

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 9th, 2024

The October 9th, 2024 Monthly Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.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, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

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

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the executive session.

Bruce Markovich stated council will possibly give a statement on one of the items discussed in a future meeting.

Public Courtesy-

Michael Ricardo from the Hot Wheels Club of Carbon County spoke about the special event form he submitted and that this is the last club meet before the cold weather begins.

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street commended Council Woman Staines for requesting the motion to have the borough ordinance modified to allow cars to be towed.

Tommy Vadyak stated that it is his understanding that Council Woman Bartek had not followed procedure pertaining to who oversees public works.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the police schedule and the incidents that have been happening near his home.

Tommy Vadyak inquired about the credentials of the police departments detective and the date he was appointed as detective.

Tommy Vadyak spoke about the violations he sees in the town and how he feels the police need to be doing more.

Chief of Police Kyle Woodward discussed the police force and how they have been working to address the violations in the borough but that certain cases take priority over others.

John Zym inquired about why the borough does not have more police officers.

An audience member identified as John thanked Council Woman Staines for her involvement in trying to resolve a concern pertaining to a garbage truck leaking oil down his street and spoke about how he feels the borough can be improved.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street spoke about previous council, and that she was happy to have read from the Borough Meeting Minutes that it was mentioned about forming a committee to look at locations for the police department.

Rosemary Cannon stated she feels someone from the community should be involved with finding a location for the police department and the importance of the police having a new police department building.

Bruce Markovich stated he feels forming a committee and finding out the exact amount of funding that is available should be the first steps toward getting a new police department building.

Rosemary Cannon inquired about the Blueprint Community and the Criz Program.

Rosemary Cannon spoke about the handicap ramp and that the lack of funds by past council is why handicapped accessible doors were not installed when the ramp was installed.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street stated that he feels the advertisement recently placed in the newspaper for the sale of borough vehicles should have had a shorter run time to reduce advertisement cost.

Erin Soberick of Lansford inquired about the motion on the agenda for the approval of beginning the paperwork to look at regionalizing the police department with Nesquehoning Borough.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the August 5th, 2024 Civil Service Reorganization Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the September 11th, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the September 17th, 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the October 1st, 2024 Budget Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Moton to approve the October 1st, 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports-

Fire Department Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Fire Department Report.

The September 2024 activity report for the American fire company number one our call volume was well below our monthly average with five calls for service for the month no major incidents worth noting occurred, training hours has exceeded the average, with an average of eight hours per month to 28 hours. This can be attributed to three members seeking their firefighter certificates.

Call volume, total man hours were 14.25, for the year is 1,094.75. In-house work details, total man hours were 169, year-to-date is 1,185.5. Fundraising, total man hours were 525, year-to-date is 1,563.5.

Response by area, in-town calls, there were two for the month, 73 for the year. Summit Hill was one, year-to-date was 24. Coaldale were two, year-to-date was 27. Nesquehoning, Tamaqua, Jim Thorpe, were 0 calls.

Training, man hours were 166, year to date we have 1,590. Community service, total man hours were 43, year to date was 172.5.

Administrating duties was 80 hours for the month with 720 hours for the year.

Gwyneth Collevchio stated that she would like to acknowledge and congratulate the American Fire Company Assistant Fire Chief Zachary Gilbert for his promotion to EMA Director of Carbon County.

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Ambulance Report.

The Leighton Ambulance responded to 70 incidents in September of 2024. There was an average of eight response times, nine minutes, and the time of dispatch until arrival on the scene. Of the 70 responses, 12 were non-emergency assists, including standbys and et cetera, with a time of 11 minutes, 26 were for non-emergency patient services, with a time of 10 minutes, and 32 emergency responses, with a time of 9.1 minutes.

Mayor's and Police Report-

Michele Bartek spoke the Police Report.

153 calls and complaints were done. 19 cases were cleared. 19 arrests were done. Two non-traffic citations were filed. Two traffic citations, or two traffic contacts were done. 10 parking and borough ordinance tickets were issued, and 1,852 miles were patrolled for the month.

Code Report and Zoning Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke the Code Report.

There were 19 turnovers on property, 13 tickets, warnings as needed.

Shane Monk was out two mornings, two Thursdays and two Fridays at 4 a.m. talking to people who were saying that they don't put garbage out. Shane went around, 34 that were found that they do put garbage out, so they need to be billed. The property follow-ups are 10. Shane has been out with Ray Swartz to do inspection, answering complete complaints. Per borough street Ray Swartz and Shane have been confirming property status. All of Snyder Avenue has been check and Ray and Shane are moving onto the next street. Shane is currently doing trainings when he can.

The magistrate was contacted to set up a meeting to discuss filing NOV's and what action can be taken. Ray and Shane and Jennifer are going to go down and talk to Beth about what we want to do here and what our expected result is and get some buy-in on it.

Joe Genits inquired about the number of citations Shane Monk has given since being hired.

Rental Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke the Rental Report.

There are seven awaiting certified to be deliberate before acting there are seven citations to be filed or have been already filed and there's two court hearings scheduled.

1116 original properties on the list. 1137 current potential number of properties 215 properties have been reported not a rental, owner occupied, family occupied, under the property management code of the property management code of the property management code of construction vacant 286 rental registration you, for properties were processed.

182 residential registration licenses have been issued. 21 inspections were

conducted on properties. Certificate of occupancy was issued for 22 units. One inspection was done on the property where the unit failed the inspection. Two inspections scheduled on the property. We have 636 properties for potential non-registration actions. 32 properties were sent notice of violation on 10-4-24.

Jennifer Staines spoke about how at the next committee meeting she is going to be presenting ideas on improving the rental license process.

Council briefly discussed ARRO Consulting and how they feel about ARRO Consulting handling Rental Properties.

Solicitors Report-

Robert Yurchak stated there is no solicitor report to be given.

Tax Collector's Report-

Maria Ahner communicated the tax report.

Maria spoke about the error that had occurred with the tax collector's computer system.

From August 1st, 2024 to August 31st, 2024, the total taxes collected were \$25,176.76.

In the next monthly meeting September and October should bearing technical difficulties be included with the November Monthly Council Meeting.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Motion to approve the USDA closing documents

Bruce Markovich spoke about these documents pertaining to a grant loan that began in 2020.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the USDA Loan Resolution.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the debt statement pursuant to section 8110, Local Government and the Debt Act.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Motion to approve the date and time for Lansford Trick or Treat

Lansford Trick or Treat will be Thursday October 31st, 2024 from 6p.m. to 8p.m.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and Joseph Butrie.

Motion favored by Gwyneth Collevchio, Bruce Markovich, and Joseph Butrie.

Motion opposed by Jennifer Staines and Michele Bartek.

Motion passed by majority.

Maria Ahner spoke about how the borough secretaries at no cost to the borough are going to be dressed up as Peanut Butter and Jelly while handing out candy and treats on Lansford Trick or Treat Night in the front of the Borough Hall.

Motions:

Motion to approve the special event form submitted from Carbon County Hot Wheels Club for a Meeting of Hot Wheels Enthusiasts on Saturday, October 12th, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in Ashton Park.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the payoff amount for the Sewer Transmission fund Loan #3591 as of August 19th, 2024 is \$16,846.91. The amount to increase with per diem interest and decrease with current loan payment. -Requested by the Office

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to open a CD for 9 Months at a 5% interest rate for the 2nd Railroad account

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Sewer Transmission Shut Off Approval-Requested by the Office

155 properties to have water shut off due to non-payment of the Sewer Transmission bill.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for Heating Oil Bids.-Requested by the Office

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for bids for a new Garbage Contract. (Contract with Tamaqua Transfer ends April 2025) -Requested by the Office

Council discussed the garbage contract and what they would like included.

Robert Yurchak inquired about how long council would like the garbage contract to be valid for.

Motioned to table until the specifications are received from the borough solicitor by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to purchase a 2025 Ford Police SUV from Miracle Ford of Tamaqua through the costars program at the cost of \$61,289.71 (New Holland Auto Group \$61,309.77) paid out of ARPA -Requested by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to allocate \$9,076.00 from ARPA funds to cover the difference between our 2024 CDBG Funds of \$77,800 and the contractor's estimated \$88,876 to demolish 118 W Ridge -Requested by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve an amendment to Grant C000086236 (Train Station Restoration Grant) reallocating \$20,000 from the purchase of new front and rear doors to cover costs of contract preparation, bidding, advertising and oversight.-Requested by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about the train station project and the original cost estimates from ARRO Consulting did not include contract preparation, bidding, advertising, and oversight cost.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to appoint Joy Beers of Beers Engineering of Lehighon as project engineer for the Train Station Project, Beers was previously appointed as an alternate engineering firm for the borough in 2021. Her costs and fees are included in the grant.-Requested by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to schedule a meeting with a representative from Sustainable PA to discuss the option of applying for certification.-Requested by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about Sustainable PA and his thoughts on meeting with them.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have US Municipal Services repair the street sweeper at an estimated cost of \$10,730.37 these costs not including shipping costs.-Requested by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about the repairs that the street sweeper needs to operate.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have the borough ordinance modified to allow cars to be towed: (Please see Below) -Requested by Jennifer Staines

A. When the street needs to be plowed for snow removal

B. When cars are ticketed but not moved.

C. When cars have expired inspection stickers.

Jennifer Staines spoke about the importance of modifying the tow ordinance.

The solicitor is to amend the necessary ordinances.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to either enforce the Sidewalk ordinance or remove the ordinance.- Requested by Jennifer Staines

No Motion is needed due to Code and Ordinance Enforcement Officer Shane Monk being able to enforce ordinance.

Motion to approve beginning the paperwork to look at regionalizing with Nesquehoning Borough-Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned to send letters to other municipalities about their interest in meeting to discuss regionalizing the police departments by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve increasing Shane Monk's hours to 37 hours or full-time. Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for 2 alternate members for the zoning hearing board. -Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for 2 alternate members for the IMPC Board. Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for 2 alternate members for the Civil Service Commission. Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for 3 members and 2 alternate members for the planning committee. -Requested by Jennifer Staines

Motioned to review the borough's SALDO Plan, ensure all necessary paperwork is completed, and then decide on the planning committee by Michele Bartek and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to increase the rate of pay for Part-Time Police Officers to \$35.00.-Requested by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about the current pay rates of other municipalities police officers and that she feels the pay rates should be increased.

Motioned by Michele Bartek.

Motion died due to a lack of the motion being seconded.

Motion to approve placing the Zimmerman Building up for bid to be sold. -Requested by Michele Bartek

Bruce Markovich spoke about how the property is currently being surveyed and that once the survey is completed the property can be placed up for bid.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to advertise for bids for the remodeling costs of the Silberline Building.- Requested by Michele Bartek.

Michele Bartek spoke about how she feels that advertising will help get a lower remodeling costs estimate.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to allow Joseph Butrie to remove the radio, light bar, and emergency lights from the 2014 Ford Police Car.-Requested by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the car and that the light bar, radio, and emergency lights must be removed but that partition can be left in the vehicle.

Joseph Butrie stated that he would remove the items for no cost to the borough saving the taxpayers at least \$500.00.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Bruce Markovich spoke about how Joseph Butrie helped save the borough money by replacing the battery in the code enforcement vehicle when the battery no longer worked at no costs to the borough.

Motion to look into grant writers.-Requested by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about how currently Bruce Markovich is the only person doing grant submissions.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how in a prior meeting a woman was at a council meeting from Susan Wildes's office and that she offered to assist with federal grants.

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to gather an estimate for handicap accessible doors at the borough office.-

Requested by Jennifer Staines

Door companies are going to be contacted to provide estimates on the cost of handicap doors.

Motion to go off the agenda.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the 2025 MMO for \$36,991.12.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how residents have been asking if council can put up speed limit signs on the 200 to 300 blocks of East Snyder Avenue.

Erin Soberick inquired of council what the status is on the hard drive issue.

Joe Gentis inquired about the condemnation of 118 East Ridge Street and why council has not considered having the solicitor file complaints in the Carbon County Court against properties violating the borough code.

Motion to adjourn-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer