

November 2, 2020

The regular meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, November 2, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Councilors Lisa Perry, Donnie Rehrig, Joe Flickinger, Autumn Abelovsky and Ryan Saunders.

Officials in attendance were: Interim Borough Manager Kim Rubin, Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz, Solicitor James Nanovic, Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt and Mayor Clark Ritter. Absent: Councilor Darryl Arner.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hearing of Persons Present

None.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of October 5, 2020

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve the minutes with the correction that no motions were made pertaining to the proposed training tower and all were in favor with no questions or objections

NEW BUSINESS

Request from Tom Evans to approve the Winter Recreation Program employees list - if allowed to open

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to approve the request. Under the question - Councilor Rehrig asked if we will be opening the program. Council discussed safety concerns due to COVID and the necessary precautions required to open. They requested Tom provide in writing how he will handle running the program as far as limit of children allowed, social distancing, recreation program he will offer, etc. Motion carried.

Consideration on the approval of the 2020 Inactive Accounts (WriteOffs) for the utility office

Councilor Rehrig/Abelovsky made the motions to approve the write-offs and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Consideration on hiring All J's Landscaping to maintain Lower Park twice a year at a total estimated cost of \$1,700

Councilor Saunders had a second meeting with Jay and walked the park discussing what council wanted done. This price is lower than the first one received a couple months and it does include weed control.

Councilors Flickinger/Perry made the motions to approve the twice-yearly maintenance fee to be worked into the 2021 budget and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Discussion on Shade Tree Commission and the Main Street Steering Committee placing mulch and river rocks around trees along the bypass

Councilor Saunders said Kris is ok with cutting out the section around the trees and having the mulch and river rocks added. It will make it easier for Public Works to mow and maintain that area. The cost of the mulch will come out of the Shade Tree budget.

Councilors Rehrig/Perry made the motions to approve the request and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to award Garbage Contract

Jonas Kreitzer of County Waste and Larry Wittig of Tamaqua Transfer were both present at the meeting.

Councilor Perry said that she and Joe discussed the possibility of an increase with the Treasurer and it would be a dollar or two using the bids that we have.

Councilor Saunders said he does field a lot of complaints about the garbage and it would be hard to raise rates and keep the same carrier if people are very unhappy. We also can't substitute quality as well so we definitely should hold to a higher standard for our residents for what they expect.

Mr. Kreitzer gave his opinions on why the contract should be rebid and Mr. Wittig gave his reasons for not rebidding. Council discussed all options.

Councilor Rehrig asked if the toter provided by the hauler is damaged who would supply a new one. The solicitor said the hauler is to provide a new one no matter how many times it gets damaged.

Councilor Abelovsky wanted to hold a special meeting to vote on this item only or rebid if time allowed. Other council members did not feel a rebid was necessary.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to approve the 3-year 1-day contract and Option #2-with single axle vehicles but without tire disposal and all were not in favor. Roll call: in favor - Councilor Rehrig, Perry, Saunders, Abelovsky, Flickinger; opposed - Councilor Hunsicker. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

CDBG Update - readvertised by the County. Bids will be opened on November 5, 2020

Kim said she just wanted to give council an update on the bid opening.

Bruce said they eliminated the ramps at 4th & Iron Streets and one ramp at 5th & Iron Streets from the bid specs.

All the inlets must be replaced at the ramps that are being bid out making it more expensive. Bruce also contacted John Davis who suggested making a few minor changes so Liquid Fuels money could be used for what CDBG Funds do not cover.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

Nothing. Council thanked Kim for another month of hard work.

Borough Engineer

Bruce said they met Friday to go over the drawings of the roof over the fire company social quarters.

The roof over the social quarters, the original elevator wing and the ambulance bay or lower garage in the rear of Station #1 was put on in December 1993 using a 30-year shingle. The shingles will be 27 years old this December.

The proposals that went out did not specify the area of square feet of roof to be replaced. According to what he could find on the 1993 plans showing the area of roof shingled at that time was 6,735 square feet.

Bruce contacted both bidders to see what their proposals covered and was told only the roof over the main stone building and the original elevator addition put on in the late 80' or 90's. The proposals do not cover the entire roof done in 1993. The proposals only cover about 4,800 square feet.

Bruce spoke to K&M Builders who did some repairs on the roof due to leakage. Mr. Gustafson said the roof is not too bad but should be done in the near future. He repaired around the old chimney, repaired some issues with caulking on the flashing and counterflashing. Mr. Gustafson also found leaking around the new vents that were installed after 1993 and patched those areas.

Bruce asked council what they wanted to do with the roof and when do they want it done. If the whole roof is to be done that will require prevailing wage rates adding an estimated 25 - 30% to the cost. He will prepare the specs but thinks it would be best to bid out over the winter with the work to be done in late spring so the cost can be added to the 2021 budget.

Bruce also suggested as a maintenance item to plan on caulking around the flashing every few years because it being anchored into uneven stone.

Councilors Perry/Rehrig made the motions to have Bruce draw specs up to replace the entire roof and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Police

Nothing.

Mayor

Clark said on October 28th a Crime Watch meeting was held with potential volunteers. They will select coordinators for their group and discuss advertising on social media to get more volunteers and they will report back to Matt Arner.

Clark also received complaints about the amphitheater steps being hard to differentiate one step from another and people are tripping as it is getting dark out.

Fire Chief

Nothing.

Light & Power Superintendent

Nothing.

Public Works

Nothing.

Recreation Director

Nothing.

Solicitor

Nothing.

Treasurer

Request for \$200,000 transfer as needed

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to approve the transfer as needed and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Committee Reports

Finance & Administration – Lisa had nothing.

Economic Development, Buildings & Code – Joe had nothing.

Police, Fire & Safety – Ryan had nothing. Joe said as he is the EMA Coordinator for the borough he attended the flu shot clinic due to it being sort of a training event for how the County's plan is for inoculations. It went pretty well.

Joe also wanted to amend Resolution 20–2018 which is the Act 172 Earned Income Tax for the volunteer firefighter. At their October Meeting the Fire Department voted to decrease the required 16 hours of outside training to 8 hours for 2020 due to COVID.

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to amend Resolution R20–2018 Act 172 reducing the number of outside training hours from 16 hours down to 8 hours do 2020 due to COVID and to reevaluate in 2021 and all were in favor with no questions or objection.

Light & Power Committee – Autumn had nothing. Lisa asked for permission to allow the L&P Department to replace some for the existing Hometown Hero Banners for the UVO next year.

Councilors Saunders/Flickinger made the motions to assist the UVO to replace the Hometown Hero Banners next year as needed and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Sewer Committee – Donnie had nothing.

Streets, Public Works & Recreation – Absent.

Library Board – Autumn said the addition is complete and the grand opening will be held after COVID.

Parks & Recreation – Autumn said we will be having a Gradual Lighting of the Christmas Trees in the Park this year. The power will be on when trees are decorated gradually lighting up the parks. There will be a live virtual lighting of the large tree in the amphitheater and then a virtual tour of each tree in both parks December 6th at 7pm.

School Board – Autumn said the school board voted to return 3 bus pickups in the borough for a.m. pickup only. She also communicated to the school board during their meeting that the board must communicate with the police chief as he moved some of the crossing guards around to accommodate the walking routes that were made.

Autumn met with Karen and Chief Biechy the next day and she does not think they have heard from the school district yet. Brian and Karen are in contact with George's Transportation to make sure the students are safe.

Canal Commission – Ryan had nothing.

Acceptance of Officials Report

Councilors Flickinger/Saunders made the motions to accept and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Saunders/Abelovsky made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus \$67,730.36 additional bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

Councilors Perry/Saunders made the motions to go into Executive Session at 8:21 PM and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Councilors Perry/Flickinger made the motions to go back into regular session at 8:26 pm.

Motion on items from Executive Session

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to hire David Linberg as a part-time Public Works employee and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adjourn

Councilors Flickinger/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn at 8:28 pm and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Brenda L. Kreitz
Borough Secretary