

Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 10th, 2025

The September 10th, 2025 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 Collevechio, Council Man George Gilbert, President Bruce Markovich, Council Man Jack Soberick, Council Woman Jennifer Staines, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak.

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

Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich stated that during the executive session council discussed hiring issues and litigation that was filed against the borough and that there is not going to be any comments about the litigation.

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about multiple items in the borough.

Erin Soberick of 237 West Ridge Street inquired about a Right-To-Know Request that was submitted to the borough and if the borough has copies of personnel training certificates.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street spoke about the police department needing to be cleaned and inquired about various motion items.

Cookie Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about the handicap parking procedure.

Annette White of 112 West Ridge Street inquired about her handicap parking request and about what is being done about the dog feces on West Ridge Street.

Denise Leibensperger of 164 West Ridge Street inquired about the repainting of street lines.

Approval of Meeting Minutes-

Motion to approve the August 13th, 2025 Monthly Meeting Minutes-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence-

Request from Panther Valley School District for permission to temporarily block off a section of Cortright Street on the evening of September 25th, 2025, for the Panther Valley Cheerleaders Homecoming Tradition

Council agreed that the time is going to be verified, and that horses are going to be provided to block the street during the event.

Motioned by Jack Soberick 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 16 calls for the month of August. Total man- hours were 56.5, total man hours year to date were 784.5. In house work total man hours were 146 for the month, total man hours year to date were 1,066. The responses in town were 12, year to date 82, Summit Hill was 1, year to date 22, Coaldale was 3, year to date 24, Nesquehoning was 0, year to date 7, 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 176, year to date 1,006. Community service total hours served was 0, year to date 140.5. Fundraising hours were 857 hours year to date.

Administrative hours total man hours 80, year to date 640. Total hours of all

activities for report period were 108.75 for the month, year to date 779.5. Total man hours for the month were 566.5, year to date 4,494.

Ambulance Report-

Michele Bartek spoke about the Ambulance Report.

The Lehigh ambulance responses were 72 incidents in August 2025. They had an average response time of 10.6 minutes from time of dispatch until arrival on scene. Of the 72 responses, 38 were non-emergency patient services, 34 were emergency responses. 52 patients were transported, 6 patients were treated with no transport, 2 standby and 12 cancellations/no patient found.

Mayor's and Police Report-

Hugh Vrablic spoke about the Police Report.

The police department had 310 calls and complaints handled, 12 cases cleared, 9 arrests made, 10 traffic contacts, 20 parking tickets issued/borough ordinance violations issued, 1,467 miles patrolled, \$295 collected in parking, quality of life, and report requests.

Code Report and Zoning Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Code Report.

August Monthly Report: Rental Inspections completed 26, 32 inspections scheduled, 3 failed inspections, 108 people have not registered their property as a rental. Once a list is received from the borough secretaries the list is being taken down to the magistrate to file citations for failure to register for their 2025 rental license. Code enforcement tickets issued 31, code complaints received 41, code complaints resolved 24, notice of violations issued 4.

Rental Report-

Jennifer Staines spoke about the Rental Report.

September report as of 9-10-2025. Total rentals are 636, total not rental are 481, total uncollected is 108, total submitted is 528, total completed is 300, schedule inspection total is 144, insurance requirement is 61, fees collected \$147,752.69, and past due late fee collected \$31,980.79.

Solicitors' Report-

Robert Yurchak spoke about the Solicitors Report.

Robert Yurchak spoke about the handicapped and that there should be reasonable accommodations.

Tax Collector's Report-

Borough Secretary Ashley McLaughlin spoke about the tax collectors report.

From August 1st, 2025 to August 31st, 2025, taxes collected were \$11,764.44.

Motion to pay the bills-

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jack Soberick spoke about the Clear Program and stated that all personnel involved with Code Enforcement should be able to access the information as it would be helpful with obtaining information about property owners.

Old Business:

Motion to accept the following changes to the civil service commission: -request by Michele Bartek

- 1. Approved the MPOETC standards to replace the current physical agility standards.**
- 2. Approved requesting council to add 2 alternate members.**
- 3. Change physical agility test to be performed first in the testing sequence.**
- 4. Removal of Steve Foster from the Civil Service Commission.**

5. **Request copies of the Borough Code Book and addendums up to/and including 2024.**
6. **Notify council that the chain of custody for police applicants shall be as follows: Application shall be placed in a sealed envelope, properly secured, and directly turned over to the civil service for review. As per the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations.**

Civil Service Commission Chairperson John Zym spoke about the current changes he would like council to approve for the Civil Service Commission.

Council discussed the Civil Service Commission and agreed that the ordinance for the Civil Service Commission needs to be amended.

New Business:

Discussion/Motion to amend the filing dates to end to September 5th, 2025 for the police applications so that applications submitted can be accepted-request by Michele Bartek

Applications were submitted to the borough office after the September 5th, 2025 police application submission deadline.

Council agreed to extend the police application submission deadline to September 15th, 2025.

Motion to amend the filing dates to end September 15th, 2025 for the police applications.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion for council to decide if all council will meet/interview with the part-time police officer applicants unless a conflict of interest or if the public safety committee will meet/interview them-request by Michele Bartek and Bruce Markovich

Council agreed that they would like to all be present for the meeting/interviewing with part-time police officer applicants.

Motioned by Jennifer Staines and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

A Roll Call Vote was called.

Motion was favored by George Gilbert, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, Joseph Butrie, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Jack Soberick.

Motion was passed by majority vote.

Discussion/Motion to re-instate Matthew Houser as a Full-Time Police Officer-request by George Gilbert

Motioned to table until further information by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to hire a police chief-request by George Gilbert

Solicitor Robert Yurchak asked that the motion be deterred for one month.

Motioned to withdrawal by George Gilbert.

Discussion/Motion to appoint a negotiation committee to negotiate the crossing guard contract-request by Bruce Markovich

Motion to appoint Michele Bartek, Joesph Butrie, and Bruce Markovich to the negotiation committee for the crossing guard contract.

Motioned by George Gilbert and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to appoint a negotiation committee to negotiate the Public Workers(Street Department) Contract-request by Bruce Markovich

Motion to appoint Michele Bartek, Jennifer Staines, and Joseph Butrie to the negotiation committee for the Public Workers.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on setting up a Committee to investigate in a purchase of used Sewer Jet Vactor to replace the one that was involved with the fire.-request by George Gilbert

Motion to appoint Jack Soberick, George Gilbert, and Michele Bartek to a committee to investigate in a purchase of used Sewer Jet Vactor.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/-Zimmerman building, Public Works want to move heating system from Old Silberline Building to heat office area into building. -request by George Gilbert

The cost of moving the heating system is not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Motioned by George Gilbert and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approval to rent a mini excavator on an as needed basis from either Cleveland Brothers for \$600.00 a day, \$1,287.00 a week, \$2,856.00 a month, or Highway Equipment and Supply Company for \$1,000.00 a week, \$3,000.00 a month. -request by Joseph Butrie

Motion to complete the credit application for both the Cleveland Brothers and Highway Equipment and Supply Company.

Motioned by George Gibert and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Tree on east Snyder will be taken care of September 25th, 2025-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated that the tree will be removed on September 25th, 2025 and that he just wanted to make council aware.

Motions to Approve

Discussion/Motion to approve the special event request from the Lansford Halloween Special Events for a Children Halloween Fun Festival at Ashton Park on October 26th, 2025 from 2:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the special event request from Friends of Lansford Recreation for Tree Decorating and Lighting at JF Kennedy Park on December 1st to December 7th, 2025 from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Motioned by George Gilbert and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the special event request from Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau for a Trolley History Tour throughout the borough on November 22nd, December 3rd, December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th, 2025.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion to approve the handicap parking request from Nannette Gosnell at 247 East Bertsch Street.-request by Michele Bartek

Motioned to table by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Motion to Approve letter of Intent to Department of Community and Economic Development to request assistance to conduct a study on Regional Policing.-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to Approve Letter of Intent to Department of Community and Economic Development to request assistance to conduct a study on creating a Solid Waste Authority to determine the possibility of creating a multi borough trash collection service.-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by

Discussion/Motion Powell Street Sewer Project-request by George Gilbert

Motioned by

Motion Award Bid for the Powel Street Sewer Project to Doli Construction Corporation at a cost of \$211,690.00-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion was favored by George Gilbert, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevchio, Jack Soberick, Bruce Markovich, and Jennifer Staines.

Motion was opposed by Joseph Butrie.

Motion was passed by majority vote.

Motion to approve a limit of \$15,000.00 for oversight and inspection services by Arro Engineering on the Powel Street sewer project.-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to designate any contingency costs over 10% of the Powel Street sewer project cost must be approved by Borough Council.-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevchio and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to set a minimum bid on Tax Parcel 123A-24-J37.14 Vacant Spring Street Property (Appraised Value \$35,000)-request by Bruce Markovich

Motion to set minimum bid for Vacant Spring Street Property to \$35,000.00.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to place tax Parcel 123A-24-J37.14 vacant Spring Street Property up for public sale. Buyer responsible for appraisal fees-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to set a minimum bid on Tax Parcel 123A-24-J37.20 Vacant Borough Garage on Water Street (Appraised value \$110,000.00) request by Bruce Markovich

Motion to set minimum bid for Vacant Borough Garage on Water Street to \$55,000.00.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to place tax Parcel 123A-24-J37.20 (Former Borough garage) up for public sale. Buyer responsible for appraisal fees. request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve change of boundary line for lots at 704/708 E Patterson Street property of Edrich Realty, Approved by the Carbon County Planning Commission on 19-August-2025.-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich would sign the plan.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution to apply for LSA Grant on behalf of the American Fire Company in the amount of \$54,316.64 for a off road UTV Vehicle and Emergency Equipment. -request by Bruce Markovich

Council agreed to waive the application fee on behalf of the fire company.

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by George Gilbert.

Council agreed that they would like to all be present for the meeting/interviewing with part-time police officer applicants.

Motion was favored by George Gilbert, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, Jack Soberick, Bruce Markovich, Joseph Butrie, and Jennifer Staines.

George Gilbert abstained due to conflict of interest.

Motion was passed by majority vote.

Motion to approve a Resolution to allow Panther Creek Foundation to apply for LSA Grant in the amount of \$98,990.00-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to set a meeting date to review STMP Proposals.- request by Bruce Markovich

The date for reviewing the STMP Proposals that the borough received was set to Monday September 22nd, 2025 at 6:00p.m. at the Borough Building.

Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adopt a resolution to prohibit public participation at Council Workshop Meetings-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by George Gilbert.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have emergency lights removed from Code Enforcement vehicle, lights are in violation of vehicle code.-request by Bruce Markovich

Motioned by Michele Bartek and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Motion priority advertise to replace approximately 80 feet of sanitary sewer line on 100 block of East Front Street numerous breaks-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the sewage issue affecting the whole block as it is an older sewer line.

Council agreed to deem the motion an emergency and award the lowest bidder.

Motioned to deem a motion an emergency and award the lowest bidder by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Advertise selling of the zipper same specs as last time-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated he wants the minimum bid to be \$35,000.00 as is.

Council discussed the selling the zipper and if it would benefit the borough.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jennifer Staines.

A roll call vote was called.

Motion was favored by George Gilbert, Joseph Butrie, and Jennifer Staines.

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

Motion did not pass due to majority opposition.

Order snow plow ordinance signs from Voss Signs need 3,000 of them pay from General Fund-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the signs being white with black lettering.

Motioned to table until further information by Jack Soberick and seconded by Michele Bartek.

Motion to table passed unanimously.

Get Project done on top of Cortright Street-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about a ditch being dug to stop water from flowing onto Cortright Street.

Council discussed the location of the project with some of the property being on coal company property.

Council discussed alternate solutions for the water problem as the problem is on private property.

Received estimate from Radocha about installing inlets at handicap ramp on east side of pool lot-request by Joseph Butrie and George Gilbert

Joseph Butrie stated that a quote was to have been sent to the borough office.

Due to no quote having been submitted council did not make any motions.

Hire a part-time code-zoning officer-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie stated that he would like council to advertise for a part-time code-zoning officer.

Motioned to table until after the budget by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich.

Motion passed unanimously.

Trees behind the five and 600 block that are on borough property that must come down because they're creating a hazard-request by Michele Bartek

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Handicap parking applications investigation into them being done-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about wanting to change the handicap application and about that she would like the why handicap applications request are processed and issued.

Space for storing Halloween products for festival. It must be dry, and temperature controlled. request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek is requesting permission to use the upstairs of the borough building to store the items for the Lansford Halloween Festival as there is a large amount of items for the event.

Motioned by Jack Soberick and seconded by Gwyneth Collevecchio.

Motion passed unanimously.

Water and Electric at Ashton Park-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about how there is no water at Ashton Park and all of the lights at Ashton Park do not always work.

Tree in Kennedy Park-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about how a ten foot Christmas tree is being donated to the borough by the end of September for Kennedy Park from Crystal Spring Tree Farms in memory of Francis Botex.

Motioned by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Jack Soberick.

Motion passed unanimously.

Handicapped Advisory Board. Change the ordinance, Change the name ditch “committee” and reflect the name as HANDICAPPED ADVISORY BOARD - request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines stated she would like to change the handicap committee make up and would like to put a committee together in accordance with the borough ordinance.

Council discussed the handicap ordinance and agreed that the current ordinance can be followed as is.

Approve remainder of fee schedule with input from the office staff.-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the fee schedule and that she plans to have a final fee schedule for council approval.

Place garbage cans at the bus stops. Ask borough crew to kindly change out bags. Lot’s of garbage at those spots. See if it makes a difference.-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about having garbage cans placed at bus stops as a resident requested them as there is an issue with garbage being thrown at bus stops.

Jennifer Staines stated she would like to see if the garbage cans at the bus stops would make a difference with the garbage problem at bus stops.

Motion to adjourn

Motioned by George Gilbert and seconded by Joseph Butrie.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Bruce Markovich at 8:51p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary