

Lansford Borough Council
February 12, 2020 1 W. Ridge Street 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Martin Ditsky, President Bruce Markovich, President Pro Temp John Turcmanovich, Irma Leibensperger, William Chuma, Mayor Michele Bartek, Marie Ondrus, Vice President Bob Silver and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Executive Session: 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss Silberline land purchase and personnel issues.

Public Courtesy:

Richard Pogwist, 110 E. Ridge Street, representing American Legion Post 123, requesting approval of a Community Easter Egg Hunt, April 4, 2020 at Ashton Park. Insurance documentation was provided.

Roy Christman, 6495 Pohopoco Drive, Towamensing Township, representing the group Fair Districts of Pennsylvania, requested consideration of a Resolution about gerrymandering; encouraging state law makers to implement fair districts for state and U.S. representatives. The resolution favors a citizen's commission for redistricting.

Kevin Zuercher, manager at the Sports Zoo Bar, 390 W. Snyder Avenue, inquired about holding an outdoor "bike night" event on May 16, 2020.

Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, asked why the quarterly sanitation bill was increased by \$5.00. It was raised in anticipation of the current solid waste hauling contract expiring.

Jennifer Staines, 353 W. Abbott Street, noted that Tamaqua Borough is planning to construct a train platform and this may increase traffic and visitors to Lansford.

Denise Leibensperger, 164 W. Ridge Street, asked how the minutes were written. She requested an audio copy of the December 2019 minutes and questioned the legality of the Cable Franchise Agreement. She accused council of making illegal contracts, holding committee meetings which violate the sunshine law, and said the former president of council accessed borough records after his term expired.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, congratulated Christopher Ondrus and Mary Soto for their work on Lansford Alive's entry into the HGTV video contest - to win rehabilitation of properties in Lansford. She also complimented the police department and borough office staff for doing a great job.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 Reorganization meeting. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Martin Ditsky, No; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passed, 4 Yes, 3 No.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 monthly borough council meeting. The Motion was second by Bill Chuma. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John

Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Martin Ditsky, No; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passed, 4 Yes, 3 No.

Correspondence:

- **Foothill Farms** – A letter was received from Foothill Farms stating that it will be unable to open its farm stand in Lansford this summer.
- **Handicap Parking Application** - 43 Jones Street, for Sharon Benner
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve a handicap parking space for Sharon Benner, 43 Jones Street. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **American Fire Co. No. 1** – Special Event Request & letter to hold a food truck rally on 5/9/20, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., blocking off the unit block of E. Bertsch Street.
A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve the American Fire Company Food Truck Festival event on 5/9/20 upon receipt of its certificate of insurance. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **Victor Daniels** – Request to install a third customer parking space in front of Serina’s Café, 22 W. Ridge Street. Three spaces is the limit per Ordinance 1997-09. The topic was tabled by William Chuma and Bruce Markovich pending investigation by the public works department.
- **Carbon County Emergency Services** – Special Incident Command Systems (ICS) Seminar for elected Officials, March 3, 2020 6:30 p.m. at the 911 Comm. Center, Nesquehoning, council members Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus, Bob Silver, Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich and Mayor Bartek plan to attend.
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – American Legion Post 123, request to hold an Easter Egg Hunt for children at Ashton Park on April 4, 2020. Insurance was provided.
A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve the American Legion Easter Egg Hunt event on April 4, 2020 at Ashton Park. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

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

- **Tamaqua Transfer & Recycling** – 2019 municipal waste and recycling tonnage report: 2,087.77 tons municipal waste, 90.82 tons recycling
- **DCED** - Notification of LSA Grant award for Phase II of Streetscape Grant.
- **Census** – Boundary and Annexation Survey was completed and submitted by Mayor Bartek. Annual Response and Update form completed and submitted by Jill.
- **Girard Pension Services** – Police Pension quarterly report (4th quarter of 2019.)
- **PPL - Outdoor Service Light Order** - to put a street light on Tunnel Street between Patterson & Bertsch Streets
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency** – Engineering Models & Field Survey Notification - Special Flood Hazard Areas as noted on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, EMA coordinator Jack Soberick also received a copy.
- **Pocono Mountains Visitor Bureau** – update on the January 9, 2020 meeting concerning a study of the Francis E. Walter Dam and dam release standards.
- **PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources** – Accepting applications for recreation and conservation grants programs January 15 thru April 22, 2020.

Civil Service Commission:

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to reappoint Gerald Scaran to the Lansford Civil Service Commission. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- President Markovich announced that Irma Leibensperger resigned from the Municipal Administration Committee. A replacement will be made in the future.
- **Zoning & Ordinance** – no quorum for the meeting
- **Public Works** – no quorum
- **Municipal Administration** – no quorum
- **Park & Recreation** – Martin Ditsky gave a verbal report, he said 5 tree stumps need to be removed at Ashton Park, suggested a tree stump be carved by a chainsaw artist and there was discussion about opening the pool.
- **Public Safety** – no quorum for the meeting

Municipal Monthly Reports:

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No.1 reported 13 incidents: 10 in Lansford, 1 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale, 1 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – Reported 71 incidents in January with an average response time of 8.6 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Bartek reported \$2,256.62 collected in January. She stated that Drug Task Force reimbursements to the borough for 2019 totaled \$14,736.06. She commended the officers and asked council to hire a fifth full time patrolman as it was calculated in the budget. There were concerns about scheduling and overtime. The topic was tabled by Martin Ditsky and Bruce Markovich.

Police Report – The Lansford Police answered 402 calls, made 2 criminal arrests, issued 11 traffic citations, 4 non traffic citations, 2 code enforcement citations, 9 parking tickets and 1 quality of life violation.

Carbon County Council of Governments – William Chuma attended the last meeting and reported that the group would like to form a Land Bank to hold funds for property demolition.

Code Compliance – James Dean invoice for December & January totaled \$3,286.25; \$1,081.25 for zoning and \$2,205.00 for code enforcement.

Tax Collector's Report – The end of year Real Estate Tax Delinquency List for 2019 was received. It totals \$218,572.76.

Solicitor's Report – Notification of Sheriff Sale 2/14/2020, for 328 W. Kline Ave, parcel 122A3-25-J22, Bruce Romig owner. A Letter from Portnoff Law Associates to collect delinquent 2018 Real Estate taxes from Christina Hicks, owner of 249 & 251 E. Ridge Street.

Management Conference Order – scheduled for 3/19/2020, 2:00 p.m., courtroom 3, Carbon County Courthouse for Daniel & Ellen Sargent, condemnation by Lansford Borough, Temporary Easement at 400 E. Snyder Avenue.

Treasurer’s Report - Bills to be approved total \$86,694.55; General Fund \$49,789.14; Park & Recreation \$173.92; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$4,492.56; Street Light \$4,816.80; Sewer Transmission \$1,013.60; Fire Tax \$706.00; Sanitation \$25,702.53. The council packet also includes: monthly checking account details and projection until February 29, 2020.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$86,694.55 was made by Irma Leibensperger and second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.

The Penn DOT 965 Report was completed, submitted and approved. The Police Pension Census Data was submitted to Beyer Barber. Auditor Brian Kelly CPA & Associates have scheduled the annual audit for February 14, 2020. Ten Right To Know Requests were completed. The annual PA One Call member database verifications report was submitted and the COSTARS salt contract for 2020-2021 was submitted.

End of Month Balances:

FUND/Saving & Checking	No.	Account Title	Dec	Jan
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$284,929.10	\$336,809.00
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
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$134,963.60	\$179,972.61
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,790.12	\$51,798.89
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money MktAcct	\$12,161.54	\$12,162.57
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$38,426.23	\$54,261.41
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission	\$164,982.13	\$165,010.08
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,903.99	\$152,911.79
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,169.57	\$51,180.42
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$9,833.10	\$10,678.04
Street Light Fund	7764	Street Lights	\$23,511.44	\$23,024.42
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$28,319.10	\$29,267.35
Sp Hi Way Liquid Fuels	7706	Treasurers Special Hi-Way	\$69,452.99	\$60,650.87
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,404.97	\$41,408.48
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$57,233.51	\$57,760.52
Total			\$1,126,261.50	\$1,232,076.56
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
Tax Anticipation Note		General Fund	0.00	100,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep		Sewer Transm#5537	743,456.20	727,433.83
MEM Debacle		Street Light Fd#6309 May&Nov	113,144.11	113,144.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	32,351.80	32,351.80
			888,952.11	972,929.74

Unfinished Business:

- **400 E. Snyder Ave. sewer project:**
Lehigh Engineering Bid Specs for the sewer relocation project have been advertised for bid opening at March 11, 2020 meeting. 1 bid packet has been picked up so far.
- **SWS 2019 Grant Application** - Sewer & Water Grant application for 400 E. Snyder project was received at DCED. More information is needed to complete the application.
- **Solid Waste contract** to expire April 11, 2020
A Motion was made by William Chuma to have the solicitor create bid specs for one, three and five year contract terms with separate prices for collection of garbage and recycling and to advertise for bids to be opened at the next meeting on March 11, 2020. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Former council president Jared Soto made a request to complete the organization of code files and enter the code information into iWorQs system.

- Quote from Pioneer Metal Roofing for metal gazebo roof \$4,676.00
All quotes: Pioneer Metal Roofing 2/10/2020 \$4,676.00
Timber Ridge Standing Seam Roof 8/8/2019 \$8,680.00
DD&Z Home Improvement -shingles 6/4/2019 \$5,740.95
Didyoung Home Improvements-shingles July 2018 \$6,900.00
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to accept the bid of \$4,676.00 from Pioneer Metal Roofing conditioned on receipt of an insurance certificate and agreement that the roof can be installed before May 30, 2020. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Borough Garage \$160,000.00 Grant:** A letter has been sent to DCED to extend the grant expiration date (set to expire June 30, 2020) for Grant Contract #C65218. DCED is asking about whether the scope of the project will change and whether the borough intends to build a new garage or renovate an existing building. Borough Council is waiting to get estimates to renovate from Lehigh Engineering.
- **Streetscape Phase II Grant \$120,000.00** - Confirmation of the project requires \$5,000.00 from Lansford Alive and an additional \$13,500.00 from the borough.
A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger, second by Marie Ondrus, to accept the LSA Grant for \$120,000.00 and work out the payment commitments at a later date. All were in favor, Motion passed.

New Business:

- **A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by Irma Leibensperger, to advertise for a part time public work's employee, estimated 16 to 24 hours per week, at \$11.50 per hour rate. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

- **A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky, second by William Chuma, to hold a joint meeting on February 24, 2020, 6:00 p.m. at borough hall, between Borough Council and Lansford Friends of the Pool to discuss the future of the Lansford Pool. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

- **A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to participate in the C.C. Workforce Training Program this summer, using up to four workers from the program. All were in favor except Martin Ditsky who was opposed. Motion passed 7 Yes, 1 No.**

- Two part time police applications were considered for hire.
A Motion was made by Public Safety Chairman John Turcmanovich, second by William Chuma, to hire Sean M. Stark and Matthew Houser as part time police officers at an hourly rate of \$21.00, conditioned on passing a background check and polygraph test. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Council reviewed an estimate for excavation in Ashton Park from Peter J. Radocha & for removal of 5 stumps and 2 lamp posts \$ \$1,200.00. Martin Ditsky asked for two more estimates for the next meeting.

- **Bob Silver made a motion to advertise for letters of interest from attorneys for a new Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

- **A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver, to pay the class fee \$135.00 plus mileage for Mayor Michele Bartek to attend the PSAB sponsored Elected Officials Boot Camp on March 6 & 7. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. by William Chuma.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer