

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 11th, 2025

The June 11th, 2025 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at The Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Woman Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Council Man Jay Doyle was absent.

Executive session from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

The agenda for the meeting was amended to include the words Per Month on Motion number 13.

Bruce Markovich stated that the borough is trying to work some things out with George Atiyah here in the future.

Bruce Markovich reminded the audience of the large agenda and that there is going to be a lot of discussion on certain items and ask the audience to please be mindful of the agenda length.

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about various items the borough along with issues he sees with moving permits.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street inquired about the fireworks ordinance and its enforcement.

George Gilbert of 841 East Ridge Street inquired about the outcome of the meeting with George Atiyah.

Marissa Freeby at 224 East Snyder Avenue stated she is concerned about a couple trees on the 200 block of east Snyder Avenue that are currently down and have not been removed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the April 1st, 2025 Committee Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the May 14th, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence-

No Correspondence.

Committee Reports-

Fire Department Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Fire Department Report.

The fire department had 18 calls for the month of April. Total incident hours were 11.5. Total man hours were 111.5. The responses in town were 10, Summit Hill was 5, Coaldale was 1, and Nesquehoning was 1, Tamaqua was 0, and Jim Thorpe was 1. Training was a total of 170 hours. Community service total hours served was 7.5, total man hours 82.5. Fundraising hours was 13, total man hours 182. Administrative hours was 20, total man hours 80. Total man hours for the month 933, total man hours year to date 3,038.

The Fire Company needs more volunteers and is asking that council consider establishing incentives to help the Fire Company get more volunteers.

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Ambulance Report.

The Lehighton ambulance responses were 82 incidents in April of 2025. They had an average response time of 11.00 minutes from time of dispatch until arrival on scene. Of the 82 responses, 28 were non-emergency patient services, 54 were emergency responses. 68 patients were transported, 6 patients were treated with no transport, 1 standby and 7 cancellations/no patient found.

Mayor's and Police Report-

Hugh Vrablic spoke about the Police Report.

The police department had 330 calls and complaints handled, 16 cases cleared, 7 arrests made, 20 traffic contacts, 116 parking and borough ordinance tickets issued, 1,005 miles patrolled, \$685.00 collected in ticket fees, and \$105.00 in report requests.

Code Report and Zoning Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Code Report.

Rental Inspections completed 37, inspections failed 3, and 18 inspections scheduled for June. 259 Past Due Rental Notices posted on properties. Code enforcement tickets issued 7, code complaints received 24, notice of violations issued 3. Sidewalk permits issued to date 6. 64 Past Due Sewer Transmission Notice posted on properties. Code and Ordinance Officer Shane Monk had to post and take a picture of each past due notice on the doors of each residence and the secretaries had to send a letter through the mail so there would be 2 ways of contact.

Rental Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Rental Report.

June report as of 6-11-2025. Total rentals are 788, total not rental is 242, total uncollected is 147, total submitted is 569, total completed is 208, schedule

inspection total is 190, insurance requirement is 171, fees collected \$122,277.59, and past due late fee collected \$21,920.79.

Solicitors Report-

Robert Yurchak spoke about Jay Doyle's hearing which is on June 12th, 2025 at 9:00a.m. in courtroom number one, in regards to his removal from the seat.

Tax Collector's Report-

Borough Secretary Ashley McLaughlin spoke about the tax collectors report.

From May 1st, 2025 to May 31st, 2025, taxes collected were \$480,624.06.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

No Old Business.

New Business:

Discussion about information provided from U.S. Municipal on options for a sewer vac.-request Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about a representative from Medco coming to the borough to present information to council about renting, leasing, or buying s sewer vacuum at the next committee meeting.

Look at doing a traffic survey to lower speed limits on street within borough limits except route 209.-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting a traffic survey completed to get the speed limits on borough streets reduced.

Status of new borough garage-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about how there is a meeting on September 26th, 2025 for the borough garage grant the borough applied for.

Discussion on Budget-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines stated she would like the council to begin looking at where the borough is currently and would like council to have a budget to actual for the next meeting.

Discussion of position on police chief- request by Jennifer Staines

Bruce Markovich spoke about council working to get three chiefs together to conduct interviews and that someone is needed to conduct background checks on the applicants.

Michele Bartek stated she is going to contact company in Scranton and get cost on them doing the background checks.

Discussion on selling the zipper-request by Jennifer Staines.

Motion to place the zipper for sale on Municibid with no minimum bid.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to advertise the zipper for sale-request by Joseph Butrie

Motion was approved in previous motion.

Motions:

Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap parking request from Stephanie Yelekei at 229 East Abbott Street.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to open bids for milling streets-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated there was supposed to be bids for the milling of the streets.

Bruce Markovich stated there were no bids as no specs were gathered and specs must be presented before council and then council approves the specs to be advertised to accept bids.

Bruce Markovich stated that Joseph Butrie should get all the information and then submit it to council for their approval to then be advertised.

Discussion/Motion to advertise materials for repairing roads and sewer repairs- request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to materials for the whole year, with the cost of the materials/supplies to be placed on bid once bid specs are obtained from the borough engineer.

Discussion/Motion to go forward with the purchase of a new 550 dump truck, to be purchased through liquid fuels over 3 years. The truck will replace the 2008 truck- request by Joseph Butrie

Motion to get an updated cost of dump truck cost and bring before council at next meeting and then vote on purchasing the truck.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to put money the boroughs is receiving for sweeper and sewer vacuum into a CD.-request by Joseph Butrie.

Joseph Butrie withdrew the motion.

Discussion/Motion to advertise for bids to fill in the Lansford Pool-request by Joseph Butrie

Council discussed how they previously allowed Radocha to punch holes in the bottom of the pool but that due to the rain they have not been able to do so.

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to advertise for bids to fill in the pool once the holes are punched in the bottom of the pool.

Motion to appoint of Patrick Walsh as a deputy tax collector (paperwork has been submitted to all entities) -request by Mun. Admin

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have Arro Engineering prepare a Certified Estimate for the costs to rehab West Ridge from Center Ave to Courtwright Street. -request by Mun. Admin

Bruce Markovich stated the cost for Arro Engineering to prepare the certified estimate would be \$585.00.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have Andress Appraisals appraise the former borough garage and property on Spring Street. 1st appraisal empty property on the south side of Spring Street only, 2nd appraisal property with borough garage standing and 3rd appraisal with Borough garage demolished. Cost \$2000.00. Costs to be added to sale. -request by Mun. Admin

Motion to have Andress Appraisal appraise the former borough garage and property on Spring Street. 1st appraisal empty property on the south side of Spring Street only, and 2nd appraisal property with the borough garage standing.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have Borough Solicitor prepare and execute a lien for the property at 614 E Patterson Street in the amount of \$39,540.70-request by Mun. Admin

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to ratify Resolution 2025-03 approved by council on May 22nd, 2025-request by Mun. Admin

Bruce Markovich stated the resolution was not on the agenda from the May 22nd, 2025 meeting but that DCED told council to approve it.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for quotes from contractors to perform clean up services on blighted properties. -request by Mun. Admin

Motioned by Jack Soberick and Michele Bartek.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Bruce Markovich, and Jack Soberick.

Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Jennifer Staines.

Due to split council vote the Mayor Hugh Vrablic voted in favor of the motion, resulting in the motion passing.

Motion to execute a rental agreement with HERC Rentals for a Sewer Vac on a as needed basis at \$745.00 per day, \$2195.00 per week, \$6,500.00 per month(added).

Motion previously tabled. -request by Mun. Admin

Motion to put the application together and reach out to Tamaqua Borough about using their Sewer Vacuum.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and Michele Bartek.

Motion was favored by Jack Soberick, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion to participate in the Sourcewell Cooperative Municipal Government Purchasing Program. There are no costs involved. -request by Mun. Admin

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the purchase of 60 CY Certified Playground Mulch at the cost of \$2,444.00. -request by Gwyneth Collevechio

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve 10 hours of community service for Samatha Valentine. - request by Gwyneth Collevechio

Gwyneth Collevechio stated that no supervision is needed for the community service as Samantha is not a juvenile.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevechio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to re-open the SOP's-request by Michele Bartek

Robert Yurchak spoke about the Police Standard Operating Procedure needing to be updated as it is supposed to be updated every 3-4 years and that he needs councils' approval to work with the mayor and police department on the update.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to adopt the body camera policy-request by Michele Bartek

Robert Yurchak spoke about how he sent the body camera policy to the FOP and that the policy is now ready for adoption.

Motioned to table by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Ashley McLaughlin in black ink.

Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary