

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 15th, 2025

The October 15th, 2025 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at The Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by Council Woman Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevchio, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

Council Man George Gilbert, Council Man Jack Soberick, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak were not in attendance.

Mayor Hugh Vrablic left the meeting at 7:22p.m.

Executive session from 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich stated that council discussed real estate the whole executive session.

**Public Courtesy-**

Bob Greenall of 420 West Bertsch Street spoke about the borough's need for police officers and that an incident that occurred a month ago with one of the officers not having back up in a situation could have been very dangerous only emphasized the need.

Erin Soberick of 237 West Ridge Street inquired about multiple things such as the agenda, status of insurance coverage on the current borough lawsuit, and police hiring.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about his feelings on the zipper, the current borough attorney, and the water bill for the train station.

Nannette Gosnell of 247 East Bertsch Street inquired about the status of the request of her previously submitted handicap parking request.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street spoke her feelings on the public comment resolution and inquired about the borough park being fenced.

Cookie Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about why the agenda did not include hiring Shawn Nunemacher as police chief.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes-**

Motion to approve the August 5th, 2025 Workshop Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the September 10th, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Correspondence-**

Letter of Resignation from Debbie Kupres

Motioned to accept the resignation with thanks for years of service by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Miche Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Letter of Resignation from Stephen Foster

Motioned to accept the resignation by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Civil Service Interest letter from Kara Krajnak and Joseph M Seaver

Motioned to accept the letters of interest from Kara Krajnak and Joseph M Seaver for positions on the Civil Service Commission by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports-**

#### **Fire Department Report-**

Michele Bartek spoke about the Fire Department Report.

The fire department had 12 calls for the month of September. Total man- hours were 43, total man hours year to date were 827.50. In house work total man hours were 250 for the month, total man hours year to date were 1,316. The responses in town were 7, year to date 89, Summit Hill was 1, year to date 23, Coaldale was 3, year to date 27, Nesquehoning was 1, year to date 8, Tamaqua was 0, year to date 2, and Jim Thorpe was 2, year to date 8, other was 0, year to date 2. Training total man hours were 80, year to date 1,086. Community service total man hours was 24.5, year to date 165. Fundraising total man hours were 1,205 hours year to date. Administrative hours total man hours 80, year to date 720. Total hours of all activities for report period were 83.25, year to date 862.75. Total man hours for the month were 825.5, year to date 5,319.5.

#### **Ambulance Report-**

Michele Bartek spoke about the Ambulance Report.

The Lehighon ambulance responses were 77 incidents in September 2025. They had an average response time of 11.3 minutes from time of dispatch until arrival on scene. Of the 77 responses, 33 were non-emergency patient services, 44 were emergency responses. 48 patients were transported, 10 patients were treated with no transport, 2 standby and 17 cancellations/no patient found.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Hugh Vrablic stated aloud “I have a letter here from one of my officers. I’m going to read. Its dated August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to the attention of the Mayor of Lansford. While working at the Lansford Police Department and on patrol, I observed the Street Department planting trees at the pool area. As I drove through, I was flagged down by Michele Bartek. Bartek came up to the window of the patrol vehicle and started a conversation. She started by saying that they were doing a good job, and also that all three of them were doing a good job. She followed that by saying, keep doing what you’re doing, you’ll be full-time soon. He responded to her by stating that it’s a team effort, and then Ms. Bartek replied, team effort except for those two cocksuckers, and that she cannot wait to get rid of them. Bartek appeared very much upset. She also stated that when Diaz gets in as chief, they’re going to be gone. In a previous occasion, I was also flagged down in front of the Borough Building, by Ms. Bartek back in March 2020. Once again, she stated that she heard a lot of good things about me and to keep up the good work. I always reiterated that it’s a team effort, that it is pulling the team together. Bartek stated that the team effort consists of everyone but two officers. Bartek wanted to get stats on Josh and Shawn, because they do nothing, as she said, and she wants to get rid of them from the police department. Respectfully submitted, Randy Schlatter, officer, Lansford Police Department.”

Mayor Hugh Vrablic stated that he read the letter above because it is public knowledge and it came from one of the police officers. The letter was spoken about now as the mayor had to investigate the letter and that he spoke with the borough public workers who overheard the conversation and confirmed Michele Barteks exact words.

Bruce Markovich stated that he would like a copy of the letter to confirm the information with the borough public workers.

Mayor Hugh Vrablic left the meeting at 7:22p.m.

**Police Report-**

Hugh Vrablic left the meeting before reading off the police report.

**Code Report and Zoning Report-**

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Code Report.

September Monthly Report: Rental Inspections completed 38, 27 inspections scheduled, and 2 failed inspections. Code enforcement tickets issued 38, code complaints 36, code complaints resolved 21, notice of violations issued 5, 6 sidewalk permits.

**Rental Report-**

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Rental Report.

October report as of 10-15-2025. Total rentals are 823, total not rental are 491, total uncollected is 107, total submitted is 716, total completed is 316, schedule inspection total is 131, insurance requirement is 45, fees collected \$150,513.09, and past due late fee collected \$32,861.19.

**Solicitors' Report-**

**Discussion/Motion to approve a resolution for public comment**

The resolution addressed meeting decorum and about having residents submit the topics they would like to speak about at the meeting prior to the meeting.

Council spoke about how residents would submit their discussion topics, if they would have enough time for submissions, and about the waste of paper the requirement would be.

Motion to table for further discussion by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

**Tax Collector’s Report-**

Borough Secretary Ashley Mclaughlin spoke about the tax collectors report.

From September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to September 30th, 2025, taxes collected were \$15,493.71.

**Treasurer’s Report-Bills to Approve-**

<b>EXPENSES FOR 10/15/2025</b>	
Expenses	Amount
Fire Tax	\$ 5,144.50
Delq. Tax Account	\$ 1,877.02
General Fund	\$ 150,375.31
Highway – Liquid Fuels	\$ 31,094.06
Park & Recreation	\$ 255.16
Sanitation	\$ 66,826.70
Sewer Transmission	\$ 2,853.38
Street Light	\$ 5,453.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 263,879.73</b>

**Motion to pay the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 bills-**

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**CD’s & Bank Balances**

FUND / Checking	TYPE	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Account Title	No.	9/30/2025	8/31/2025
General Fund	CD	4%	11/14/2025	Railroad CD	XX6101	\$ 593,605.60	\$ 591,630.85
General Fund	CD	4%	1/26/2026	2nd Railroad Proceeds CD	XX8363	\$ 32,460.68	\$ 32,352.69
Sanitation Fund	CD	4%	1/29/2026	Sani-Investors CD	XX8587	\$ 54,472.56	\$ 54,297.17
Sewer Transmission Fund	CD	4%	1/29/2026	Sewer-Investors CD	XX8595	\$ 57,548.40	\$ 57,363.11
Sewer Transmission Fund	CD	4%	1/26/2026	2nd Sewer Proceeds CD	XX8371	\$ 55,207.99	\$ 55,024.33
Sewer Transmission Fund	CD	4%	11/14/2025	Sewer CD	XX1277	\$ 55,041.54	\$ 54,858.43
Park & Rec Fund	CD	4%	11/14/2025	Pool CD	XX6325	\$ 43,717.59	\$ 43,527.15
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$ 892,054.36</b>	<b>\$ 889,053.73</b>

Fund / Checking	Type	Account Title	No.	9/30/2025	8/31/2025
General Fund	Checking	General Fund	XX6496	\$ 1,061,079.04	\$ 883,596.90
General Fund	Checking	ARPA Grant Account	XX2153	\$ 9,919.03	\$ 9,889.56
General Fund	Checking	Diversified	XX8448	\$ 12,828.93	\$ 17,256.17
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow - 22 E. Kline	XX6488	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow- 241 E Ridge St	XX9949	\$ 36,790.47	\$ 36,790.47
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow- 243 E Ridge St	XX9931	\$ 29,067.09	\$ 29,067.09
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow- 245 E Abbott St	XX7133	\$ 29,605.04	\$ 29,605.04
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow- 334 E. Bertsch St.	XX6094	\$ 4,522.89	\$ 4,522.89
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow - 268 E. Patterson St.	XX7013	\$ 9,863.51	\$ 9,863.51
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow - 292 E. Snyder Ave	XX7373	\$ 8,900.22	\$ 8,900.22
General Fund	Fire Escrow	Fire Escrow - 504 E Kline	XX6119	\$ 31,346.65	\$ 31,346.65
General Fund	Checking	Delq. Tax	XX8929	\$ 381,030.07	\$ 371,581.95
General Fund	Checking	Building Developing Capital Fund	XX9105	\$ 30,534.31	\$ 30,443.60
General Fund	Checking	Grant Project	XX5616	\$ 15,550.86	\$ 15,504.66
Sanitation Fund	Checking	Sanitation Fund	XX6438	\$ 441,703.91	\$ 474,609.29
Sanitation Fund	Money Market	Sanitation fund MMA	XX6454	\$ 14,759.51	\$ 14,715.67
Sewer Transmission Fund	Checking	Sewer Transmission	XX6446	\$ 479,695.09	\$ 544,768.56
Sewer Transmission Fund	Checking	Snyder Street Checking	XX6470	\$ 33,921.44	\$ 33,820.67
LST	Checking	Local Services Tax	XX6462	\$ 59,000.45	\$ 58,734.88
Street Light Fund	Checking	Street Lights	XX6412	\$ 64,110.85	\$ 67,358.10
Fire Tax Fund	Checking	Fire	XX6371	\$ 29,597.70	\$ 38,733.13
Special Hi-Way Fund	Checking	Highway Liquid Fuels	XX6420	\$ 147,139.48	\$ 151,569.19
Park & Rec Fund	Checking	Park & Recreation	XX6404	\$ 56,010.25	\$ 55,549.17
				\$ 2,989,976.79	\$ 2,921,227.37

**Old Business:**

**Replace sewer line on East Front St. (received 1 bid from Joe Hutta) -request by Joseph Butrie**

Joseph Butrie spoke about a sewer line on East Front Street, that the line was cleaned, cameraed, and it was revealed that the line needs to be replaced due to the pipes being terracotta and broke at the bells. The amount that was submitted from Joe Hutta was \$19,650.00 and three companies had been contacted.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Motion to read Attorney Yurchak’s statement regarding the lawsuit.-request by Jennifer Staines**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

A Roll Call Vote was called.

Motion was favored by Joseph Butrie and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, and Bruce Markovich.

Motion did not pass due to majority opposition.

**Motion to accept resignation of Steve Foster from civil service commission. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Motion was passed earlier in the meeting under correspondence.

**Motion to place Kara Krajnak as an alternate position on the civil service commission. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Motion was passed earlier in the meeting under correspondence.

**Motion to move Keath Lowry from alternate civil service commission position to regular member. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to place Joseph M Seaver as an alternate position on the civil service commission.-request by**

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to approve using the MOPEC standards for the police physical fitness testing criteria. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to go off the agenda**

Motioned by Jennife Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to approve the MPOETC Standards for physical agility test. A. Physical Agility Test. B. Written Test. C. Oral Exam. D. To Develop an Eligibility List**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motions to Approve**

**Waive the fee for FT and PT Officers applying for positions. Per John Zym presentation.-request by Jennifer Staines**

No council member made a motion but agreed on continuing to waive the fee to get police applicates as a motion was not made in previous meetings to reinstate charging for FT and PT Officers applying to the borough.

**Discuss the fines for dog dirt throughout town. Bartek in open session, had advised people to take videos. Turn the videos over to police to cite. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Jennifer Staines spoke about fines and about if the fines for dog feces should be increased to encourage the cleanup of animal feces. Residents were encouraged to video tape people not cleaning up after their animals and to submit the video to the police for enforcement.

**Excessive Bills review-request by Jennifer Staines**

Jennifer Staines spoke about the cost of borough legal fees over the past year and how more communication needs to occur between council.

Council and the public were discussing the code and ordinance officer and if he can enforce quality of life violations.

**Motion to implement pre-employment drug testing for all new hires. Then random drug testing after. -request by Jennifer Staines**

Council agreed the drug testing will help keep insurance premium cost lower.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Motion to approve Lansford Trick or Treat Night on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 from 6-8p.m.**

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap parking request from Annette White at 112 West Ridge Street. -request by Michele Bartek**

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Bruce Markovich.

Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie.

Jennifer Staines abstained due to conflict of interest.

Motion passed by majority vote.

**Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap parking request from Catherine Card at 25 Jones Street.-request by Michele Bartek**

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion was favored by Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed by majority vote.

**Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap parking request from Tracy Miller at 335 East Bertsch Street.-request by Michele Bartek**

Motioned to be tabled for further investigation by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

**Motion to advertise for Heating Oil Bids-request by Bruce Markovich**

The heating oil bid is going to be for 2,500 gallons of oil.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to have Lacey spend 1 hour to 1.5 hours as needed to review budget items with Maria prior to meetings.-request by Jennifer Staines**

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

**Motion to have Foster and Foster complete an actuarial study of the Boroughs Pension Plan to determine the cost factors to allow Officer Josh Tom to participate under the newly enacted law which allows officers that worked part time for the borough, to have those part time hours credited towards their pension. Cost is \$1,000.00.-request by Bruce Markovich**

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Gwyneth Collevechio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to accept quotes from either Kafferlin Strategies (\$79,550.00) or Herbert Rowland and Grube Inc (HRG) (\$76,630.00) for services under the Strategic Mapping and Planning Program. The committee recommends Kafferlin Strategies.-request by Bruce Markovich**

The borough is to decide on which consulting company they will be using and submit the information to DCED to apply for a grant to have the STMP Program come into the borough.

Motion to accept the quote from Kafferlin Strategies in the amount of \$79,550.00.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevechio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to deny change order requested by DOLI Contracting on the Powel Street Sewer Project. Doli to follow original scope of work as outlined in contract-request by Bruce Markovich.**

Bruce Markovich spoke about DOLI wanting to add another length of pipe and change out the manhole with the cost to be an additional 23,000. The added length of pipe and manhole change out being unnecessary.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to deny change order requested by the county, to change the final surface fill from soil/grass to crushed stone at the 151 West Ridge Street Demolition Project.- request by Bruce Markovich**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion to approve a letter of agreement between the borough and the Carbon County Planning Commission designating our 2026, 2027, and 2028 Community Development Block Grants Fund to be designated towards the West Ridge Reconstruction Project.-request by Bruce Markovich**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Motion to extend Dennis Anderson's hours by 200-request by Joseph Butrie**

Joseph Butrie spoke about the need to extend Dennis Anderson's hours as there is work he is needed for.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Motion to take a loan for 2 million dollars to build a borough garage-salt shed. – request by Joseph Butrie**

Joseph Butrie spoke about the borough workers needing a place for them and that borough vehicles not having a place for them.

Bruce Markovich stated that a current grant is pending but that the borough will not hear anything until the state budget is settled.

Motioned to table by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table was favored by Gwyneth Collevchio, Michele Bartek, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion to table was opposed by Joseph Butrie.

Motion to table passed by majority vote.

**Motion to have former Silberline Property appraised-request by Joseph Butrie**

Bruce Markovich spoke about reaching out to see if there is any interest in any specific building and then having the specific building appraised.

Council discussed the properties that could be placed for sale and that inquiries can be made on them by the public.

No council member made a motion.

**Pay for McDonald's repair. -request by Joseph Butrie**

Joseph Butrie spoke about the repair being to James McDonald's sidewalk in the amount of \$500.00 for damages done to his sidewalk during a snow plowing.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval for tire chains for Borough trucks \$1,420. From Service Tire will be for International, new truck and the 2023 truck. -request by Joseph Butrie**

Tire Chains are needed for the borough trucks with the \$1,420.00 to be paid out of the Liquid Fuels Fund.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Advertise to sell the zipper -request by Joseph Butrie**

Joseph Butrie spoke about wanting to advertise the zipper to be sold.

Council discussed the zipper and if the zipper is worth keeping.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

A Roll Call Vote was called.

Motion was favored by Joseph Butrie and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Bruce Markovich.

Motion did not pass due to majority opposition.

**Discussion/Motion to purchase 3,000 snow plow ordinance signs from Voss Signs in the amount of \$4,430.00-request by Joseph Butrie**

The signs are to have towing cost removed from them and the \$4,430.00 for the signs is to be paid out of the general fund.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion/Motion to adopt the Animal Ordinance-request by Jennifer Staines**

Motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2025-02. An ordinance changing and amending the code of ordinance of the Borough of Lansford, specifically Chapter 128, adding a new Article V pertaining to “Control of Animals”, and regulating the keeping of certain animals, including household pets within the Borough of Lansford and providing penalties for any violations.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Oversized trucks**

**It solves a problem and brings in revenue.**

**Option A. Park vehicles year around down by the museum on Dock Street,**

**Initial registration -\$250.00 { in town} , \$350.00 { out of town }**

**Yearly \$200.00 \$300.00**

**Option B. Have everything necessary moved from the Silberline lot, park vehicles in the lot year around.**

**This is a fenced lot: however, Borough assumes no responsibility for any damage. Release will be signed.**

**Initial registration \$250.00 { in town } \$350.00 { out of town \$250.00 \$350.00**

**Option C. Pick another area and plug into the above rates**

**Option D. Abolish and.....**

**Replacement tag \$50.00. The tags will run yearly from March to March.**

**Vehicles mean everything Oversized, pop ups, trailers, campers, etc.-request by Jennifer Staines**

Council discussed the oversized vehicle parking lot and about allowing Lansford Residents only to use the parking lot.

Council agreed to allow Lansford Residents only to use the oversized vehicle parking lot for Tractor trailers with the initial tag to be free and any replacement tag after to be \$50.00. No Campers, boats, sludge trucks, or frozen trailers are to be parked in the oversized lot.

Motion to allow only oversized trucks, tractor trailers, tri-axles trucks, at the oversized lot, vehicles must be owned by Lansford Residents only with a borough issued tag. The first initial tag is free with a replacement tag to cost \$50.00.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motioned passed unanimously.

**Motion to advertise the oversized ordinance-request by Jennifer Staines**

Motion was addressed in above motion.

**Motion to adjourn**

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 8:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary