

Budget Meeting Minutes

October 15th, 2024

The October 15th, 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 Woman Gwyneth Collevecchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzales.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzales inquired about the status of the Sanitation Bid.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer Maria Ahner spoke about the Garbage Contract and that more information is needed before the contract is advertised for bid.

Lacey Gonzales spoke the other expenses that are tied to the Sanitation budget item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the projected Sanitation costs increase and advises increasing the April 2025 Sanitation bill since council will not be able to approve the costs increase until January due the Sanitation bids not being accepted until the December 11th, 2024 Monthly meeting.

Lacey Gonzales stated she is going to prep a sanitation bill cost draft with a 70% increase.

Bruce Markovich stated the new contract would begin after April 1st, 2025 and that is when the sanitation bills should reflect the bill increase.

Council discussed garbage companies that are in the area.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the packets she handed out to council.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how certain costs are set cost and are non-negotiable such as the police and borough workers.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the tax millage and that the amount increased a little.

Lacey Gonzales stated that in 2024 the borough is at a 79% tax collection rate.

Council discussed the percent for tax collection to base the budget on.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the Delinquent Taxes and how the amount collected has decreased when compared to 2023's collected amount.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the differences in amounts that are collected in sheriff sales, and repository sales.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the real estate transfer taxes amount.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the earned income tax credit amount.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the cable franchise tax amount.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the parking meters and the parking meter states.

Lacey Gonzales inquired about getting a meter dump by the next budget meeting.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the police department miscellaneous.

Lacey Gonzales inquired of council the status of the Majestic Building.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the Majestic Building and how he feels there should be a charge on the Silvex Building for the parking lot.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the grant budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the rental budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how council needs to decide if the rental process is going to continue to be processed by ARRO Consulting or in-house.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the zoning budget line items.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the handicap parking permit, meter space rentals, and the oversized permit.

Lacey Gonzales inquired about the school crossing guard reimbursement.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how salaries need to be discussed by council.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the professional services budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the office supplies budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the advertising budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the dues and fees budget line item.

Maria Ahner spoke about the expenses that currently make up the dues and fee budget line item.

Maria Ahner spoke about how council needs to decide how they want to back up QuickBooks.

Michele Bartek spoke about having a sanitation billing once a year.

Council discussed the sanitation billing.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the engineering budget line item.

Lacey Gonzales asked council to look at the expenses before the next budget meeting.

Maria Ahner spoke about the garbage billing and that the ordinance needs to be revisited due to the ordinance not specifying that a resident should be billed if they do not make garbage.

Michele Bartek spoke about how she feels council should consider selling some of its property to bring money into the borough.

Michele Bartek spoke about the amount of overtime that the police department has been paid.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the payments left on the railroad.

Gwyneth Collevechio spoke about the reports that are received from the police department.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the process of police citations.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how he feels health care cost need to be reduced.

Michele Bartek spoke speaking with other towns about possibly combining health care plans to get lower plan rates.

Council discussed health care cost and possible solutions to reduce cost.

Council discussed the police department.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the amount that is being paid to police departments in the area.

Council spoke about other police departments and the success they have with hiring police officers.

The meeting concluded at 6:18p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer