

## Budget Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2024

The November 12th, 2024 Budget Meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzalez.

Council Man Jay Doyle, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Mayor Hugh Vrablic were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the Treasury Department and that they advised the borough to try to spend the Covid Fund.

Bruce Markovich stated he reached out to Council Woman Bartek and Police Chief Kyle Woodward about getting cost for body cams for the police to be voted on at the Special Meeting occurring next week.

Bruce Markovich spoke about a letter he received from Pennsylvania and that they are not going to pay for the Brimbles Wall Project.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how Bill McMullen and he have been trying to do everything they can to resolve the problem with the state saying they are not going to pay for the Brimbles Wall Project.

Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the previous budget meeting.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the crossing guard salary uniform allowance and that she reached out to Attorney Robert Yurchak to verify the cost the borough can recoup from the school district.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the communication she has received from Robert Yurchak.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about how the crossing guard contract could be updated.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the borough workers' salaries.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the fuel budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the supplies budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the supplies budget line item and what that consist of.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the borough workers shop supplies, tools, nuts and bolts.

Joseph Butrie spoke about having the supplies budget line item around \$4,000.00.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the borough worker's uniform allowance.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the Drug Program budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the general liability insurance budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the auto expense for the borough workers and police department.

Lacey Gonzalez stated that Secretary/Treasurer Maria Ahner provided paperwork about the health insurance.

Maria Ahner stated that she spoke with Beneco about the health insurance.

Maria Ahner told council about possible healthcare plans that are available and the cost.

Lacey Gonzales inquired about the plans and if they are the same as the current plan.

Maria Ahner spoke about the current healthcare plan cost.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the garage electric budget line item.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how the borough garage light bulbs need to be updated and that changing them to LED's should help reduce electric usage.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how he wants the borough workers to have their tanker endorsement and has given them a six-month time frame to do so.

Council discussed alternative solutions to reduce heating cost at the borough garage.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the sign budget line item.

Joseph Butrie spoke about what must be on certain signs.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the signs and the amount of time it will take for delivery.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the highway and maintenance budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the major equipment purchase budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the municipal admin heat budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the grant expenditure budget line item.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke the rental license budget line item.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how council is going to be having a meeting to go over the rental license process.

Bruce Markovich spoke about using the surplus money that was carried over from 2024 in the 2025 budget to cover the money shortage.

Lacey Gonzalez stated she feels council needs to revamp the fee schedule to ensure it is covering the cost to the borough for each item on the fee schedule.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the handicap installation procedure.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the budget shortage and that council must decide before the next meeting where the money is coming from to fill the shortage.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the decrease in uncollected taxes from Portnoff.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about the decline in uncollected taxes from Portnoff.

Council spoke about Portnoff and when they became the borough's collection agency.

Lacey Gonzalez stated she is unsure why the collection amount is reduced from Portnoff and what is the cause of it.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a free service that once registered allows information about LLCs to be obtained.

Joseph Butrie spoke about the LLC that owns the Silberline Building.

Lacey Gonzalez spoke about how the borough needs to begin to go after LLCs that are trying to sell properties without paying their delinquent taxes.

Bruce Markovich inquires whether Portnoff has been sending the borough a list of uncollectible.

Council spoke about the rental license fees.

Council discussed about the rental license process and the cost to the borough.

Secretary/Treasurer Maria Ahner spoke about how many rentals are receiving their rental license are issued without having been inspected first.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how previous administration was processing rental licenses.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a meeting that is going to be occurring that will be focused on rentals.

The meeting concluded at 6:11p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

