

The January meeting of Lansford Borough Council was held 6:00 p.m. January 8, 2020 at borough hall.

**Call to Order** - by President Bruce Markovich.

**Roll Call**: Attending council persons: Martin Ditsky, Bruce Markovich, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bob Silver, John Turcmanovich, and Mayor Michele Bartek. Absent: Irma Leibensperger

**Executive Session**: Held 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss acquiring the Silberline property.

**Approval of Minutes**:

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the October 9, 2019 meeting minutes as written. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 5-Yes, 1- No.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 meeting as written. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 5-Yes, 1- No.**

**Public Courtesy**:

**Victoria Benack**, 270 W. Snyder Avenue - Asked about parking in the reserved parking spaces for Serina's Bakery, 22 W. Ridge Street, for church services on Sunday mornings when the bakery is closed.

**Christopher Ondrus**, 10 Edgemont Road - spoke about his interest in the vacant water authority seat to be appointed later in the meeting.

**Joseph Moravek**, 142 W. Kline Avenue - made complaints about people parking in handicap parking spaces and asked about the existing parking meters.

**Ellen Sargent**, 527 E Ridge Street – Owner of 400 E. Snyder Avenue, asked whether there is a timeline for completion of the sewer line replacement project as it is holding up her renovation plan for the property.

**Correspondence**:

**Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau** – Notification of sale from the “repository for unknown properties” at 3 W. Water Street, parcel 123A-24-J35.01.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Bruce Markovich, to approve the repository sale of 3 W. Water Street. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Brian T. Kelly CPA and Associates, LLC** – Auditor's Letter of Engagement to perform the 2019 Annual Financial Audit at a cost of \$7,500.00.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the service of Brian T. Kelly & Associates to perform the 2019 Financial Audit at a cost of \$7,500.00. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**PA COSTARS** – Road Salt Contract renewal for August 2020 to July 2021 season.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky, for the borough to make application for its road salt contract with COSTARS for the August 2020 to July 2021 season. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Correspondence received but no action needed:**

**PA DCED** – Confirmation of receipt for Grant Application 201912132813 for sewer line replacement at 400 E. Snyder Ave.

**Bayer-Barber** – Police Pension- Annual Administration Request for Census Data

**Notice of Sheriff Sale** from Attorney Greek, 150 W. Abbott Street on 2/14/2020, 11:00 a.m. at the CC Sheriff's Office, Jim Thorpe.

**Appointment of Officials ( deferred from reorganization meeting):****Zoning Official**

**A Motion was made by Marie Ondrus to reappoint James Dean as the borough's zoning officer. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor except for Martin Ditsky who was opposed. Motion passed, 5- Yes, 1- No.**

**Borough Solicitor**

Five Letters of interest were received from the following attorneys:

Eric Filer, Filer & Schwab, Lehighton.

Matthew Schnell, Strubinger Law, Palmerton

Robert Yurchak, Nesquehoning

Jason Ulrich, Gross McGinley LLP, Allentown

Anthony Odorizzi, Bowe & Odorizzi Law, Tamaqua

**A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to appoint Robert Yurchak, Esq., Lansford Borough Solicitor. The Motion was second by William Chuma. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky – No, Marie Ondrus -No, Bruce Markovich – Yes, William Chuma – Yes, Bob Silver – Yes, John Turcmanovich – Yes. Motion passed, 4- Yes, 2- No.**

There was no appointment for Borough Engineer or Sewage Enforcement Officer.

**Borough Board/Commission Appointments:**

**Lansford –Coaldale Joint Water Authority** – one open seat (to fill the unexpired seat of Joe Horvat, expires 12/31/2024.) Letters of interest were received from Steven Foster, Nicholas Vavro, Charles Whitehead, Douglas Knauss, Edward Kanick, Christopher Ondrus, George Krajnak jr.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to appoint Steven Foster to the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority, to fill the unexpired 5 year term of Joseph Horvat, expiring 12/31/2024. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky – No, Marie Ondrus – No, Bruce Markovich – Yes, William Chuma – Yes, Bob Silver – Yes, John Turcmanovich – Yes. Motion passed, 4- Yes, 2- No.**

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to meet with Coaldale Borough Council to discuss the future of the Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Coaldale Lansford Summit Hill Sewer Authority (CLSH)** – two open seats (one 5-year term ending 12/31/2024, one term ending 12/31/2021 to fill the unexpired seat of Joseph Gallagher). A letter of interest was received from Scott Fisher and a letter for reappointment was received from John Tucker.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to appoint Scott Fisher to the CLSH Sewer Authority to fill the unexpired seat of Joseph (Jay) Gallagher, term ending 12/31/2021. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky to reappoint John Tucker to the CLSH Sewer Authority for a 5 year term, expiring 12/31/24. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Park & Recreation Commission** – One seat (5 year term). A letter requesting reappointment was received from Gwyneth Collevchio.

**A Motion was made by Marie Ondrus, second by Martin Ditsky, to reappoint Gwyneth Collevchio to a five year term on the Park & Recreation Commission. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Planning Commission** – one seat (4 year term). A letter of reappointment was received from Michael Kafkalas.

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to reappoint Michael Kafkalas to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term, expiring 12/31/2023. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Zoning Hearing Board** – one alternate seat (3 year term).

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to appoint Mary Soberick as an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3 year term, expiring 12/31/2022. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Vacancy Board** – one seat (1 year term). James Romankow voiced interest in the seat at the December meeting and sent a text that he is interested in the seat.

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by John Turcmanovich, to appoint (former Mayor) James Romankow to the Vacancy Board seat. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Handicap Parking Committee;** Per Ordinance 2014-05, the committee consists of the mayor, secretary and one council person. Councilman Martin Ditsky volunteered to serve on the committee with secretary treasurer Jill Seigendall and Mayor Michele Bartek.

**Carbon County Council of Governments (COG)** – (1 delegate and one alternate needed)

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to appoint William Chuma as the COG delegate for 2020. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Carbon County Tax Collection Committee:** (1 delegate and 1 alternate, 1 year terms)

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to reappoint Jill Seigendall as the CCTCC delegate for 2020, second by William Chuma. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, 5- Yes, 1- No.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma to appoint Mary Soberick as the alternate delegate for 2020. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**President Bruce Markovich slated the following borough council committees for 2020. Committees meet on the first Wednesday of the month at borough hall:**

5:30 p.m. **Zoning & Ordinance Committee:** Bob Silver, Chairman; Irma Leibensperger, Marie Ondrus

6:00 p.m. **Public Works Committee:** William Chuma, Chairman; John Turcmanovich, Bob Silver

6:30 p.m. **Municipal Administration:** Irma Leibensperger, Chairman; Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky

7:00 p.m. **Park & Recreation Committee:** Martin Ditsky, Chairman; William Chuma, Marie Ondrus

7:30 p.m. **Public Safety,** John Turcmanovich, Chairman; Martin Ditsky, Irma Leibensperger

**Municipal Monthly Reports:**



**Unfinished Business:**

**A Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise the bid specifications prepared by Lehigh Engineering for the sewer relocation project at 400 E. Snyder Avenue. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**A Motion was made by William Chuma, to have Lehigh Engineering prepare a cost estimate for necessary renovations to the Silberline building to be converted into the borough garage for the public works department. At the suggestion of Bob Silver, a dollar amount limit was suggested for the cost estimate. Mr. Chuma amended his Motion to include "at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00." The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: Martin Ditsky - No, John Turcmanovich – Yes, William Chuma – Yes, Bruce Markovich – Yes, Bob Silver – Yes, Marie Ondrus – No. Motion passed, 4-Yes, 2- No.**

**New Business:**

- The Solid Waste Collection Contract with Tamaqua Transfer expires April 11, 2020.  
**A Motion was made by Martin Ditsky to advertise for a solid waste contractor after the bid specifications on file are reviewed by Attorney Yurchak. The bid specifications should include separate bids for recycling and solid waste and combined bids for solid waste and recycling services for terms up to five years. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.**
- Ford F550 Truck estimate from Kovatch Ford \$78,401.08 for the public works dept. Loan interest rates were reviewed. The lowest rate was 2.99% from Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank. No action was taken.
- Annual Waste Load Management Report (2019)-to be completed by a sewage enforcement engineer.  
**A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by Martin Ditsky, to hire Carbon Engineering to complete the 2019 Waste Load Management Report at the same rate as last year. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, at 8:15 p.m. and everyone dispersed.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Jill Seigendall*

Secretary Treasurer