

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 11th, 2026

The February 11th, 2026 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:02p.m. by Vice President Joseph Genits at The Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Member Joseph Butrie, President-Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Member Gwyneth Collevchio, Vice President Joseph Genits, Council Member Bruce Markovich, Council Member Jack Soberick, Mayor Denise Leibensperger, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Agenda for February 11th, 2026 Monthly Meeting was amended on CD's and Bank Balances portion to reflect correct account names and balances.

Public Courtesy-

- P1. Vice President Joseph Genits thanked Council Member Joseph Butrie and the three public works employees for ensuring the borough streets were constantly plowed during the snowstorm. Thanked as well, were the contractors that helped both during and after the snowstorm in snow removal.
- P2. Council Member Jack Soberick stated that he would like a letter sent out to Lehigh Anthracite and all volunteers that helped the borough with snow removal.
- P3. Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about motion item 4 and how snow removal was addressed in previous years.
- P4. Leonard Ruggiero of 204 West Front Street spoke about the planning commission and that members are needed for the planning commission to be able to reorganize.
- P5. Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street spoke about motion item 4 and that any purchase policy should be reviewed by the committee.

- P6. Jennifer Staines of 353 West Abbott Street spoke about resigning from the planning commission and that she is interested in the vacant council seat.
- P7. Erin Soberick of 237 West Ridge Street inquired about Randy Schlatters employment status and about a security breach in the police department.
- P8. John Hosak of 432 East Patterson Street spoke about what corporations are doing for pensions.
- P9. Shateira Davis of 359 West Kline Avenue spoke about the snow removal.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motioned to approve the January 5th, 2026 Reorganization Meeting Minutes, January 5th 2026 Special Meeting Minutes, and January 14th, 2026 Monthly Meeting Minutes by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the final adoption of the proposed 2026 budget

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick. Rollcall vote, Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevchio, No; Joseph Gentis, Yes; Bruce Markovich, No; Jack Soberick, Yes. Motion passed. Yes-4, No-2

Motion to approve a resolution that sets the tax rate millage for 2026

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion was opposed by Bruce Markovich. Motion passed by majority.

Correspondence-

- C1. Letter of interest from Christopher Ondrus for the vacant Coaldale-Lansford-Summit Hill Sewer Authority seat

Motioned to accept letter by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion passed unanimously.

- C2. Email from Kevin Buraks from Portnoff Law Associates about delinquent trash fees and real estate taxes

C3. Motion to approve writs of execution for delinquent borough taxes

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevechio and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion opposed by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed by majority.

C4. Email from Jared M Soto with a flyer attached for The Panther Valley Blueprint Community Roadside Cleanup-day (Saturday, April 25th, 2026; rain date: May 2nd, 2026). Flyer was available to the public on the table.

C5. Letter to council from Jennifer Staines about planning commission seat

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed unanimously.

C6. Letters of interest for vacant council member seat from Jennifer Staines, John Hosak, John Zym, Benjamin Sherry, William Chuma, and Dean Strohl.

Vice President Joseph Genits opened the floor to those who submitted letters of interest to make a statement before council votes.

Jack Soberick nominated John Zym. Rollcall vote, Michele Bartek, No; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevechio, No; Joseph Gentis, Yes; Bruce Markovich, No; Jack Soberick, Yes. Split vote with Mayor Denise Leibensperger breaking tie voting Yes. Motion passed. Yes-4, No-3

John Zym was given his oath of office by Mayor Denise Leibensperger and then took his seat at the council table.

Committee Reports-

Joseph Genits spoke about Nicole Beckett from Lafayette College did come to the borough on February 6th, 2026 to meet with admin committee and the office staff. No report has been provide by Nicole but she is working on one to provide to the borough.

Jack Soberick spoke about the police needing police radios and that he provided the information about the police radios.

Municipal Monthly Reports-**Fire Department Report-**

The fire department had 30 calls for the month of January. Total man- hours were 215, total man hours year to date were 215. In house work total man hours were 420 for the month, total man hours year to date were 420. The responses year to date 14, Summit Hill year to date 5, Coaldale year to date 7, Nesquehoning year to date 1, Tamaqua year to date 0, and Jim Thorpe year to date 1, other year to date 2. Training total man hours were 131, year to date 131. Community service total man hours were 60, year to date 460. Fundraising total man hours were 0 hours year to date. Administrative hours total man hours 80, year to date 80. Total hours of all activities for report period were 136, year to date 136. Total man hours for the month were 906, year to date 906.

Ambulance Report-

The Lehigh ambulance responses were 92 incidents in January. They had an average response time of 8.4 minutes from time of dispatch until arrival on scene. Of the 92 responses, 29 were non-emergency patient services, 63 were emergency responses. 66 patients were transported, 7 patients were treated with no transport, 3 standby and 16 cancellations/no patient found (cancellation, no patient found or services not needed).

Mayor's Report

The mayor stated that she wants clarification on meter collections, that the police collect the money from the meters, place the money in a sealed container that is taken directly to the bank with the bank counting and depositing the funds, no counting occurs between the funds being taken to the bank.

Police Report-

The police department had 432 calls and complaints handled, 12 new cases cleared, 6 arrests made, 6 traffic contacts, 99 parking tickets issued/borough ordinance violations issued, 1,910 miles patrolled, \$1,830 collected in parking, quality of life, and report requests.

Code Report and Zoning Report-

Code complaints 21, complaints resolved 16, 3 citations being filed as a result of code violations. NOVs issued 8, and upcoming hearings at magistrate 4.

Joseph Genits spoke about a training for the code enforcement officer that he would like council to approve.

Motioned to approve to send Shane Monk to the training through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs “Municipal Code Enforcement: Tips and Tricks,” at a cost of \$45.00 and to approve sending newly elected officials to the boot camp for newly elected officials with reimbursement to the individuals that attend by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed unanimously.

Residential Rental Ordinance Report-

Landlords should be expecting to receive rental license application and information in the mail.

Solicitors’ Report-

Robert Yuchak stated that the oversized ordinance is ready for council and will be included in next months agenda to be adopted.

Tax Collector’s Report-

From January 1st, 2026 to January 31st, 2026, no taxes collected as tax office is closed until April 2026.

Treasurer’s Report-Bills to Approve-

Bills & Expenditures Through 02/11/2026	
Accounts	Total Expenditures
Fire Tax	\$ 858.00
General Fund	\$ 126,911.52
Highway – Liquid Fuels	\$ 4,576.62
Park & Recreation	\$ 350.96
Sanitation	\$ 62,256.87
Sewer Transmission	\$ 30,343.44
Street Light	\$ 5,918.42
Total	\$ 231,215.83

Motion to pay the February 11th, 2026 bills-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Rollcall vote, Michele Bartek, Yes; Joseph Butrie, Yes; Gwyneth Collevchio, Yes; Joseph Gentis, Yes; Bruce Markovich, No; Jack Soberick, Yes; John Zym, Yes. Motion passed. Yes-6, No-1.

CD's & Bank Balances

Account Title	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	No.	Interest Paid YTD	1/31/2026	12/31/2025
Railroad 9 Month CD	3.5	8/22/2026	XX6101	\$ 1,776.19	\$ 601,007.16	\$ 599,230.97
2nd Railroad Proceeds 9 Month CD	3.4	7/27/2026	XX8363	\$ 98.82	\$ 32,878.59	\$ 32,779.77
Pool 9 Month CD	3.5	8/22/2026	XX6325	\$ 130.81	\$ 44,262.70	\$ 44,131.89
Sani-Investors CD	3.4	7/30/2026	XX8587	\$ 165.86	\$ 55,179.80	\$ 55,013.94
Sewer-Investors CD	3.4	7/30/2026	XX8595	\$ 175.22	\$ 58,295.57	\$ 58,120.35
2nd Sewer Proceeds 9Month CD	3.4	7/27/2026	XX8371	\$ 168.08	\$ 55,918.77	\$ 55,750.69
Sewer 9 Month CD	3.5	8/22/2026	XX1277	\$ 164.70	\$ 55,727.84	\$ 55,563.14
			Total	\$ 2,679.68	\$ 903,270.43	\$ 900,590.75

Account Title	Interest Rate	No.	Interest Paid YTD 1/31/2026	1/31/2026	12/31/2025
Fire	2.8	XX6371	\$ 58.35	\$21,457.37	\$ 25,252.07
General Fund	2.8	XX6496	\$ 1,658.96	\$728,988.81	\$ 728,339.13
ARPA Grant Account	2.8	XX2153	\$ 22.59	\$10,017.36	\$ 9,994.77
Building Developing Capital Fund	2.8	XX9105	\$ 69.54	\$30,836.99	\$ 30,767.45
Delq. Tax	2.8	XX8929	\$ 962.76	\$427,745.31	\$ 423,634.17
Diversified	2.8	XX8448	\$ 65.21	\$43,388.09	\$ 9,097.18
Fire Escrow - 22 E. Kline	0.0	XX6488	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fire Escrow- 241 E Ridge St	0.0	XX9949	\$ -	\$ 36,790.47	\$ 36,790.47
Fire Escrow- 243 E Ridge St	0.0	XX9931	\$ -	\$ 29,067.09	\$ 29,067.09
Fire Escrow- 245 E Abbott St	0.0	XX7133	\$ -	\$ 29,605.04	\$ 29,605.04
Fire Escrow- 334 E. Bertsch St.	0.0	XX6094	\$ -	\$ 4,522.89	\$ 4,522.89
Fire Escrow - 268 E. Patterson St.	0.0	XX7013	\$ -	\$ 9,863.51	\$ 9,863.51
Fire Escrow - 292 E. Snyder Ave	0.0	XX7373	\$ -	\$ 8,900.22	\$ 8,900.22
Fire Escrow - 504 E Kline	0.0	XX6119	\$ -	\$ 31,346.65	\$ 31,346.65
Grant Project	2.8	XX5616	\$ 35.42	\$15,705.02	\$ 15,669.60
Local Services Tax	2.8	XX6462	\$ 142.73	\$63,964.26	\$ 63,099.36
Park & Recreation	2.8	XX6404	\$ 114.31	\$50,775.08	\$ 50,348.87
Sanitation Fund	2.8	XX6438	\$ 1,049.45	\$478,799.33	\$ 447,547.74
Sanitation fund MMA	2.8	XX6454	\$ 33.62	\$14,905.83	\$ 14,872.21
Sewer Transmission	2.8	XX6446	\$ 1,308.91	\$630,631.93	\$ 540,466.98
Snyder Street Checking	2.8	XX6470	\$ 77.26	\$34,257.72	\$ 34,180.46
Highway Liquid Fuels	2.8	XX6420	\$ 478.70	\$115,454.81	\$ 116,284.49
Street Lights	2.8	XX6412	\$ 114.82	\$52,593.84	\$ 48,278.45
			\$ 6,192.63	\$2,872,617.62	\$ 2,710,928.80

REVENUE THROUGH 2/11/2026			
	CUSTOMER COLLECTION INFORMATION		
SANITATION BILLING 2026	BILLED	COLLETED	NOT COLLECTED
1ST QUARTER 01/01/2026-03/31/2026	1834	946	888
2nd QUARTER	0		
3rd QUARTER	0		
4th QUARTER	0		
Total	1834		
SEWER TRANSMISSION BILLING 2026	BILLED	COLLETED	NOT COLLECTED
ANNUAL 2026	1915	747	1168
Sanitation Revenue	\$ 136,780.76	SANITATION PAST DUE 2025	
Sewer Revenue	\$ 81,158.34	Amount	\$ 59,818.02
		Customer	333

Old Business:

1. Joseph Butrie Spoke about dumpsters having to be removed when snow is forecasted.
2. Joseph Butrie spoke about the importance of getting a borough garage.
3. Joseph Butrie wanted to inform residents that Snow removal when posted goes from 12:01 am until midnight the same day.
4. Michele Bartek spoke about having talked with Robert Yurchak about the Skill Game Ordinance and that a draft ordinance will presented before council at a future meeting.
5. Michele Bartek spoke about wanting the handicap ordinance revised to cover the Ridge Street business district.

New Business:

1. Review policy adopted for approving purchases via chair of committees.
 Motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-05 which establishes procedures for the expenditure of municipal funds, including expenditures authorized to be paid with council approval, the utilization of purchase orders, and the designation of

authorized purchasing representatives by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jack Soberick. Motion opposed by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed by majority.

Motions to Approve

1. Bruce Markovich stated that he witnessed an incident in which a council member preventing the borough treasurer from being able to perform her duties. Markovich stated that he council should not be interfering with Borough Secretary or Borough Treasurer in the performance of their duties. A current supervisor policy was read aloud which stated the chair of municipal administration is the offices supervisor.

2. Motion to appoint Attorney Micheal Miller from the firm of Eckert Seamans to represent council members Michele Bartek, Bruce Markovich and Gwyneth Collevechio in the case of Diaz versus the Borough of Lansford. Emails and other communications to the borough have been intentionally withheld from us in an attempt delay, hinder and prevent our participation in this case. In addition the attorney representing the borough in this case has yet to provide any information on how he intends to represent both sides of council during the upcoming discovery phase of this case.

Motioned to table until executive session by Joseph Butrie and seconded by John Zym. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Bruce Markovich stated that on January 2nd, 2026, then resident Joseph Genits offered him the position of Borough Manager in return for him stepping down as council president.

Motioned to censure, now Council member Joesph Genits for offering the position of Borough Manager to former Council President Bruce Markovich in return for Markovich stepping down as Council President by Bruce Markovich and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio. Motion was opposed by Jack Soberick, Joseph Butrie, Joseph Genits, and John Zym. Motion did not pass due to majority opposition.

4. Bruce Markovich stated that Council member Joseph Genits should be censured for intentionally violating Section 7501 Subsections (b) (d) of the borough code in connection with the hiring of the contractors for snow removal for the borough of

Lansford. Genits failed to post or otherwise inform the public that a state of Emergency had been declared, in addition a state of emergency declaration is valid only for a period of seven days after its declaration, unless extended by the governing body of the Borough of Lansford, no such extension was extended, making all costs incurred by the borough past the seven day time line illegal. In addition subsection (b) clearly spells out that a majority of council has to agree to the hiring of contractors under emergency circumstances. Councilman Genits had no sole authority to hire any contractor or incur any debt without the approval of at least four members of council.

Motioned to ratify extension of the state of emergency and the hiring of contractors by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion was opposed by Michele Bartek and Bruce Markovich. Motion passed due to majority.

5. Motion to approve the following handicap parking requests:

- A. Ibania Alberto at 338 East Bertsch Street
- B. Denice Danubio at 427 East Ridge Street
- C. Crystal Cupak at 631 East Patterson Street
- D. Eileen Royer at 327 West Ridge Street

Motioned to approve all four handicap request by Jack Soberick and seconded by John Zym. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Motion to approve to change the phone service for each borough employee (Police, Public Works, and Code) from Verizon Wireless (\$530.55 a month) to either of the following AT&T plan:

- a. \$411.00 a month with a one-time \$14.85 equipment charge, this plan includes 10 cellphones and 5 portable Wi-Fi devices
- b. \$458.52 a month with a one-time \$414.81 equipment charge, this plan includes 10 cellphones, 5 portable Wi-Fi devices, and 4 Ipads

Motioned to approve option b. \$458.52 a month with a one-time \$414.81 equipment charge, this plan includes 10 cellphones, 5 portable Wi-Fi devices, and 4 Ipads by Michele Bartek and seconded by John Zym. Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed by majority.

7. Motion to approve to have Cloud Services do a hard drive upgrade on Police Department computers at a cost of \$464.97.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Motion to approve to purchase 5 Portable Radios for the Police Department from Green's Communications for a total cost of \$33,879.55. To be paid out of the General Fund.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Motion to approve to pay Ruthless Graphics \$325.00 for graphics on the 2025 Ford F-550 Dump Truck.

Motioned by Joseph Burie and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Motion to approve to pay \$650.00 to B & V Environmental Service Inc, to perform an asbestos inspection of the vacant property located at 316 West Patterson Street.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Motion to tentatively approve the transfer of 2024 CBGD grant for the 118 West Ridge Street Demolition to the CBDG grant proposal for 2027 west ridge street paving project.

Motioned by John Zym and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into an executive session at 8:41p.m. for the review of legal updates with Diaz communications and letter sent to solicitor.

The meeting came back into regular session at 9:09p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Joseph Genits at 9:09p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary