222,001.39	\$239,805.54
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$51,873.31	\$51,879.69
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,171.64	\$12,172.67
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$44,063.72	\$23,289.39
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve)	\$165,247.16	\$165,267.48
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res)	\$152,979.21	\$152,991.99
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,275.94	\$51,286.80
Sewer Transmission	3260	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$0.00	\$75,000.00
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$14,469.67	\$16,541.14
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$57,806.84	\$42,575.23
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$38,907.51	\$38,360.58
Sp HiWay Liq Fuel	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$91,778.43	\$89,318.77
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,439.38	\$41,442.89
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$45,565.65	\$41,279.34
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,490,353.86</b>	<b>\$1,577,326.14</b>
<b>LOANS</b>		<b>LOANS Paid from Fund</b>		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep		\$18,689.23 per mo.	\$580,632.31	\$564,035.35
MEM Debacle		20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May&Nov	\$104,239.11	\$95,134.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	\$26,440.53	\$26,440.53
2020 Sewer Loan	5 yr	Sewer Fund \$1,320.47 per month	\$0.00	\$73,813.91
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$711,311.95</b>	<b>\$759,423.90</b>

### Unfinished Business:

#### 2021 Budget Adoption

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich second by William Chuma, to adopt the proposed 2021 Budget as advertised. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Ordinance 2020-02 Tax Levy Ordinance for 2021 which includes a 1.00 mill increase; .50 mill increase to Fire and .50 mill increase to Park and Recreation.**

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to adopt Ordinance 2020-02 as advertised, stating the borough tax rates for 2021 totaling 36.84 mills or 368.40 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation; General Purposes 30.00 mills, Debt Purposes 1.28 mills, Park & Recreation .75 mills; Fire Protection 1.50 mills; Lighting 2.81 mills and Pension .50 mills. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Resolution 2020-26 Tax Anticipation Note for 2021 from Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to adopt Resolution 2020-26, approving a one year \$100,000.00 loan from Jim Thorpe Neighborhood bank at 1.89% interest. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Portnoff Law Associates Ordinance - approving the collection of delinquent sanitation accounts**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to advertise the Ordinance approving Portnoff Law Associates as the delinquent sanitation bill collector. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**TV Franchise Agreement:** Attorney Yurchak tried to contact Bob Miller of Pencor about the expiring Cable TV Franchise Agreement, however, there has been no response. The current Agreement expires in January 2021. The current 2% of gross annual receipts collection rate will remain in effect until a new Agreement is passed by Ordinance.

**New Business:**

**Expiring Board & Commission seats** – Richard Pogwist sent a letter to be reappointed to the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority with a supporting letter from the American Fire Company. James Romankow volunteered to remain on the vacancy board.

**Expiring seats:**

Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority- One 5 yr. term- Richard Pogwist seat expired

Planning commission – One 4 yr. term – Joseph Butrie seat expired

Zoning Hearing Board – One 3 yr. term – Douglas Knauss seat expired

Vacancy Board – One 1 yr. term – James Romankow seat expired

Civil Service Commission – One 4 yr. term – Steven Foster seat expired

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by Martin Ditsky, to advertise for letters of interest for all the expiring board and commission seats in the Times News Newspaper. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

There was discussion about parking on the unit block of E. Water Street. It is a narrow street. There have been complaints about parking. The garbage truck and snowplow have problems turning onto the street because of the way cars are parked. There was discussion about making it one way or no parking.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to have Attorney Yurchak prepare an ordinance eliminating parking in the unit block of East Water Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to erect “temporary police emergency-no parking” signs and advise the residents along unit block of East Water Street until an ordinance is passed. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Adjournment** – On Motion of John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma and everyone dispersed at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jill Seigendall*

Secretary Treasurer