

The October 10, 2018 meeting of Lansford Borough Council was called to order by President Jared Soto at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall with the following council members in attendance: John Turcmanovich, Joseph Butrie, Jared Soto, Bob Silver, Irma Leibensperger, Mayor James Romankow, and Solicitor Michael Greek. Council persons Marie Ondrus and Matthew Walsh were absent.

Executive Session

Jared Soto called the group into executive session to discuss possible property purchase to house the public works department and the hiring of part time CDL drivers and part time police officers.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m. the floor was opened for public courtesy by Jared Soto. About 15 people were in the audience as well as Ron Gower of the Times News Newspaper.

Public Courtesy

Michelle Bartek, 333 E. Abbott Street, asked about Trick or Treat Night. She is concerned about safety and suggested having a Halloween event at the Ashton Park instead of door to door trick or treating.

Tommy Vadyak, 334 W. Abbott Street, had complaints about the condition of borough streets. He is opposed to moving the borough garage to the Panther Valley Lumber property or to the W. Ridge Street/Dock Street property.

Martin Ditsky, 333 ½ E. Abbott Street, former council president, said he met with PennDOT about the sewer inlet replacements along Route 209. He complained about the new inlet type and standard size as well as the condition of borough streets and potholes.

Jean Hill, 327 E. Abbott Street, had complaints about her neighbors. She made the police department aware of her complaints.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, asked public works chairman Bob Silver for an estimate of the costs associated with the inlet project, including work hours. She said a street supervisor or borough manager is needed for the borough. She is opposed to selling the Ashton Park pool property.

Letter of Resignation

President Soto read a letter of resignation from Councilman Matthew Walsh. Mr. Walsh wrote that he wanted his resignation accepted at the October regular meeting.

A motion was made by Joseph Butrie to accept the resignation of Councilman Matthew Walsh effective October 10, 2018. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor, motion passed.

President Soto recommended the council seat vacancy be advertised and a special meeting be called to fill the vacant seat.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to advertise the council seat vacancy and hold a special meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at borough hall to make an appointment, adding that the meeting should be for general purposes also. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, motion passed.

Joseph Butrie asked about the COG auction held on September 29th; whether the 2005 Police Expedition was sold. Jared Soto said it was sold for \$450.00.

September 8, 2018 Minutes

The September 12, 2018 minutes were reviewed for approval.

A motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the September 12, 2018 minutes as written. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Correspondence:

- **A Letter of Interest** - Former council president Martin Ditsky submitted a letter of interest for appointment to any vacant council seat. The letter will be held until the October 24th Special meeting.
- **PennDOT** – The borough was copied on a letter from PennDOT in response to resident Donald Gildea letter to PennDOT regarding storm water inlets along Route 902.
- **PennDOT** – The Liquid Fuels estimated allocation for 2019 will be \$120,034.10 (usually received in March or April)

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

- **PA Attorney General Eugene Depasquale**, \$12,901.64 allocation to Volunteer Fire Relief Association
- **PA Department of Labor** – State Worker’s Insurance Fund – acknowledgement of policy renewal for American Fire Co. No. 1
- **Portnoff Law Offices** - Order of Court relative to petition for Rule to Show Cause - Sheriff Sale properties
- **CC Council of Governments (COG)** – Minutes of the September 28, 2018 meeting
- **Bruce George Paving & Excavating** commitment letter, dated 9/18/18, for sidewalk replacement where needed, originally installed as part of the LSA Grant (Streetscape project) program.
- **CC Board of Assessment Appeal** determinations on 9 borough parcels
- **Act 44 Disclosure Form** –from CPA Ronald H. Bittner, UNIVEST Municipal Pension Services; as mandated.
- **CC Tax Collection Committee** – meets quarterly, September 19th Agenda and minutes from 2/21/18 meeting.
- **MRM Worker’s Compensation** - Certificate of participation in Compensation pooled Trust; Oct 1 2018 through September 30, 2019
- **Notice of Chapter 13 Bankruptcy** – Georgia M. Roldan
- **CC Tax Claim** – Sale of repository property, 803 E. Patterson Street, from Chester & Mary Sytnik to Katherine Spence

Committee Reports (all meeting were held Sept. 3rd):

Park & Recreation – The report was submitted by Jared Soto and read by Joseph Butrie. Items discussed were sample rule signs for borough parks, projects for 2019; tree cutting, Kennedy Park pathways and gazebo repairs, benches, resurfacing E. Snyder Street basketball court, basketball court by tennis court in Coaldale and drainage.

Public Works – No written report was submitted. Bob Silver reported night time milling will begin on Route 209 followed by paving. Pot hole patching on borough streets, especially along the Veteran’s Day parade route will begin soon. Three quotes were presented to replace the body of the 2008 Ford dump truck; Structural Metal Fabricators (SMF) stainless steel body \$15,200.00, SMF aluminum body \$15,600.00. Tamaqua Truck & Trailer steel body \$5,619.00.

Bob Silver made a motion to accept the \$5,619.00 bid from Tamaqua Truck & Trailer, to replace the body of the 2008 Ford dump truck, plus wash, and apply protective coating, if the borough worker’s

cannot make the needed repairs to the truck body at a lower cost. The motion was second by Joseph Butrie. All were in favor, motion passed.

Municipal Administration - Chairman Irma Leibensperger announced the missing minute books were found. Minute Books for 2002 through 2008 were found in the boxed archives (upstairs borough hall).

Code, Zoning & Planning – The report was submitted by Jared Soto. Discussion centered on code enforcement issues; concerns about documentation and follow through of matters related to code. Zoning and Code enforcement officer Tracy Herman will attend the November 7th committee meeting. Tracy will begin entering zoning and code data into an access program.

Public Safety – No written report was submitted. Committee Chairman John Turcmanovich reported that the police department is very busy. All vehicles are being winterized and maintenance is up to date. Training and fire arms qualifications are in progress. He reminded council that in order to qualify for federal grants all elected officials are to have National Incident Management System (NIMS) training. For the 2019 budget, the police department requests replacement of 2 desktop computers and 2 dispatch radios for patrol cars and purchasing the CLEAR investigation data system for police, code enforcement and office administration. For notifying the public, the committee requests a letter be sent to the Lansford Coaldale Water Authority asking whether the borough could use the authority's phone notification system for a snow or other emergency. Jared Soto offered to write the letter to the Water Authority.

A motion was made by Bob Silver, second by Jared Soto, to have John Turcmanovich attend the Civil Service Training held by the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs on October 25th in Wilkes Barre at a cost of \$130.00. On roll call vote: John Turcmanovich, yes; Joseph Butrie, no; Jared Soto, yes; Bob Silver, yes; Irma Leibensperger, no. Motion passed, 3 yes, 2 no.

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to advertise a second time for full time officers using the same advertisement except to change the wording to state ‘the applicant must be act 120 certified by the time of employment’ instead of being certified at time of application, also to advertise on the PA Chief’s Association website at a cost of approximately \$100.00. The motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, motion passed.

Municipal Reports:

Fire Co. Report – Submitted by Joe Greco Jr. – Shows 18 total calls in September; 12 in Lansford, 4 in Summit Hill, 2 in Coaldale.

Ambulance Report – Leighton Ambulance Association responded to 45 incidents in September with an average response time from dispatch to arrival on scene of 8.29 minutes.

Mayors Report – Read by Mayor Romankow. The report shows \$1,725.70 was collected in September. Year to date collected: \$17,040.60. The mayor explained the services of a local for-profit ambulance service in Tamaqua interested in locating in Lansford.

Police Report – Read by Mayor Romankow. The police reported the following for September 2018: Answered 485 calls; made 32 Criminal arrests, 24 traffic citations; 9 non-traffic citations; 4 parking/ordinance tickets and 19 Quality of Life tickets.

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – PennDOT representatives attended the September meeting. The COG has a leaf pickup machine for rent, \$145 per day with an operator. The annual membership fee was increased from \$50.00 to \$100.00 to help pay the insurance fees on the new equipment purchases.

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee – Jill Seigendall attended the September 19th meeting at Leighton School District. The committee passed a Resolution supporting the current policies and procedures related to Earned Income Tax (EIT) collections and distributions as defined by Act 32. This opposes any legislation to consolidate EIT services through any central agency at the state level.

Civil Service Commission – No written report.

Code Compliance Report – In the report submitted by Zoning. Code Officer Tracy Herman, 5 renovation permits were issued, no permits were denied. There are several pending Rental Registration Licenses, 5 rental inspections and 2 re-inspections completed. Ten “Due for inspection” notices were sent. Seven complaints were investigated and 3 investigations were closed.

Tax Collectors Report - Taxes collected in September total \$9,667.23; Year to date total \$874,715.53.

Treasurer’s Report - Bills for the month of September total \$69,221.37. Breakdown is as follows: \$17,085.65 in General Fund; \$25,608.84 in Sanitation; \$310.98 in Sewer Transmission; \$102.70 in Park & Recreation; \$21,124.33 in Hi-way Liquid Fuels; \$4,988.87 in Street Light.

| 2018 | End of Month Balances 2018 | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Account Title | Aug | Sept |
| 7673 | General Acct | \$438,619.52 | \$368,742.57 |
| 7681 | Sanitation Fund | \$116,388.84 | \$98,209.52 |
| 0283 | Investors Money Mkt Acct | \$51,652.11 | \$51,660.60 |
| 1198 | Sewer Transmission(reserve acct) | \$164,542.49 | \$164,569.54 |
| 7772 | Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| 7780 | Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave | \$2,180.11 | \$2,180.11 |
| 4529 | Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St | \$7,333.33 | \$7,333.33 |
| 7699 | Lansford Pool Account | \$41,349.77 | \$41,352.94 |
| 7706 | Treasurers Special Hi Way | \$133,831.25 | \$131,349.54 |
| 7714 | Sewage Transmission | \$139,979.85 | \$118,222.44 |
| 5402 | Loan Proceeds Acct(reserve acct) | \$152,780.40 | \$152,796.96 |
| 7722 | Local Service Tax/ | \$37,504.26 | \$37,603.69 |
| 7730 | Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct | \$12,145.32 | \$12,146.25 |
| 7748 | Fire | \$50,662.00 | \$41,220.53 |
| 7756 | Recreation | \$63,577.73 | \$63,231.55 |
| 7764 | Street Lights | \$43,233.30 | \$40,172.85 |
| CD 8/18 | Sewer Trans. CD/12 mo. | \$50,000.00 | \$50,097.75 |
| | | \$1,508,780.28 | \$1,383,890.17 |
| Loans | Paid from Fund | Est Balance | Est Balance |
| | Sewer Transm#5537 4/21/15 | 992,104.56 | 976,974.25 |
| | Street Light Fund#6309 11/12/09 | 138,724.11 | 138,724.11 |
| | Liquid Fuels #3886 10/28/14 | 22,256.35 | 22,256.35 |
| 2017 Police Explr | Gen Fund or LST 1/5/17 | 36,521.57 | 36,521.57 |
| 2018 Police RAM | Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 | 42,073.00 | 42,073.00 |
| | | 1,231,679.59 | 1,174,476.28 |

Noteworthy receipts received since the September meeting include the Public Utility Realty Tax \$1,160.49, Fire Relief check \$12,901.64 and Liquor Control Board, Liquor & Malt Beverage license fees \$1,250.00.

A motion was made by Irma Leibensperger to pay the bills (excluding the MacMain law Group bill still being researched by Attorney Greek). The motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor motion passed.

Solicitors Report – No report.

Unfinished Business:

2008 Ford pickup body replacement was on the agenda but the issue was settled during public works committee reports.

Bullet Proof Vest Issue – At the September meeting a motion was considered to pay the full cost of a part time officer’s bullet proof vest. According to the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, a part time officer must pay 25% of the cost of a bullet proof vest. There was concern that if the borough paid the full cost of the vest, other officers could file a grievance as a result.

Motions was made by Joseph Butrie, second by Irma Leibensperger, that the borough abides by the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement and have the part time officer pay 25% of the cost, in this case \$200.00. On roll call vote: John Turcmanovich, no; Joseph Butrie, yes; Jared Soto, yes; Bob Silver, no; Irma Leibensperger, yes. Motion passed, 3 yes, 2 no.

Before adjournment of the meeting Attorney Greek said he would donate the \$200.00 to cover the cost of the part time officer’s vest.

Codification of Borough Ordinances – The following estimates have been received:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| General Code | \$13,651.00 | to be paid in 5 payments |
| Municode | \$ 9,250.00 | 12-15 month payment timeline |
| American Legal Publishing | \$10,000.00 | 40% at agreement, 40 % within 30 days |

Bus Stop Update – Due to numerous complaints, Jared Soto met with Ken Marks of the Panther Valley School District and it was agreed to move the 24 W. Bertsch Street bus stop to the southeast corner (vacant lot) at the intersection of Tunnel and Bertsch Street (former site of St. Ann’s Roman Catholic Church demolished a few years ago).

A motion was made by John Turcmanovich to move the 24 W. Bertsch Street bus stop to the southeast corner of the intersection of Tunnel and E. Bertsch Street. The motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. On roll call vote: John Turcmanovich, yes; Joseph Butrie, no; Jared Soto, yes; Bob Silver, no; Irma Leibensperger, yes. Motion passed, 3 yes, 2 no.

Parking Meters – Council reviewed the proposal submitted by Bob Silver at the September meeting that proposes parking permits for “residents only” in the metered areas and keeping 74 meters on the following streets:

On the South Side of Ridge Street from 12 E. Ridge Street to the intersection of Coal Street

On the North Side of Ridge Street from Tunnel Street to Coal Street

On Coal Street between W. Patterson and W. Ridge Streets

On Tunnel Street between W. Patterson and W. Ridge Streets

Joseph Butrie stated he would like to get rid of all parking meters.

No action was taken.

New Business:

Mutual Aid Agreement – Both Attorney Greek and Fire Chief Joseph Greco reviewed a copy of the Mutual Aid Agreement from the Council of Governments; it will affect all fire companies in Carbon County. Jared Soto asked council to review the Agreement because a motion will be needed to accept or reject it at a future meeting.

2019 Budget Preparation - The secretary sent out e-mail requests for the 2019 Budget. Committee chairmen were asked to give the secretary any items they want considered for next year’s budget.

Handicap Parking Request – A request for handicap parking at 32 E. Bertsch Street was reviewed but no action was taken. All council persons were asked to look at the location for consideration at the next meeting.

Thomas Reuters CLEAR proposal - An internet program for police investigations and for all borough departments to check public records, publicly available information, and proprietary records on persons and businesses; web information, social networking sites, blogs and news. Program cost is \$140.00 per month for 3 years. No action was taken.

Snowplowing 2018-19 – Last winter letters were sent to snow plow and snow removal vendors for prices and equipment available if there are snow storms requiring manpower and equipment beyond the scope of borough resources.

A motion was made by Bob Silver, second by Irma Leibensperger to send letters to snow plowing and snow removal companies and individuals to identify availability and cost should their services be needed this winter 2018-19 season. All were in favor, motion passed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by Jared Soto, everyone dispersed at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary/Treasurer