

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – September 9, 2020 regular monthly meeting opened by President Bruce Markovich at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Attending council persons: Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, Bruce Markovich, William Chuma, Bob Silver, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak. Mayor Bartek arrived during Executive session at 6:12 p.m. and council persons Irma Leibensperger and Marie Ondrus were absent.

Executive Session: Held 6:05 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to discuss acquiring the Silberline property to be used for the future borough garage, a police personnel issue and sewer problem at 400 E. Snyder Avenue. Crossing guard Linda McLaughlin has retired from her position.

Public Courtesy:

Mrs. Ellen Sargent, 527 E. Ridge Street, asked for an update on the 400 E. Snyder Street sewer project.

Linda Harvan, 112 E. Front Street, spoke about an open sewer at a neighbor's property, 113,113 ½ and 115 E. Snyder Ave. The owners are being notified. She also reported a pothole on E. Front Street near her home.

Christopher Ondrus, 10 Edgemont Road, questioned Councilman Martin Ditsky about the July committee meeting where the streetscape phase II project (replacement of streetlights) was discussed. Mr. Ondrus pointed out that the LED streetlight conversion agreement was signed by Mr. Ditsky as president of borough council in August 2017. Mr. Ondrus reported that Lansford Alive is planning a community event to promote census participation. The date is to be announced.

Rose Mary Cannon, 242 W. Ridge Street, said she visited borough hall regarding a Right to Know Request and remarks got back to her that a current official said she should not be allowed behind the counter in the borough office.

Approval of Minutes:

The August 12, 2020 minutes were reviewed for approval.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to approve the August 12, 2020 minutes after including an account of the meeting between Mayor Bartek, Councilman Ditsky, County Commissioner Chris Lukasevich and David Bodnar at the Carbon County Planning Commission regarding grant opportunities for sewer repairs. The Motion was second by Bob Silver. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Correspondence:

- **Handicap Parking Applications** – two handicap parking applications are on file but are incomplete, 339 E. Abbott Street and 627 E. Patterson Street. They will be reviewed at the October meeting.
- **Lansford Alive** – by e-mail 9/8/20 whether the borough will be seeking grant funding through the LSA Monroe county program. Would council consider applying for another phase of downtown revitalization? President Markovich said he is considering applying for grant funds to improve Kennedy Park instead of the downtown area.
- **Lansford Alive** – by e-mail 9/8/20 that it will have a Fall cleanup event, Saturday 9/19/20, 9:00 a.m., meet at Kennedy Park. Public Works Dept. will collect the garbage.
- **Teamster's #773 Crossing Guard contract negotiations** – The contract expires 8/31/2021. Public Safety Committee will contact Tim Groller to begin negotiations.
- **Coaldale Lansford Summit Hill Sewer Authority** – letter of 8/28/20 asking how the borough prefers to be billed for flow meter monitoring required by the Act 537 Plan; a monthly invoice or have the amounts deducted from the

borough's 10% annual commission. No decision was made. There were many questions and council asked to have a CLSH Sewer Authority member attend the next meeting.

The topic was tabled by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich.

Correspondence not copied – available on request

- **Commonwealth Financing Authority** – Letter of denial dated 9/3/20 regarding the PA Small Water and Sewer Program (funding sought for the 400 E. Snyder Ave sewer project). President Markovich recommended approving \$50,000 from the borough sewer transmission fund and get a loan for \$75,000.00 to complete the sewer project.

A Motion was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, to use \$50,000.00 from a Sewer Transmission Account and finance \$75,000.00 with a bank loan, potentially for 5 years at the lowest rate available, to fund the sewer project at 400 E. Snyder Avenue and to bid the project as soon as possible, awarding the job to the lowest responsible bidder at a meeting to be scheduled in early October. All were in favor, Motion passed.

- **Letter of Interest** in performing Code, Zoning and Inspection Services from Nicholas Hazlett, Hazlett Municipal Services, Pottsville, PA
- **PennDOT** – Estimated Liquid Fuels Allocation for (March) 2021 is \$108,148.12
- **John Williams** – 8/16/20 letter regarding blight at 236 E. Ridge Street
- **PA Liquor Control Board** – 8/18/20 notification of transfer of liquor license pending from the Sports Zoo, Inc. to Half Time Bar and Grill

Committee Topics:

Zoning & Ordinance – No report

Public Works – William Chuma said E Street was paved using materials leftover from the approved street paving projects. Martin Ditsky asked whether there is a “No Parking” sign missing from the unit block of W. Water Street. Ordinances will need to be reviewed to find out.

Municipal Administration – A written report 9/7/20 is on file.

- Highlights include using left over grant funds from the downtown streetlight project \$50,000 to \$60,000 as a match for improvements at Kennedy Park. Downtown Street light project requires a meeting with PPL.
- Representative Doyle Heffley is trying to schedule a meeting with PennDOT regarding street flooding issues due to the handicap corner ramps installed by PennDOT.
- Council reviewed a quote from Bill Kahanic of Leading Edge, used through Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank, for a card reader to collect any bill using the customer's credit card. The cost included \$18.95 per month for each (3) affected Bank Funds (\$682.20/yr.) and \$229.00 to purchase the card reader.

A Motion was made by William Chuma to buy a card reader and services of Leading Edge to process credit cards for borough payments to the Sanitation, Sewer Transmission and General Funds. The motion was second by John Turcmanovich. No vote was taken. The topic was tabled by Bob Silver asking to verify that there are no additional fees.

-The No 9 Mine & Museum plans to build a 40' x 160' building (grant monies were awarded) however there are no zoning applications submitted by the property owner, BET Lehigh Real Estate, LLC. William Chuma and Bruce Markovich will attend a meeting at the Museum as part of a PA1 Call and find out more about the project.

Park & Recreation – No report

Public Safety – Public Safety Committee will meet to review sewer issues, realign property maintenance issues, discuss a filing system, and the purchase of firearms for the Police Department.

Municipal Monthly Reports:

American Fire Co. No. 1 – Answered 13 fire calls in August: 7 in Lansford, 2 in Summit Hill, 1 in Coaldale and 3 in Tamaqua. The American Fire Company and Coaldale Fire Company were awarded a \$246,000.00 grant to replace breathing apparatus. The fire companies are responsible for 5% or \$12,300.00.

Lehighton Ambulance Report – The ambulance responded to 54 incidents in August with an average response time of 8.3 minutes from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Bartek reported monthly total of \$668.18 with the following breakdown: magistrate \$438.18, miscellaneous reports \$90.00, parking violations \$140.00. Year to date total: \$10,998.10.

Police Report – Mayor Bartek reviewed the August police incident report. The department answered 404 calls.

Solicitor's Report – No written report

Carbon County Tax Collection Committee next meeting is November 18th, 10:00 a.m. at the Lehighton Area School district.

Tax Collector's Report – August collections total \$9,839.28. Year to date total is \$911,575.51.

Treasurer's Report – Bills were offered for approval totaling \$104,080.35; Breakdown: General Fund, \$53,605.20, Street Light, \$4,645.29; Sewer Transmission, \$4,991.39; Park & Recreation, \$1,669.93; Liquid Fuels, \$3,020.79; Sanitation, \$28,112.00; Fire \$8,035.75.

A Motion to pay the bills totaling \$104,080.35 was made by William Chuma and second by Bob Silver . All were in favor, Motion passed.

Notable receipts in August: PLCB receipt of \$600.00 for February thru July 2020; Halftime Bar & Grill LLC donation of \$500.00 to the Police Department; Blue Ridge Cable commission check \$10,761.18, Carbon County Housing Authority payment in Lieu of Taxes \$9,116.02; United Concordia Dental credit on healthcare invoice due to COVID 19.

End of month Bal.			2020	2020
FUND/Saving&Ckg	No.	Account Title	July	August
General Fund	7673	General Acct	\$597,797.18	\$627,396.67
General Fund	7780	Escrow for 20 E Kline Ave	\$2,180.11	\$2,180.11
General Fund	7772	Escrow for 22 E Kline Ave	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
General Fund	5725	Escrow for 2 E Ridge St	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sanitation Fund	7681	Sanitation Fund	\$216,924.89	\$204,509.15
Sanitation Fund	0283	Sani-investors' Money Mkt Acct	\$51,850.43	\$51,859.21
Sanitation Fund	7730	Sanitation Fund Money Mkt Acct	\$12,168.61	\$12,169.64

Sewer Transmission	7714	Sewage Transmission	\$91,087.58	\$70,428.82
Sewer Transmission	1198	Sewer Transmission(reserve)	\$165,174.27	\$165,202.25
Sewer Transmission	5402	Sewer Loan Proceeds Acct(res)	\$152,957.54	\$152,965.34
Sewer Transmission	1277	Sewer Transm. CD/Aug-12 mo.	\$51,244.08	\$51,254.23
LST	7722	Local Service Tax	\$17,196.24	\$13,665.96
Street Light Fund	7764	Streetlights	\$55,977.26	\$62,311.37
Fire Tax Fund	7748	Fire	\$42,858.81	\$46,794.39
Sp HiWay LiqFuel	7706	Treasurers Special HiWay	\$157,167.84	\$156,038.72
Park & Rec Fund	7699	Lansford Pool Account	\$41,429.07	\$41,432.58
Park & Rec Fund	7756	Recreation	\$61,156.10	\$55,745.84
Total			\$1,720,170.01	\$1,716,954.28
LOANS		LOANS Paid from Fund		
Tax Anticipation Note		1.99% for 1 yr.	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
Tunnel St/Storm Sep	\$18,689.23 per mo.		\$630,086.19	\$613,657.41
MEM Debacle	20 yrs./\$14,130 biannual May&Nov		\$104,239.11	\$104,239.11
2018 Police RAM		Gen Fund or LST 6/1/18 - 5 yr.	\$26,440.52	\$26,440.52
Total			\$810,765.82	\$744,337.04

President Markovich asked whether there were any questions about the bank balances.

-Martin Ditsky asked about the five thousand dollar spent in Park & Rec Fund #7756. The expenses include payments for Tree's cut down, \$2,000.00, Mulch, \$1,820, and gazebo roof shingles, \$2,206.00.

-Rose Mary Cannon asked about the Fire Escrow Accounts for 20 & 22 E. Kline Avenue which were created as the result of a fire in 2014. The current status of the properties will be researched. Attorney Yurchak suggested contacting the insurance companies for guidance or sending the money to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Unfinished Business:

400 E. Snyder Ave Sewer Project – Mrs. Sargent asked whether there was any progress on the easement. Attorney Yurchak needs to have the engineer look at it.

Paving walkway at Ashton Park – To pave walkways, estimated cost is \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 from the park and recreation fund, and will be done through shared services. The walkway will be in the hill area south of the Ashton Park Parking Lot Road. (It was mentioned that Summit Hill is selling its small paver used in shared services projects.)

A Motion was made by William Chuma to pave two walkways at Ashton Park; a new walkway near Parkway Street extending from the east end entrance of Ashton Park Parking Lot Road going south to W. Bertsch Street and pave the existing walkway on the south side Ashton Park Parking Lot Road extending south west from the east end park entrance, Ashton Park Parking Lot Road, to (W. Bertsch Street where W. Bertsch Street turns into) Phillips Street, Coaldale. The Motion was second by Martin Ditsky. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Declaration of Disaster - due to COVID 19, extended to the end of 2020.

A Motion was made by John Turcmanovich to adopt the Declaration of Disaster Proclamation stating the disaster will extend until the end of 2020. The Motion was second by William Chuma. All were in favor, Motion passed.

New Business:

Trick or Treat Night – Halloween is on Saturday, October 31, 2020. Due to Covid 19 council elected to wait and see whether to support Trick or Treat Night; whether cases of Covid 19 will increase due to school opening yesterday, September 8, 2020. Discussion was tabled until the next council meeting.

Resolution 2020-15 regarding donations to the borough

A Motion was made by Bob Silver to adopt Resolution 2020-15 which requires all donations to the borough be first approved by borough council and made payable to the Borough of Lansford. The Motion was second by John Turcmanovich. All were in favor, Motion passed.

2021 MMO Police Pension – Secretary Treasurer Jill Seigendall offered the 2021 Minimum Monthly Obligation for Police Pension Plan.

A Motion was made by William Chuma, second by John Turcmanovich, to approve the 2021 MMO in the amount of \$56,050.80. All were in favor, Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Silver, second by William Chuma, at 7:50 p.m. and everyone dispersed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Seigendall

Secretary Treasurer