

LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Monthly Meeting

June 12, 2019 6:00 p.m. 1 W. Ridge Street, Lansford, PA

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. by President Jared Soto, Pledge of Allegiance recited and roll call by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall:

Pres. Jared Soto - Present V Pres. Irma Leibensperger – Present Bob Silver – Present
Marie Ondrus – Present Bruce Markovich – Present William Chuma – Present
Pres. Pro Temp. John Turcmanovich – Present Mayor James Romankow – Present
Solicitor Michael Greek – Arrived at 6:30 p.m. after Executive Session

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for borough garage property discussions; Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority letter offering to discuss the sale of a parcel of property on Dock Street, possible litigation on a sewer issue at 400 E. Snyder Avenue, and to consider hiring a full time police officer.

Public Hearing: To take public comments on a proposed **Ordinance 2019-02**, to vacate 5,500 sq. ft. of borough property (proposed road) at the top of Tunnel Street. Jared Soto read the Ordinance and Attorney Greek explained that the property will no longer be public property (currently a borough road laid out but not being used). The property will revert to the neighboring property owners; Lehigh Coal & Navigation, Tim Smith and Paul Kokinda. Mary Soberick, 109 W. Abbott Street, asked for clarification from Attorney Greek. He explained that it is up to the adjoining property owners whether to revise their property deeds. A resident asked whether this included a park that was once in that area. It does not.

Public Courtesy:

Bob Dobosh, 383 W. Ridge Street, reported two swings need to be replaced at Ashton Park.

David Barachie, 241 E. Patterson Street, said that when PennDOT resurfaced Patterson Street, in front of his property, it raised the level of the street to overlap his sidewalk and during rain storms water now flows towards his home. The borough will check on the situation however it is the responsibility of the property owner to install sidewalks.

Marie Ondrus, 36 Coal Street, was concerned about a Lansford Alive Article in the Times News Newspaper about its plan for Kennedy Park. She said a retraction is planned.

Irma Leibensperger, 164 W. Ridge Street, added that in the past Lansford Alive did not receive a health inspection for the food sold at its "Music In The Park" events. She asked that the organization be exempt from paying the health inspection \$35.00 fee.

James Romankow, 602 E. Abbott Street, thanked Lansford Alive for sponsoring community events.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, spoke about conflict of interest between (nonprofit) Lansford Alive and borough council; in the past Lansford Alive advertised it is raising funds for a roof on the gazebo in Kennedy Park but now borough council is looking for estimates for a roof on the gazebo. She asked for financial accounting from Lansford Alive regarding its contributions to the borough and added that the Friends of Lansford Recreation provide financial statements to the borough after each meeting.

Michelle Bartek, 333 E. Bertsch Street, asked about funds raised by the nonprofit Friends of Recreation and what repairs are needed for the Ashton Park Pool. She suggested contacting local businesses to donate to the project. She also asked about the cost of engineers and architects and how legal counsel invoices the borough.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- May 8, 2019 Regular Meeting
A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the May 8, 2019 Minutes as written. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- May 29, 2019 Special Meeting

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the May 29, 2019 Minutes as written. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

2. Correspondence:
 - a. **Lansford Coaldale Joint Water Authority** – Response to meet and discuss the borough’s interest in acquisition of tax parcel 122-22-V3.08 owned by the Water Authority to build a borough garage. The borough is no longer interested in this property.
 - b. **Lansford Borough Police Civil Service Commission** – Jared Soto read a letter from the Civil Service Commission, Chairman John Turcmanovich, listing 3 qualified candidates for the vacant full time police position. Listed in order of how they scored and qualified were: 1. Kyle Sabulsky, 2. Vincent Morrow 3. Charles McFeeley Jr. Both John Turcmanovich and Mayor Romankow recommended hiring Kyle Sabulsky (who also has military service to his credit).
 - c. **CC Tax Claim** – Sale of repository property parcel 122A-25-L27.01, 316 W. Patterson St. (fire) **A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the Tax Claim Bureau repository sale of parcel 122A-25-L27.01, 316 W. Patterson Street, to James S. Gregory for \$1,476.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.**
3. **Correspondence not enclosed to save paper – copy available upon request**
 - a. **PennDOT, Liquid Fuels, Project approval**, 2019 Local Forces Paving Project 19-13405-001 to pave:
 - i. 300 block of E. Bertsch St. 477’ x 30’
 - ii. 500 block of E. Ridge St. 413’ x 25’
 - iii. 300 block of W. Ridge St. 723’ x 20’
 - iv. 200 block of E. Ridge St. 685’ x 20’
 - v. Intersection of W. Ridge & Cortright Sts.
 - b. **2018 Dodge RAM Truck**, Safety recall, Police vehicle tailgate latch recall (has been passed to the police dept.) Mayor Romankow said it has been scheduled for repair.
 - c. **Notice of Sheriff Sales-** 11:00 a.m. 7/12/19 C.C. Sheriff’s Office 1st flr. courthouse:
 - i. Attorney Greek & Portnoff Law Assoc.: parcel 122A1-25-A2, 320 W. Front St.
 - ii. Wells Fargo Bank: parcel 123A-24-H21, 40 E. Abbott St
 - iii. Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC: parcel 122A1-25-E7, 226 W. Bertsch St
 - d. **Representative Doyle Heffley** – introduction of Bridge Bill #14
 - e. **Am. Fire Co. No. 1** – Thank You letter for supporting the 5/11/19 Food Truck Festival
 - f. **PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development** – LSA commitment letter and contract for Project #C00071664 - \$40,444.00 for street lights in the business district.
 - g. **Friends of Lansford Recreation** – Bank statements on file
 - h. **PA Dept. of Agriculture** – Spotted Lantern Fly Permit received, copies distributed – Spotted Lantern Fly identification explained to all borough employees and permit copies distributed to be in all borough vehicles.
 - i. **FY 2019 Bullet Proof Vest Applications-** Office Christopher Ondrus reported that he applied for 4 bullet proof vests; 2 officers have vests that expire next year.
4. **Committee Reports** – from committee meetings held June 5, 2019
 - Park & Recreation** – The report was read by Jared Soto and is on file. Mr. Soto thanked volunteers from Silberline Manufacturing for sprucing up Ashton Hill Park. Eight to fifteen trees at Ashton Park between the pool parking lot and Boyer’s Market need to be trimmed or removed. Penn State Extension personnel will inspect the trees and advise.
 - Public Works** – The report was read by Bob Silver and is on file. A sink hole has been identified in the 100 block of W. Patterson Street between St. Luke’s Medical Center and its parking lot.

The borough and LC Joint Water Authority will investigate the cause. The Edgemont Sewer project is progressing on schedule.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to scope the sewer line at 400 E. Snyder Avenue using either the borough workers or an outside contractor, followed by a survey of the line on the property at 400 E. Snyder Avenue, requesting cost estimates for the survey before having it done. The survey is needed to determine where the borough's sewer line lays to determine whether an easement is needed to repair the sewer line. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise for a part time summer help, ending September 15th, for the public works department at a rate of \$11.00 per hour for up to 20 hours per week. Applicants should have a driver's license. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Municipal Administration – The report was read by Bob Silver. He presented a parking meter proposal; 81 meters are operational, 74 are included in the proposal. The committee discussed purchasing Accufund accounting system to replace QuickBooks and Munibilling. Mr. Silver explained that the cost of appointing and paying a Borough Health (food) Inspector (at \$1800/hr.) is higher than the receipts received from organizations that are inspected and given health licenses at \$35.00 per year. Some organizations are exempt from paying according to borough records.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to grant Lansford Alive exempt status for payment of its Health License (\$35.00/yr.) for Music in the Park events. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Code Zoning & Planning - The Agreement with James Dean was reviewed by Council and Attorney Greek. IWorQ program for code enforcement is being implemented.

Public Safety – There is no written report for May. Chairman John Turcmanovich gave a verbal report on the status of police vehicles and reviewed the Civil Service Commission letter naming the top 3 full time police officer candidates (mentioned earlier). Mayor Romankow recommended raising the hourly rate of part time officer Vincent Morrow to the next wage step. His current rate is \$16.50; Resolution 2018-04 part time officers gain .50 cents/ hr. for every 2,080 hours of service. His hours will be reviewed.

5. Municipal Reports:

Mayor's Report – The May report shows a monthly total \$2,333.59, Year to date \$12,171.26

Police Report – May report shows 514 calls for service; 31 criminal arrests, 11 traffic citation; 25 on traffic citations, 11 parking ordinance tickets and 44 Quality of Life tickets issued.

Fire Department – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 – May report show 16 calls; 9 in Lansford, 4 to Summit Hill, 1 to Nesquehoning and 2 to Tamaqua.

Ambulance – The Lehighon Ambulance responded to 63 incidents in May with the average response time of 7.19 minutes from time of dispatch to the arrival on scene.

Code Enforcement – No Report

Carbon County of Governments (COG) – April 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes are on file. Jared will provide an update on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting to be held 6/25/19.

Tax Collector's Report – Total bills to be approved \$78,256.26. Breakdown: General Fund \$40,665.89; High Way Liquid Fuels \$1,379.87; Street Light \$4,992.94, Sanitation \$26,606.84, Sewer Transmission \$3,590.83; Park & Recreation \$269.08; Fire \$750.81.

- **Northeast Surveillance Alarm invoiced the borough for \$1,600.00;** its workman did not repair the camera problem in the Police Department which resulted in crashing the police computer network. The repairman left the department stranded. This prompted the police to contact an outside person (Joe Lyons) to resolve the problem.
A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to turn the Northeast Surveillance invoice for \$1,600.00 over to Attorney Greek to determine how the invoice should be handles. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in Agreement except Jared Soto who was opposed. 1 no, 6 yes, Motion passed.
- **Fire Escrow Account #4529 distribution to Paul Zona, 401-405 E. Abbott Street.** The property, damaged by fire, has been demolished and sewer capped at borough regulation, inspected by Lehigh Valley Inspection Service and the Borough Public Works Department.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the payment of \$7,333.33 to Paul R. Zona and close Fire Escrow Account #4529 for 401-405 E. Abbott Street, Lansford. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.
- **Tax Anticipation Note –** Recommend payment of \$50,000.00 (1/2 of loan principal)
- **A Motion was made by Bob Silver to pay \$50,000.00 on the borough’s Tax Anticipation Note to M & T Government Banking. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.**

Treasurer’s Report: Bills totaling \$78,256.26 were listed for approval: Breakdown: General Fund \$40,665.89, Hi-way Liquid Fuels \$1,379.87, Sanitation \$26,606.84, Sewer Transmission \$3,590.83, Park & Recreation \$269.08, Fire \$750.81, Street Light \$4,992.94.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$78,256.26 was made by William Chuma (with the exception of paying \$1,600.00 invoice from Northeast Surveillance). The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Carbon County Railroad Commission check was received in the amount of \$10,430.43
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Board of Finance and Review – 2018 Liquid Fuels tax refund submitted and received in May: \$2,982.50.

Bank Account Balances:

FUND/Saving & Checking	No.	Account Title	April	May
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$212,237.73	\$352,353.63
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
General Fund	4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	\$7,333.33	\$7,333.33
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$158,742.94	\$143,136.78
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,720.64	\$51,729.43
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,153.38	\$12,154.41
Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$178,888.98	\$175,556.69
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission	\$164,760.81	\$164,788.80
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,842.68	\$152,850.22
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$50,750.25	\$50,843.27
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$26,588.48	\$29,304.90
Street Light Fund	7764	Street Lights	\$12,203.56	\$16,687.16
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$29,971.66	\$36,663.92
Sp Hi-Way Liquid Fuels	7706	Treasurers Special Hi-Way	\$162,314.88	\$165,002.70
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,377.19	\$41,380.70
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$66,148.95	\$68,214.66

Total			\$1,333,215.57	\$1,473,180.71
	Loans	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	Est Balance
Tax Anticipation Note		Gen Fund	100,000.00	100,000.00
Tunnel St/Storm Separation		Sewer Transm.	869,548.69	853,986.12
MEM Debacle		Street Light Fund	130,384.11	121,859.11
2017 Police Expedition		Gen Fund	13,204.09	13,204.09
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund	42,073.00	42,073.00
			1,155,209.89	1,131,122.32

Solicitors Report – Update on the Jesse Hiles vs. Lansford Borough matter; attorneys will not argue the case in Philadelphia. It will be decided on the briefs presented to the court.

6. Unfinished Business:

- a. Zoning, Code Enforcement, UCC Official appointments; Agreements with James Dean & NEIC.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to adopt the Agreement for Services between the Borough and Northeast Inspection Consultants, working as an outside contractor for the Borough. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to adopt the Agreement for Services between the Borough and Zoning Officer James Dean, working as an outside contractor for the Borough. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed. James Dean will be sworn in and complete the paperwork with Attorney Greek. Beginning rate is \$25.00/hour during 120 days probation up to 30 hours per week.

- b. **Ordinance 2019-02** – already advertised, To vacate property at the south end of Tunnel Street.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to adopt Ordinance 2019-02, to vacate the property at the south end of Tunnel Street, approximately 5,500 feet. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- c. **Ordinance 2019-03** – already advertised, to place stop signs at the intersection of Center and W. Ridge Streets.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich and second by Irma Leibensperger to adopt Ordinance 2019-03, which makes the intersection of Center and W. Ridge Street a three way Stop.

- d. **Bus Stops & Crossing Guards** – The school district asks that the bus stop at the entrance to the stadium not be changed.

- e. **Edgemont Sewer Project update** – William Chuma reported that the manhole is in place. The project is almost complete. Paving needs to be done.

- f. **Meter proposal** (Bob Silver’s proposal) for the Business District was tabled until further review.

Bob Silver made a Motion to have two public works department workers certified for parking meter maintenance; calibration. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- g. **Handicap Parking Application** – 515 E. Bertsch Street, Vincent Hochstadter

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to approve a Handicap Parking Space in front of 515 E. Bertsch Street for Vincent Hochstadter. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

h. **Elk's Lot, 6 E. Ridge Street, Grant update** - \$6,370.00 Carbon County CDBG grant must be used for fencing, not landscaping. The borough will get more estimates for fencing.

i. **Munibilling** – accepting credit cards for borough sanitation invoices.

A Motion was made by Bruce Markovich to approve accepting credit card payments for Lansford Borough Sanitation Bills. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

7. New Business:

a. Civil Service Commission Recommendation Letter – Names three Fulltime Police Officers after testing

John Turcmanovich made a Motion, based on the recommendation of the Lansford Civil Service Commission and Mayor James Romankow, to hire part time officer Kyle Sabulsky as a full time police officer for the Lansford Police Department. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, No; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, No; Jared Soto, Yes; Silver, No; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No.

Motion failed: 5 No, 2 Yes.

Mayor Romankow left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

b. **Kennedy Park gazebo estimates:** Didyoung Home Improvements \$8,400.00; DD&Z Home Improvements \$5,740.00. After discussion the topic was tabled by President Soto.

c. **Fuel Oil contract** – Expires July 31, 2019.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise for 6,000 gallons of heating oil for the borough building and borough garage for calendar year August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

d. **Borough Building Maintenance** – Third floor window/vent at borough hall needs to be secured as well as rain gutters cleaned and fixed and finishing subfloors in the two bathrooms.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to get estimates for repairs to the window/vent on the third floor of the borough building, clean and fix the gutters and put down subflooring in the 2 bathrooms. The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

e. **Joe Lyons "Overwatch Technologies" Agreement** for services as an outside contractor will be reviewed by Municipal Administration Committee.

f. **"Notice of Violation Letter" example for iWorQ presented to council by Jared Soto**

g. There are problems with the office copier; estimates will be collected for the July 10, 2019 meeting.

h. **Bridge Bill #14** – Jared Soto is working on funding for Edgemont Bridge (Dock Street Bridge) through this Bill.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary/Treasurer