

Lansford Borough Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020 1 W. Ridge Street 6:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Present were Martin Ditsky, William Chuma, President Bruce Markovich, President Pro Temp John Turcmanovich, Irma Leibensperger, Mayor Michele Bartek, Marie Ondrus, and Vice President Bob Silver. Solicitor Robert Yurchak was absent due to a prescheduled event.

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

Bid Opening for Sewer Project at 400 E. Snyder Avenue: One bid was received from Peter J. Radocha and Sons. The bid was opened by Bruce Markovich. Bid Amount \$123,254.00. The bid exceeded the engineer's estimate of \$95,315.00.

A Motion to reject the \$123,254.00 from Peter J. Radocha and Sons and re advertise the sewer project at 400 E. Snyder Avenue was made by Irma Leibensperger, second by Marie Ondrus. On rollcall vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, No; William Chuma, No; Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, Yes; Irma Leibensperger, Yes. Motion passed, 5 Yes, 2 No.

Bid Opening for Solid Waste and Recycling contract: One bid was received from Tamaqua Transfer & Recycling. The bid was not opened due to a conflict in the interpretation of the bid specifications. The bid specs do not specify whether the borough could accept or reject a separate bid for solid waste or a separate bid for recycling.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to return the unopened bid received from Tamaqua Transfer & Recycling and to rebid the solid waste and recycling contract with wording that allows the borough to accept a separate bid for solid waste and a separate bid for recycling if it chooses to do so for terms of 1 year, 3 years and 5 years. The Solid waste collection to be scheduled on a weekly basis and recycling to be scheduled on a biweekly basis. The Motion was Second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Motion was made by Bob Silver to advertise for bids on the solid waste and recycling contract. The Motion was Second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Public Courtesy:

Boy Scout Troop 765 attended the meeting with Scoutmaster Larry Williams. Scout Robert Ellis Williams prepared questions for borough council, asking what the borough can do for the community to protect it from the corona virus and how the police are protected. He asked for ramps at the skate park, more playground equipment, opening the pool at Ashton Park, more activities for youth, and spring clean-up.

Councilman Turcmanovich shared memories about two community leaders that passed away recently; George Krajnak Sr., who served as a police officer, police civil service commission member, fire chief, mayor, and councilman. John "Squeaky" Porambo, who served as a police officer for the borough. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.

Jared Soto, 47 S. Walnut Street, in an effort to get other boroughs involved, asked about approaching local borough's for help with life guards and training for lifeguards. He handed out a Summary of

Lansford Pool through March 11, 2020 (regarding funding and grant applications in progress) as a follow-up from the February 24th meeting with Friends of the Pool.

Ellen Sargent, 527 E. Ridge Street, and owner of 400 E. Snyder Avenue, asked whether there is any timeline for the 400 E. Snyder Avenue sewer project. She asked for reimbursement of application fees already paid for permits to renovate the property.

Roy Christman, Towamensing Township, asked the borough to adopt a PA Fair Districts Resolution in favor of a nonpartisan citizen's commission to draw voting district lines. The resolution has been adopted by Summit Hill, Palmerton Lehigh, Nesquehoning, Bowmanstown, Lower Towamensing, Towamensing, Penn Forrest, and Mahoning. In the PA November election one fifth of representative seats have no opposition largely because of gerrymandering; the candidate is preselected.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W Ridge Street, asked that a meeting of the Park and Recreation Committee be setup. The group has not met in a couple years and she said the group could be helpful with the pool renovation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the February 12, 2020 meeting minutes. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passed, 5 Yes, 2 No.

Correspondence:

- **Panther Valley School District** - letter asking whether any changes to bus stops are requested for the 2020-2021 school year. No changes intended.
- **Handicap Parking Application** – 18 Jones Street for Brian Strohl. There is room for off-street parking.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to deny a handicap parking space for Brian Strohl, 18 Jones Street. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

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

- **Carbon County Planning Office** – “Planning Nuts & Bolts: Growing a Stronger Carbon County”, three Wednesday evenings, April 22, 29 & May 6, 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Emergency Management Agency training room, Nesquehoning.
- **Notice of Sheriff Sale**, 360 W. Kline Avenue, 4/9/20, 11:00 a.m. at the courthouse, Jim Thorpe.

Committee Reports, meetings held March 4:

- **Zoning & Ordinance** – no report
- **Public Works** – no written report. William Chuma reported that Peter Radocha will remove the tree stumps at Ashton Park. The borough's sewer line on Silberline property is damaged and needs repairs. The sewer vector needs repair.
- **Municipal Administration** – Christopher Ondrus had questions about meeting minutes. County CDBG grant projects need a 3 year plan. DEP reports on Silberline will be picked up tomorrow and will be available to the public after that. Grant application for the sewer project is being revised.
- **Park & Recreation** – Martin Ditsky gave a verbal report about the condition of pool, summer fling park event with the mayor, looking for volunteers for the summer fling and corporate sponsors for pool renovations, status of the electric, concession stand, cleaning up the east

end playground. Charles Trovato, Albrightsville, owner of 16 rental units in Lansford, offered to resurface the basketball court between E. Abbott and E. Kline Ave. "cashmere's court".

- **Public Safety** – no quorum for the meeting

Municipal Monthly Reports:

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No.1 reported 14 incidents: 8 in Lansford, 3 in Summit Hill, 2 in Coaldale, 1 in Tamaqua.

Ambulance – Reported 63 incidents in February with an average response time of 8.2 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Bartek reported \$1,213.50 collected in February. Year to date totals: \$3,470.12

Police Report – The Lansford Police answered 292 calls, made 15 criminal arrests, issued 2 traffic citations, 4 non traffic citations, and 13 parking tickets.

Carbon County Council of Governments – Next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at the courthouse annex.

Code Compliance – James Dean invoice for February totaled \$3,930.00 for code enforcement.

Solicitor's Report – A written report from Attorney Yurchak is on file dated 3/7/20 as he could not attend the meeting due to a pre-planned trip.

A management conference order scheduled for 3/19/2020, 2:00 p.m. Courtroom 3, Carbon County Court house for Daniel and Ellen Sargent, condemnation by Lansford Borough for sewer project, Temporary Easement at 400 E. Snyder Avenue.

Treasurer's Report - Bills to be approved total \$66,506.86; General Fund \$17,624.82; Park & Recreation \$314.74; Hi Way Liquid Fuels \$5,551.37; Street Light \$4,816.80; Sewer Transmission \$6,839.09; Fire Tax \$3,947.00; Sanitation \$27,413.04. The council packet also includes monthly checking account details and projection until March 31, 31,2020.

Sewage Transmission Fund: \$178,000.00 was billed on 2/15/2020; \$95,941.27 has been received to date.

Residential Rental Licensing: \$59,700.00 was billed on 2/19/2020; \$24,677.75 has been collected to date.

The Auditor General's Office is currently auditing the Police Pension Plan for 2015-2019.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$66,506.86 was made by William Chuma and second by John Turcmanovich. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Martin Ditsky, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passed, 5 Yes, 2 No.

End of Month Balances:

		2020	2020
No.	Account Title	Jan	Feb
7673	General Acct	\$336,809.00	\$309,414.16
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$179,972.61	\$178,684.27
0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,798.89	\$51,807.10
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,162.57	\$12,163.50
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$54,261.41	\$75,899.87
1198	Sewer Transmission	\$165,010.08	\$165,036.23
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$152,911.79	\$152,926.87
1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,180.42	\$51,191.26
7722	Local Service Tax	\$10,678.04	\$12,910.89
7764	Street Lights	\$23,024.42	\$18,753.71

7748	Fire	\$29,267.35	\$28,752.26
7706	Treasurers Special HI Way	\$60,650.87	\$56,162.83
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,408.48	\$41,411.65
7756	Recreation	\$57,760.52	\$57,748.42
		\$1,232,076.56	\$1,218,043.13
	LOANS Paid from Fund	Est Balance	
TAN	General Fund	100,000.00	\$100,000.00
\$18,689.23 per mo.	Sewer Transm#5537	727,433.83	\$711,355.67
20 yrs./\$14,130 bi annual	Street Light Fund#6309	113,144.11	\$113,144.11
	Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	32,351.80	\$32,351.80
		972,929.74	\$956,851.58

Unfinished Business:

- **Resolution 2020-03** Sewer Grant application - to authorize individuals to sign documents for 400 E. Snyder Ave. sewer project:

A Motion was made by William Chuma to pass Resolution 2020-03, designating Bruce Markovich and Jill Seigendall as officials to execute all documents between the borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority in obtaining the sewer and water requested grant. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Resolution 2020-04** – Police Pension – to authorize individuals to sign the police pension documents.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to pass Resolution 2020-04, designating Bruce Markovich and Jill Seigendall as officials to execute all police pension documents. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Commercial Parking Space** - Victor Daniels request to install a third customer parking space in front of Serina’s Café, 22 W. Ridge Street.(3 is the limit per Ordinance 97-09).

Irma Leibensperger made a Motion to install a third commercial parking space in front of Serina’s Café. The Motion was second by Marie Ondrus. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, No; John Turcmanovich, No; William Chuma, No; Martin Ditsky, No; Bob Silver, No; Marie Ondrus, Yes; Irma Leibensperger, Yes. Motion failed, 5 No, 2 Yes.

- **Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor application** – One letter of interest was received from Attorney Cynthia S. Yurchak.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to remove Attorney Gregory Mousseau as the Lansford Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. The Motion was second by William 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 Passes, 4 Yes, 3 No.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to appoint Attorney Cynthia Yurchak as Lansford Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passes.

- **Strategic Management & Planning Program** offered by the PA governor’s Center for Local Government Services to assess the municipal procedures, form a 5 year financial plan and

implement a schedule – One bid received from PA Economy League, bid \$39,375.00, the state will pay 70% (\$27,563.00) of the cost and the borough will pay 30% (\$11,812.00).

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to accept the PA Economy League bid and move forward with the program. The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Gazebo Roof** was inspected by Pioneer Metal Roofing (who could not repair the roof at its original estimated price) and offered a new estimate: \$9,576.00. More information on past estimates is needed.
- **Pump House Roof** – one estimate was received from Pioneer Metal Roofing for \$11,278.00.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to table the pump house roof issue until more is known about restoration of the pool. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Pool leak detection** – Two estimates for pressure testing: Joe Hutta \$110.00/hour and Boyer Swimming Pools Inc. \$3,000.00 for one day procedure.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to accept the bid of \$110.00/hour from Joe Hutta to pressure test for leaks at Ashton pool. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. On roll call vote: : Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Martin Ditsky, No; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, Yes; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion Passed, 5 Yes, 2 No.

- **Silberline update**- Lehigh Engineering provided estimates dated 2/15/2020 to convert a building on the Silberline property into a borough garage: \$1,109,555.00 and \$909,370.00.

New Business:

- **Project approval for County CDBG Funding Year 2020** due April 17, 2020. Projects suggested are to make Ashton Park and Kennedy Park handicap accessible and extend the walkway along Parkway Street at Ashton Park. Mr. Chuma suggested paving the basketball court at Cashmere's court. Rose Mary Cannon suggested making the Borough Hall restrooms handicap accessible.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to apply for Funding Year 2020 County CDBG Funds to make Ashton Park and Kennedy Park handicap accessible. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Street materials contract** with Lehigh Asphalt expires April 11, 2020.

A Motion was made by to advertise for bids on street materials using the same materials and tonnage as in the 2019-2020 street materials contract. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passes.

- **Purchasing Policy reviewed.** The Borough's current purchasing policy allows the committee chairman to approve up to \$750.00 on a single expenditure in their respective department until expenses reach the yearly budgeted amount.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to increase the amount a committee chairman may approve on a single expenditure from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 in the Lansford Borough Purchasing Policy. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Special Event Request** from Half Time Sports Bar at the Sports Zoo to hold an event May 16th, requesting W. Ridge Street blocked off between Cortright and Dock Streets. Proceeds to benefit Friends of the Pool.

A Motion to approve the Halftime Sports Bar event on May 16th, allowing the blocking of W. Ridge Street between Cortright and Dock Streets, was made by William Chuma, second by Marie Ondrus. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Municipal Legal Updates Seminar** held by Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's, August 5 & 6 in Harrisburg – Request from Mayor Bartek to attend. The borough is allowed 1 free attendee through its membership in the PSAB TEAM program.

A Motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to have Mayor Michele Bartek attend the Municipal Legal Updates Seminar to be held August 5 & 6 in Harrisburg using the TEAM membership free voucher. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Portable sprayer request** – from William Chuma for the street department, for spraying weeds along borough back streets; Edgemont Road, in unpopulated areas. A public works employee will need to be licensed to use the sprayer, an 8 hour course. Estimates: AG Industrial Demco sprayer with 150 gallon tank, 60 foot hose, \$4,537.00; Northern Tool & Equipment sprayer, 200 gallon tank, 60 foot hose, \$3,149.00, either add \$80.00 shipping.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to purchase a street-side sprayer from Northern Tool & Equipment for \$3,149.00 plus shipping for the Public Works Department after verifying that Northern Tool and Equipment is a COSTARS member . The Motion was second by All were in favor.

The president announced an executive session to be held for the public safety committee following this meeting to review police grievances.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. by William Chuma.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall
Secretary Treasurer