

Budget Meeting Minutes

September 17th, 2024

The September 17th, 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 stated that the meeting is going to begin with discussion about LST (Local Service Tax) account.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how there are four parts to how the budget is divided.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how Berkheimer Commission gets allocated at the end of the year for the account.

Joseph Butrie inquired about how the budget would work if the Lansford Fire Company would combine with the Coaldale Fire Company.

Lacey Gonzales stated that the borough does have to provide some kind of fire protection for the town.

Michele Bartek inquired about the amount of money that the street department is allocated.

Lacey Gonzales spoke how Borough Secretary Maria Ahner contacted Jim Thorpe Bank to receive the current interest rates for all checking accounts.

Lacey Gonzales stated that LST account money must be spent on specific things.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the Fire Tax Fund and that the current millage rate is included in councils' packets.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how it can be anticipated an increase in the fire company liability insurance.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the workers compensation liability insurance cost.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the light building panel that was approved at the last meeting and how that payment came directly from the light street fund.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about using a 85 percent collection rate due to the borough not collecting 100% of taxes.

Borough Secretary Maria Ahner spoke about the current PP&L bill costs and that streetlight is one of the biggest expenses to the borough.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about the street light fund.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about what is covered in the general fund account.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how the contract for the garbage contract.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how it needs to be budgeted for the projected increase in garbage cost.

Denise Leibensperger of 164 West Ridge Street inquired about why the garbage cost is increasing.

Joseph Butrie spoke about garbage companies that provide low costs for the first two years then double the rate they charge.

Michele Bartek spoke about how some borough's require residents to obtain a sticker from the borough to put out large items.

Bruce Markovich spoke stating something needs to be done to combat the increasing garbage cost.

Council discussed other possible ways of garbage disposal.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how council needs to decide how to address the increasing garbage cost.

Bruce Markovich spoke about putting on the agenda a motion to advertise for the garbage contract.

Lacey Gonzales spoke about how next meeting liquid fuels, Parks and Recreations, and Sewer Maintenance would be discussed.

Council spoke about the sewer transmission and about not changing the fee amount.

Maria Ahner spoke about how currently title search companies do not pay for last bill request for sewage transmission and sanitation.

Council agreed that there should be a fee for the last bill request documentation.

Lacey Gonzales stated that she would need to know the approximate amount of time the secretaries spend on which tasks due to salaries having to be reallocated based on the fund.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the assessment appeals the borough office received and that a motion or resolution needs to be made to oppose the assessment appeals.

Council discussed how the assessment appeals would impact the borough.

The meeting concluded at 5:56p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ashley McLaughlin

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer