

Call to Order – At 6:00 p.m. by President Bruce Markovich followed by Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Council members attending: Gwyneth Collevecchio, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, Mayor Michele Bartek, Martin Ditsky and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Council woman Marie Ondrus and Council man Bob Silver were absent.

Executive Session 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Back on the record at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session we discussed the Sale of the Railroad and personnel issue.

Public Courtesy –

Linda Harvan – 112 E. Front St Made a request to make the 100 block of E. Snyder Ave. No Parking because of tenants in the nearby apts. Blocking gates of homes. Bruce Markovich asked Linda how many parking spaces would be lost if that took place. Linda responded that it would be roughly 3 to 4 parking spaces. Martin Ditsky mentioned how narrow that street is.

Rose Mary Cannon - of 242 W. Ridge St for the hiring of a Part-Time Secretary is there a probation period? Bruce Markovich mentioned that it is 90 days. Rose Mary asked what her starting wage is? Bruce responded with \$16.18 an hour the same as the Crossing Guard. Rose Mary then asked if she will be bonded right away? Bruce said first thing tomorrow morning. Rose Mary asked when if her start date? Bruce said once she is hired (if it is tonight) it will be Thursday morning.

Jennifer Staines – 353 W. Abbott St. asked if the Part – Time Secretary position was day shift.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- August 3,2021, Committee Meeting Minutes

A Motion was made by Gwyneth Collevecchio, second by William Chuma, to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes from August 3 , 2021. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- August 11, 2021, Meeting Minutes

President of Council noted that on the last page of the minutes that there was an error to the price of the sidewalks that the amount the Borough was applying for was not \$280,000.00 it is \$180,000.00.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky, to approve the August 11, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes with the correction. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- Handicap Parking Space – 113 E Snyder Ave Before approving the space William Chuma explained that the width of the parking space is 22 ft., and that space could go right up to the gate.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky, to approve the handicap parking space at 113 E. Snyder Ave.

Correspondence (not enclosed)

- We will need someone to attend the Tax Collection Committee Meetings – It was decided that Secretary Wendy Butrie should be the one to attend.

Committee Reports –

- **Public Works** –William Chuma reported- Did a lot of paving the school, in Coaldale Summit Hill’s paver is broken down. Borough Crew was raising manholes getting ready for paving. They need to finish up Leisenring St. yet. We ordered Crack Sealer. Coaldale has a Crack Sealer Machine for Crack Sealing. Radocha finished up in Edgemont the sewer looks very good. Martin Ditsky asked if Edgemont was on the Liquid Fuels Map. After paving we will do more repairs to inlets and picking up leaves and get the trucks ready. Loader needs 2 back tires.
- **Municipal Administration** – Bruce Markovich reported We received our first payment of the COVID money \$199,528.00 was deposited into the General Fund the same day we transferred it into the COVID Recovery account the same day. We will receive the second payment one year from now. Gwyneth arranged for a donation from JTNB of \$1,000.00 towards a new computer for the Borough Treasurer the cost is \$1800.00 we are going to take \$800.00 out of the COVID money we just received. Contacted Mike Zawada from Zawada Brothers Pole Buildings to have him look at the building we are currently using for a Borough Garage to try & put a ceiling in there for heat in the winter he will try and make next week.
- **Park & Recreation** – Gwyneth Collevecchio reported that we started on the bathrooms at the pool. We did not start the Concession Stand.
- **Public Safety** – John Turcmanovich we are having a very hard time getting applicants an ad was placed on the Chief’s Assoc. website. A suggestion was made by the Mayor that we should go into more detail on that ad. About benefits and pay rates etc. Going to try to post ads on Indeed and the Borough’s web page as well as FB pages. Reached out to the State Police to see if we could get some coverage overnight. The State Police are only functioning with 2 Troopers on that shift as well so not sure they could be of much help. They will not come to town for calls of a dog loose, a parking violation etc. It would have to be for a major crime. Will check on Shared Services with the nearby towns to see if there is an interest.

Municipal Monthly Reports for July:

Fire Department – American Fire Co. No 1 responded to 20 incidents in August: 8 in Lansford, 2 in Summit Hill, 8 in Coaldale, 2 in Nesquehoning.

Ambulance – For the month of July there were 47 incidents with a response time of 8.15 minutes.

For the month of August there were 61 incidents with a response time of 8.9 minutes.

Mayor’s Report –There were 216 calls in the Borough. The mayor also reported that there was \$3,346.26 collected for the month of August. Year to date is \$15,988.24.

Code Compliance – Jim Dean investigated 21 code enforcement complaints, issued 26 Notice of Violations, investigated 18 rental complaints, performed 23 rental inspections, and investigated 16 zoning issues. The report is on file.

Solicitor’s Report – Months ago I mentioned that I would let you know about a law firm to investigate the sale of the railroad. I have the name of the firm. The name is The Slusser Law Firm out of Hazelton.

A Motion was made by William Chuma,second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to hire Slusser Law Firm to review the sale of the PV Railroad. All were in Favor. Motion passed.

Tax Collector’s Report – Tax Collector Terrance McCall collected from August 1-31,2021 \$7,630.66.

Treasurer’s Report – Bills to Approve

- General Fund - \$25,641.75
- Street Light Fund - \$0.00
- Sanitation Fund - \$28,112.00
- Sewer Transmission - \$24,182.67
- Parks & Recreation - \$6,784.84
- Highway – Liquid Fuels - \$1,039.84
- Fire Tax - \$0.00
- LST Fund - \$0.00

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to pay the bills. All were in favor. Motion passed.

	2021	End of Month Balances		
FUND/ Checking	No.	Account Title	July	August
General Fund	6496	General Acct	\$857,784.21	\$1,118,275.82
General Fund	6488	Fire Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	0826	Fire Escrow for 330 W. Bertsch St	\$0.00	\$37,289.13
General Fund	2675	Fire Escrow – 332 W. Bertsch St	\$6,001.31	\$6002.33
General Fund	2823	Fire Escrow – 334 E Bertsch St	\$4,509.21	\$4,509.61
General Fund	7013	Fire Escrow – 268 E Patterson St	\$9,863.51	\$9,863.51
Sanitation Fund	6438	Sanitation Fund	\$243,995.57	\$232,432.72
Sanitation Fund	7373	Sani-investors’ Money Mkt Acct	\$51,919.84	\$51,915.57
Sanitation Fund	6454	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,052.80	\$12,053.86
Sewer Transmission	6446	Sewage Transmission	\$122,250.05	\$62,287.17
Sewer Transmission	7360	Sewer Transmission	\$165,395.37	\$165,395.37
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct	\$153,017.65	\$153,017.65
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Trans. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,371.82	\$51,382.38
Sewer Transmission	6470	400 E Snyder Sewer Project	\$73,715.80	\$73,722.26
LST	6462	Local Service Tax	\$22,804.38	\$19,136.07
Street Light Fund	6412	Streetlights	\$66,542.63	\$67,980.72
Fire Tax Fund	6371	Fire	\$58,858.14	\$61,266.18
Sp. Highway	6420	Treasurers Special HI Way	\$140,807.97	\$139,963.43
Park & Rec Fund	6363	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,363.30	\$41,366.93
Park & Rec Fund	6404	Recreation	\$50,072.76	\$50,947.02
Total			\$2,135,326.81	\$2,361,812.00
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$0.00	\$0.00

Note				
Tunnel St/Storm Sep	\$18,689.23 per mo.		\$478,348.61	\$478,348.61
MEM Debacle	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May & Nov		\$76,309.11	\$76,309.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr. lo	\$26,440.53	\$26,440.53
2020 Sewer Loan	5 yr.	Sewer Fund \$1,320.47 per month	\$66,650.43	\$65,449.87
Total			\$647,748.68	\$646,548.12

New Business:

Bank Loan for Police Car the price of the car is \$43,398.00 - The new police car is done. We need to take a loan out to pay for the car. USDA has promised us \$15,000.00 towards the price of the car. USDA has no money right now to give it could take up to 3-6 months to get the \$15,000.00 from them. We can get a loan from JTNB at 2.5% interest. We need a motion to take a loan.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, a second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to take a loan from JTNB for \$43,398.00 and put the \$15,000.00 on the loan when we receive it from USDA. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Hiring a new Part – Time Asst. Secretary – Libby Yelito was interviewed by Municipal Administration and is their pick for part-time secretary. We need a motion.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, a second by John Turcmanovich to hire Libby Yelito as the Part – Time Asst. Secretary. All were in favor. Motion passed.

New Computer for Treasurer – Gwyneth received a donation from Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank for \$1,000.00. the price of the computer is \$1,800.00. \$800.00 can come out of the COVID money. Martin Ditsky asked how long Lacey would need till she was caught up. Bruce explained that Lacey will be training Wendy when she is caught up. It was mentioned that payroll was Quick Books. There was a discussion on why Lacey was doing payroll and that Wendy should be doing it. William Chuma mentioned that they should be giving payroll back to Wendy. Gwyneth Collevecchio mentioned that she had a plan and that was to have all the finances put on to a computer all by itself.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky to allow Wendy Butrie to do payroll again so Lacey can get the Borough caught up and to start preparing a budget for 2022. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by Martin Ditsky to purchase a computer for a cost of \$1800.00 to put all the financial information on \$1000.00 will be the donation received and the remaining \$800.00 will be out of the COVID money. All were in favor. Motion passed.

2014 Ford Taurus Police Car – The motor on the Ford Taurus is no good. We received estimates for a new motor it would cost \$6,000.00 with a 2 yrs. warranty and a used one for \$4,000.00 with a 60-day warranty. Council has agreed to sell the car once it is stripped as is.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, a second by William Chuma to advertise to sell the car as is. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution 2021-04 – Directing Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau not to Collect Delinquent Real Estate Taxes on behalf of the Lansford Borough.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich, second by Gwyneth Collevecchio to direct Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau to not Collect Delinquent Real Estate Taxes on behalf of the Lansford Borough. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2021-04 – Approving Collection Procedures, Appointment of Solicitor, Interest Assessment, Credit and Debit Card Charges, and fees and costs to be added to the amount collected as part of unpaid Real Estate Taxes and Municipal Claims for Delinquent Accounts.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to advertise Ordinance 2021-04 Approving Collection Expenditures. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Fire Company bills to be paid – There are bills submitted to the Borough for payment by the Borough from the \$10,000.00 earmarked for the American Fire Co. #1 the bill total is \$9,474.17. **There was a motion made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to pay the bills that the fire company submitted for \$9,474.17. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

Rose Mary Cannon asked the job description of the new Part-time Borough Secretary. Also asked was the number of hours she would be working.

William Chuma opened a discussion on Street Opening Fees and how contractors are not putting the streets back properly when they are done. William asked that we change the fees for Street Openings
up to 100 sq ft - \$500.00 upon completion of repairs
up to 200 sq ft - \$750.00
over 200 sq ft - \$1,000.00 or more.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich to change the Street Opening Fees on the Fee Schedule. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Mayor asked if we could drop the \$40.00 refundable fee for the Full-Time Police Application fee. The discussion was dropped till the next meeting when we know the total cost for testing a candidate.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Butrie
Secretary Treasurer