

LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL Regular Monthly Meeting February 10, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order – At 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Council members attending: Martin Ditsky, Gwyneth Collevchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, Bob Silver, Mayor Michele Bartek and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Council woman Marie Ondrus was absent.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to review status of Silberline land purchase request, police personnel issues and TV Franchise contract.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.

Public Courtesy – No one was in the audience. Two people and Times News Reporter Chris Reber entered the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- January 5, 2021 committee meeting minutes

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to approve the January 5, 2021 committee meeting minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- January 13, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to approve the January 13, 2021 monthly meeting minutes. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence:

PA Dept. of General Services - COSTARS Salt contract for August 2021- July 2022 Season

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to complete a Salt Contract with COSTARS for the August 2021-July 2022 Season using tonnage the same as last year and as advised by the street supervisor. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Sylvain Pierron, director – 2/3/2021 E-mail from French journalist preparing a film documentary about plastic recycling all over the world and contacted Lansford because it has cancelled recycling since the China ban.

PPL Electric Utilities – 2/4/2021 notice of a possible electric service interruption, 8:00 a.m. to noon, Thursday, 2/18/2021. Mr. Markovich said changes are being made to the power grid to accommodate the downtown streetscape project.

Windstream – Pool Donation - 2/5/2021 e-mail from Annie Blair, retail sales consultant, offering to help with Ashton pool rehabilitation. Mr. Markovich will contact Annie Blair to see whether the offer is for manpower or money. A \$35,000.00 LSA Grant C000069361 (to expire 6/30/21) is for repair of pumps, concession stand doors and leak repair. Discussion centered on repair or replacement of the pumps and filling the pool to find leaks.

Correspondence (not enclosed) to conserve paper, copy available on request:

- **PA State Assoc. of Borough's** plaque received as part of borough's membership.
- **Girard Pension Services** – 2020 Statement of Account and Quarterly Statement of Account
- **Waste Management** - Recycling Totals for 2020; 34.6 tons and insurance certificate.
- **Tamaqua Transfer and Recycling-** Recycling Total for 2020; 31.97 tons

- **PA Dept. of Agriculture**, Division of Weights and Measures, - Received Certified Parking Meters Inspector Certificates for Mario Marconi and Greg Dailey.
- **Carbon County Community Foundation** – Mission statement to improve quality of Life for Carbon County residents and W-9 submitted.
- **CLSH Sewer Authority Dec 10, 2020 meeting minutes** – e-mailed to council.
- **Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority** – November minutes e-mailed to council.
- **Tommy Vadyak, 2/9/2021**, e-mail, distributed in council mailboxes.
- **Denise Leibensperger, 2/9/2021**, e-mail letter, distributed in council mailboxes.

Committee Reports – 2/2/2021 Meetings cancelled due to snowstorm.

- **Code/Zoning Committee** - Bob Silver 1/20/2021 resigned from the committee.
- **Municipal Administration** –January Report by Chairman Bruce Markovich is on file.
- **USDA Facilities Grant application for a Public Works Garage** – ARRO Engineering submitted a “Preliminary Opinion of Construction Cost” \$1,073,000.00, for the borough garage building, dated 2/8/2021, to be included in a USDA grant application. Mr. Markovich will set up a call with USDA loan representative Tonya StClair about the grant submission, to be used in conjunction with \$160,000.00 LSA grant C00065218, at the Dock Street site. LSA Grant extension letter has been sent to Jarrad Minnich at DCED.
- **Portnoff Law Collection services** – consider collection of delinquent Real Estate taxes beginning in 2021. An Ordinance and Contract needs to be completed before the end of 2021.
- **LSA Grant C00069361 (\$35,000.00) for the pool to expire 6/30/2021**– Bruce Markovich will send a letter requesting the grant be extended.
- **State of Emergency** – due to snow was declared by Mayor Bartek on January 31, 2021. Snow removal costs were discussed. Between January 1 and February 3, 2021, a snowstorm of over 24 inches is estimated to have cost \$25,000.00 for snow removal by independent contractor Peter J. Radocha & Sons.

Municipal Monthly Reports for January

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No 1 responded to 18 incidents in January; 14 in Lansford, 1 in Summit Hill, 2 in Coaldale and 1 in Tamaqua.

Ambulance – Leighton Ambulance responded to 63 incidents with an average response time of 8.3 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Bartek reviewed police calls handled during the month of January.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – Minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting are on file. The last meeting was 1/26/2021.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – the next virtual meeting will be held on ZOOM on 2/24/2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 12 code enforcement complaints, issued 10 Notice of Violations, investigated 22 rental complaints/inspections, and investigated 6 zoning issues. The report is on file.

Tax Collector’s Report – The 2020 Certificate of Authorities Levying Tax was reviewed. \$205,646.10 was uncollected in 2020 and sent to Carbon County Tax Claim for collection.

Solicitor’s Report – Attorney Yurchak said that Blue Ridge Cable agreed to a Cable TV Franchise Contract with terms of a 2% fee in a five-year contract. The current contract expired 1/1/2021.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by Gwyneth Collevchio, to have Attorney Yurchak write an ordinance to contract with Blue Ridge Cable TV, Pencor, to include a 2% TV franchise fee for a five-year term. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Bills to be approved total \$79,119.39, General Fund \$43,162.43; Park & Recreation \$344.29; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$410.38; Street Light \$4,986.82; Sewer Transmission \$1,178.47; Fire Tax \$845.00; Sanitation \$28,192.00.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to approve payment of the January bills totaling \$79,119.39. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Council packet also includes monthly checking account details and projection until February 29, 2021. The annual sewage transmission fee (\$90.00 per living unit) will be mailed to residents on February 15, 2021. Residential Rental License fee (\$100.00 per rental unit) will be mailed to landlords on March 1, 2021. The cost for new checks for all checking accounts is \$1,273.43.

The following Annual reports have been submitted:

- AG-385 Form (Municipal Pensions) submitted to PA Auditor General
- Municipal Report of Elected and Appointed Officials submitted to DCED
- 2021 Real Estate Tax Information,(2021 millage) submitted to DCED

Bank Account Balances Jan. 31, 2021:

End of month balances	2021		2020	2021
FUND/Sav & Ckg	No.	Account Title	Dec	Jan
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$417,024.57	\$484,759.62
General Fund	7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$187,659.05	\$229,858.67
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$51,886.28	\$51,887.77
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,173.70	\$12,046.80
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$58,761.51	\$25,020.30
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$165,288.48	\$165,293.23
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res)	\$152,991.99	\$152,998.49
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,297.31	\$51,308.19
Sewer Transmission	6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$75,000.00	\$73,692.99
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$16,826.84	\$17,413.10
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$38,800.25	\$37,481.98
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$37,821.63	\$30,136.66
Sp HiWay LiquidFuels	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$86,806.24	\$74,200.26
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,446.40	\$41,342.68
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$36,294.96	\$36,567.21
Total			\$1,433,079.21	\$1,487,007.95
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep	\$18,689.23 per mo.		\$547,368.68	\$530,645.98
MEM Debacle	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May&Nov		\$95,134.11	\$95,134.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr. loan	\$26,440.53	\$26,440.53
2020 Sewer Loan	5 yr	Sewer Fund \$1,320.47 per month	\$72,627.82	\$72,625.40
Total			\$841,571.14	\$824,846.02

Unfinished Business:

Ordinance 2021-02, Designating no parking in the unit block of East Water Street; recommended by the Public Safety committee and American fire Company No. 1.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to advertise Ordinance 2021-02, which eliminates parking in the unit block of East Water Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-03, to increase fines during snow plowing.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to advertise Ordinance 2021-03, which increases fines during snow plowing to a minimum of \$75.00. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Quotes for Ductless Air Conditioning were reviewed, and the topic was tabled by William Chuma and Bob Silver. Mr. Markovich will get more details about the types of units for the next committee meetings:

- AOK, Shane Ketledge \$25,000.00 - 6 “Daikin” Brand SEER mini split units
- ANTZ Energy Systems, Joe Kubeyka, \$16,932.00 – 3 “Carrier” Brand units
- ABC, Todd Dreisbach, \$8,800.00 – 2 “Friedrich” Brand 3-ton mini split units

Overwatch – Computer quote from Overwatch Technologies (Joseph Lyons) for three ThinkCentre Tiny-in-one 21.5-inch monitor with speakers and webcams for the police department, \$4,197.00.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich, to purchase three computers from Overwatch Technologies total price \$4,197.00 if funds are available. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Borough Garage - LSA Grant C000065218 to expire 6/30/2021 -\$160,000.00 Grant extension request sent to Jarrod Minnich at DCED

PV School District Bus Stops – Changes were discussed but no decisions made.

New Business:

Carbon County Workforce Training Program - Public Works participation in the 2021 youth work training program this summer.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich, to participate in the Carbon County Workforce program when the paperwork arrives. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Public Works 2021 Ford F550 – New COSTARS estimates are needed to purchase a Ford 550 truck for the public works department. It is proposed to use major equipment purchase funds from the Liquid Fuels Fund for a five-year loan.

Applications - for a part time police officer and CDL drivers were reviewed.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to hire Zachary Gilbert and Joseph Butrie as part time CDL plow truck drivers for the public works department at the \$15.50 rate (set by Salary Resolution 2020-21). All were in favor, Motion passed.

Councilman Chuma said the public works department air/hydraulic jack is broken; estimated replacement cost is about \$1,400.00.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to purchase a 44-ton air/hydraulic jack for the public works department with an estimated cost of \$1,400.00. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Gun Owners of America – representative Branden Bell, (from the audience), offered an ordinance and a petition to protect gun owner’s rights. No action was taken.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer