

Budget Meeting Minutes

October 1st, 2024

The October 1st, 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, President Bruce Markovich, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, and Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzales.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Borough Accountant Lacey Gonzales spoke about the Sewer Transmission Fund.

Lacey Gonzales stated that the Sewer Loan is almost paid off and that funds that were collected for real-estate taxes can be used to pay the loan off.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how eliminating the debt service that is being charge on the Sewer Loan would reduce property taxes which would provide a little extra money to taxpayers especially since it is projected garbage utility costs will be increasing.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the number of Sewer Transmission bills that are being sent to residents.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the collection rate of Sewer Transmission bills.

Lacey Gonzales stated there should not be as many delinquent Sewer Transmission bills next year.

Lacey Gonzales confirmed with council that there is no anticipation in the fee amount changing for the Sewer Transmission bill.

Bruce Markovich suggested paying off all borough debts, if the borough is planning to look at buildings in the future as this will help the borough, should council decide to do a RACP Loan for a building.

Lacey Gonzales stated that the tax collector portion is down because the tax collector is no longer being used to collect debt service for Sewer Transmission.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the budget line-item postage amount being left the same and how she anticipates it will likely go down due to the office staff looking into alternative ways to decrease postage cost.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the flow meter monitoring budget line item and about how that budget line-item amount can be reallocated.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about bill processing and about getting a breakdown of the cost of diversified the borough's billing system.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the borough public works needing a new dump truck.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about that some money from Sewer Transmission Fund being allocated to the new dump truck due to the dump truck being used for sewer repairs.

Lacey Gonzales expressed to council that the numbers she had relayed to council are not set in stone and can be adjusted.

Lacey Gonzales emphasized the importance of allocation coming out of other accounts for the new dump truck so that the truck can be used for other things such as parks and recreation.

Joseph Butrie spoke about one of the biggest expenses right now being the Street Sweeper repair and borough vehicles needing tires.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the liquid fuels account.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the 2022 dump truck and how the payments on the dump truck only happens once a year.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the amount of money being allocated to snow removal.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the cost for traffic lights and how that amount is not projected to change much.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the projected increase in the cost of equipment repairs.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about debt principal and interest on the 2022 dump truck.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the parks and recreation account.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the value of all the taxable properties in Lansford.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the fees that come with grant applications.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the amount of money being allocated to parks and recreations for supplies and equipment.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the amount of money that is being allocated to electricity.

Lacey Gonzales stated at the next budget meeting, general fund would be discussed.

The meeting concluded at 5:52p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley McLaughlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer