

LANSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting 1 W. Ridge Street September 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order:** By President Jared Soto at 6:00 p.m. followed by Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Roll Call:** All council members were present: President Jared Soto, Vice President Irma Leibensperger, President Pro Tempore John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bruce Markovich, Marie Ondrus, Bob Silver, and Mayor James Romankow. Solicitor Michael Greek arrived at 8:00 p.m. during New Business.
3. **Executive Session:** 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. - To discuss possible property purchase of parcels 122-22-V3.01, V3.02, V3.05, V3.06, V3.09. from Silberline Corporation, to relocate the borough public works garage. Council also discussed a grievance from a police officer working as Officer In Charge.

4. **Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.** - Jared Soto called the meeting to order and asked for a Motion regarding the grievance by Officer Tom requesting he be paid the Office in Charge (OIC) rate when he worked in the absence of both the Chief and Sargent, July 21-25, 2019.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to settle the grievance by paying Officer Tom the OIC rate (Sargent's rate; about an additional \$60.00) during the 5 days he worked when both the Chief and Sargent were not scheduled to work and to reopen the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) to rewrite Article 20, Miscellaneous Provisions, and #11. "Working out of Rank". The Motion was second by Irma Leibensperger. All were in favor except Bruce Markovich who was opposed. Motion passes; 6 Yes, 1 No.

There was discussion about moving forward to purchase property from Silberline, Inc. to house the borough public works department; garage. Silberline has offered to give the borough the property however no formal written documents have been exchanged. Renovations would be needed as well as air and soil quality testing and developing the property with the help of the Carbon Chamber of Economic Development. The borough real estate tax loss is about \$26,897.92.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to proceed with gathering information with the intent of acquiring Silberline property; parcels 122-22-V3.01, V3.02, V3.05, V3.06 and V3.09. The Motion was second by Bruce Markovich. On roll call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Jared Soto, Yes; Bob Silver Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passes, 5 Yes, 2 No.

There was a moment of silence for victims of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

5. **Public Courtesy:**

Janet Kupec, 337 W. Bertsch Street, had a complaint about the parking spaces near her home and garage; that the third bay of her garage has a parking space in front of it. The borough will check on it.

Colleen Serfass, 330 W. Bertsch Street, had a complaint about the parking lines recently painted near her home.

Michelle Bartek, 333 E. Abbott Street, would like to hold a Halloween event at Ashton Park on October 26, 2019. She will fill out a Special Event form for the next meeting. Lansford Alive member Bob Silver said the organization could put the event on its insurance and asked her to attend the next Lansford Alive meeting.

Brian Binder, 252 E. Bertsch Street, had complaints about handicap parking spaces.

Sandray (Bella) Sciniarielle, 208 W. Water Street, asked that the 100 to 300 block of W. Water Street be made one way. She had complaints about the inspection of rental units and said she was illegally evicted from her home.

Jennifer Staines, 353 W. Abbott Street, reminded everyone about the upcoming 2020 census. She asked that there be more exotic animal and cat ordinances in Lansford (a python was lost in Summit Hill). She said there is a driving hazard due to a PODS storage unit on the street near 33 Cortright Street.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, said the Sept 9th meeting of borough council and Friends of Lansford Recreation was productive. She asked how many buildings are on the Silberline Property. There are 5 buildings.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes :

- August 14, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes as written. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- August 19, 2019 Special Budget Meeting

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to approve the August 19, 2019 budget meeting minutes as written. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

7. Correspondence:

- a. Bob Silver submitted a letter of resignation as chairman of the Public Works Committee but asked to remain on the committee. Jared Soto appointed William Chuma chairman of the Public Works Committee. Due to the resignation of Joseph Butrie from Borough Council, Jared Soto appointed himself as chairman of the Park and Recreation Committee.
- b. American Fire Co. No. 1 letter dated 9/6/19, made a budget request of \$12,000.00 in 2020.
- c. American Fire Co. No. 1 letter dated 9/6/19, requesting the corner setbacks be lengthened/doubled (no parking allowed) on the 200 & 300 blocks of W. Kline Avenue, and the 200 & 300 blocks of W. Water Street. The borough will research whether these areas may be marked as fire zones, increase fines, and whether ordinances need to be changed before taking action on the request.
- d. Ana Sanchez, 3 E. Bertsch Street, sent a letter 8/27/19, requesting a street light on the existing pole in the middle of the unit block of Tunnel Street, across from the post office. The borough will consider the cost and discuss at the next meeting.
- e. Special Event Application - Lansford Alive Fall Festival to be held 9/28/19, on W. Ridge Street between Tunnel & Coal Streets, insurance is on file.

A Motion was made by William Chuma and second by Bruce Markovich, to approve Lansford Alive's Fall Festival to be held 9/28/19 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- f. A complaint form was reviewed requesting that the bus stop at the corner of S. Walnut and E. Abbott Streets be changed due to its location near PCS Mental Health, LLC., group home, a residential mental healthcare facility. Chief Soberick met with the owner and submitted a letter to council explaining the site is not a drug and alcohol treatment facility. It is for people with developmental disabilities; individuals learning to transition into society. No action was taken.
- g. Nanovic Law Office – Letter dated 9/6/19 representing Danial & Ellen Sargent, regarding the borough sewer line located at their property, 400 E. Snyder Avenue. To be discussed later in meeting.

8. Correspondence not enclosed to save paper:

- a. Benecon invitation to attend Health Insurance Renewal meeting in Pottsville, Schuylkill County Municipal Authority Building, 10:00 a.m. on 10/11/19. Jill would like to attend.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to have Jill Seigendall attend the Benecon Healthcare Insurance renewal meeting in Pottsville, Schuylkill County Municipal Authority Building, at 10:00 a.m. on October 11, 2019. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor except Marie Ondrus who was opposed. Motion passed, Yes 6, No 1.

The meeting was disrupted by the arrival of Jim Becker, an elderly resident who identified himself as the mountain man of Akron, Ohio. He complained about landlord/tenant rights. President Soto needed to use the gavel several times to quiet him. Mr. Becker continued to pontificate about landlords as Mayor Romankow skillfully escorted him out of the meeting.

- b. PA Dept. of Environmental Protection – Letter to BET Associates IV,LLC – Bond Review for 2019 Surface Mining Permit as acceptable to DEP
- c. Penn DOT invitation to attend Regional Innovation Day, Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg
- d. Philadelphia Insurance Co. - Loss Acknowledgement Letter regarding borough sewer issue at Edgemont Lodge. The owners allege a water and sewer problem arose in the basement of Edgemont Lodge due to the borough's Edgemont sewer line repair project. Mr. Chuma gave the insurance company the owners contact information.
- e. Patrolman Jason Helmer – Officer Return to work release effective 9/6/19
- f. Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA) materials for 2020 Census were received 8/19/19
- g. Brimble's Wall - Updated cost estimate \$39,500.00 from Axis Stabilization to repair Brimble's wall – submitted to county planning office for CDBG grant application

9. Committee Reports – Held 9/4/19

Parks & Recreation – The report was written and read by Jared Soto. Irma Leibensperger asked that the gazebo estimates (3) be considered by council at the next meeting.

Bruce Markovich made a Motion to contact Bellview Motors Sales & Service, Walnutport, for an estimate to replace the motors at the Ashton Pool Pump house. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

A resident recommended getting an estimate from Duane Moyer Pumps, Lehighton 570-386-5508.

Estimates for commercial grade riding lawn mowers:

Tractor Supply: Swisher 66" radius 31 HP Kawasaki Commercial Pro Front Deck ZTR Big Mower \$11,799.00;

Home Depot: Swisher 60" radius, 24 HP Kawasaki Commercial Pro Front Deck ZTR \$7,500.00;

An estimate from M& S Hardware is pending.

Public Works – The report was given by William Chuma. The department is preparing to pave 200 & 500 blocks of W. Ridge Street; cutting grass on borough properties is taking up a lot of work hours; turnpike truck passed inspection, a new or used truck is needed.

Municipal Administration – The report was given by Irma Leibensperger. Bruce Markovich asked that Michael Carpenter, the governor's policy specialist, be invited to a public meeting to explain the Strategic Management Planning Program.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to switch the municipal phones and internet service provider from Windstream to PenTele Data effective Nov 1, 2019. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Zoning & Ordinance – The report was read by Jared Soto. Zoning Officer Jim Dean gave a list of items he wants: a color printer, digital camera with Wi-Fi capability, keyboard, a private space to work either downstairs in the police department or upstairs in his own office. Jared Soto has been working to organize property files. Jim Dean's probation period ends October 12, 2019.

Public Safety – A verbal report was given by Chairman John Turcmanovich. The request to put a street light on Tunnel Street and the fire company's request to extend the no parking areas on Kline Ave and W Water Streets as discussed in Correspondence.

10. Municipal Reports:

Mayors Report – August report shows \$1,899.78 collected, year to date totals \$16,401.58.

Police Report – August report shows 439 calls, 15 criminal arrests, 15 traffic citation, 18 non-traffic citations, 6 parking/ordinance tickets

Fire Department – Am. Fire Co. No. 1 – July report shows 8 total calls: 4 in Lansford, 1 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale, 1 in Nesquehoning, 1 in Jim Thorpe. August reports shows 13 total calls, 6 in Lansford, 6 in Summit Hill, 1 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – Lehighon Ambulance responded to 64 incidents in August with an average response time of 8.28 minutes from the time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Code Enforcement – Zoning & Code Officer James Dean enclosed his invoice for \$2,378.75 for review

Carbon County Council of Governments (COG) – Next meeting is Sept 25, 2019. The group is promoting advertisement of upcoming 2020 Census. The CC COG is planning to join the Pennsylvania COG.

CC Tax Collection – Next meeting is Sept 18, 2019, 10:00 a.m. at the Lehighon School District office.

Tax Collector's Report - \$11,985.83 collected in August; total collected in 2019: \$871,172.56

Treasurer's Report – Total bills to be approved \$122,691.21; Breakdown: General Fund \$57,587.56; High Way Liquid Fuels \$9,265.33; Park & Recreation \$181.14; Street Light \$5,055.61; Sanitation \$26,440.59; Sewer Transmission \$15,724.98; Fire Tax \$8436.00. Also enclosed is the monthly checking account activity for all accounts, and monthly projection.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to approve payment of the bills totaling \$122,691.21. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- Pa Liquor Control Board – receipt of \$1,050.00 for Feb thru July 2019
- Tax Anticipation Note was paid in full, remaining \$50,000.00 plus 2,046.58 interest
- FHWA 536 Form – (highway finance report) has been submitted to Penn DOT
- Penn DOT MS-965 Report of yearly receipts and expenses brought up to date

End of Month Balances 2019			
No.	Account Title	July	Aug
7673	General Acct	\$517,567.24	\$509,759.92
7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
4529	Escrow for 401-405 E Abbott St	CLOSED	CLOSED
7681	Sanitation Fund	\$164,263.36	\$160,344.08
0283	Sani-investors Money Mkt Acct	\$51,746.72	\$51,755.51
7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,156.44	\$12,157.44
7714	Sewage Transmission	\$136,322.96	\$124,794.40
1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve acct)	\$164,843.89	\$164,871.89
5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res acct)	\$152,865.54	\$152,873.33
1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,032.94	\$51,126.48
7722	Local Service Tax	\$30,400.38	\$23,209.34
7764	Street Lights	\$43,517.65	\$47,800.25
7748	Fire	\$48,280.26	\$46,804.65
7706	Treasurers Special Hi Way	\$161,585.66	\$158,584.85
7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,387.61	\$41,391.01
7756	Recreation	\$71,828.67	\$70,964.18
		\$1,652,979.43	\$1,621,617.44
	LOANS	Est Balance	Est Balance
	Tax Anticipation Note	51,500.00	0.00
	Tunnel St/Storm Separation	822,696.40	806,968.88
	MEM	121,859.11	121,859.11
	2017 Police Expedition-Community Leasing Partners	13,204.09	13,204.09
	2018 Police RAM	32,351.80	32,351.80
		1,041,611.40	974,383.88

Solicitor Report – A draft letter to Frank L. Enterprises, LLC, owner of a vacant lot at 201 W. Bertsch Street (former Victoria Lot) purchased from the borough) to install and maintain sidewalks at the corner property, as stated in the sale of the property from the borough to Frank L. Enterprises.

11. Unfinished Business:

- a. Strategic Management Planning Program- Jared Soto will invite Michael Carpenter to a public meeting to explain the program.
- b. Edgemont Sewer Project update – William Chuma reported that the area needs a bit more modified material on the road, plant some grass and it is completed.
- c. 400 W. Snyder Ave. Sewer Project – Nanovic Law Offices, Property has been temporarily condemned by the borough. The property owner has not appealed it.
- d. Street Paving 2019 – William Chuma said paving will begin this month on the 200 and 500 blocks of E. Ridge Street.
- e. Meter proposals – Attorney Greek needs to be consulted to create or amend the parking meter ordinance due to the following Motion:
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to remove the meters on both sides of the street in the 100 block of West Ridge Street and unit block of E. Ridge Street except for the five meters on the south side of the unit block of E. Ridge Street beginning at Tunnel Street going east. Meters would remain on both sides of the unit block of W. Ridge Street, Tunnel Street and Coal Street. The motion was second by William Chuma. On Roll Call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Jared Soto, Yes; Bob Silver, Yes; Marie Ondrus, No; Irma Leibensperger, No. Motion passed, Yes – 5, No – 2.
- f. **Resolution 2019-08** – To apply for the second phase of an LSA Grant for streetscape lighting project in the business district. In the first phase a grant for \$40,044.00 was approved.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to approve Resolution 2019-08 which supports a Monroe County LSA Grant Application for streetscape lighting in the amount of \$179,025.00. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.

12. New Business:

- a. 2020 MMO Memo to Council; Police Pension Plan
A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to approve the 2020 MMO as presented. All were in favor, Motion passed.
 - b. USDA Loan & Grant application for Police Car and equipment.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to proceed with applying for loan and grant funds through a USDA Program. The Motion was second by Jared Soto. All were in favor, Motion passed.
 - c. LSA Grant – Jared Soto asked for a motion to allow Keystone Engineering to provide an updated cost estimate for Streetscape lighting in the LSA Grant application.
A Motion was made by Bob Silver to allow Keystone Engineering provide an updated estimate for the LSA Grant application. The Motion was second by William Chuma. On Roll Call vote: Bruce Markovich, Yes; John Turcmanovich, Yes; William Chuma, Yes; Jared Soto, Yes; Bob Silver, No; Irma Leibensperger, No; Marie Ondrus, No. Motion passed, Yes - 4, No - 3.
13. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:14 p.m. by William Chuma, second by Bob Silver and everyone dispersed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer