

December 10, 2020

The special meeting of Lehighon Borough Council was held in the municipal building on Monday, December 10, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Pres. Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Autumn Abelovsky, Ryan Saunders, Lisa Perry and Donald Rehrig. Absent: Darryl Arner and Joe Flickinger.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett and Borough Secretary Brenda Kreitz.

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

Request from Tamaqua Transfer

Larry Wittig, owner of Tamaqua Transfer requested council to consider having garbage pickup on Tuesday of each week and recycling on Monday of each week. Mr. Wittig said he recently acquired an 11-yard packer to accommodate the contract requirements for the alley pickup. They have other trucks as well that will also be able to accommodate the alleys without ruining the road surface. Nicole read from the bid specs that stated recycling will be picked up in one day on the same day as garbage. Nicole said she has been in municipalities where there was garbage collection one day and recycling collection another day and it has worked. It is up to council what they want to be done.

Council told Mr. Wittig they made the motion to go with a one day pick up for both trash and recycling and that is how they wanted to keep it.

Request from Rick Bjorkman

Rick is the property manager at BHA Academy, 325 Alum Street. He is asking for "NO Parking Bus" signs and "No Parking Between Signs" for that building.

Councilor Perry said the concern is for the residential parking in that area. We do not want to necessarily take away parking from the residents in that area. Would no parking during certain house be a possibility?

Councilor Rehrig asked Mr. Bjorkman what issues are occurring to prompt this request. Rick said for years he has had an issue with one neighbor across the street parking his truck and trailer in front of the doors to the school. The person is just being spiteful because Mr. Bjorkman had the man's vehicle towed after sending numerous letters to please not park his truck and trailer on Mr. Bjorkman's property. People from Dance with Kim also park in his lot and they drive up over the curb. Mr. Bjorkman just replaced the curb and sidewalk and has now put posts and chains up to deter the parents from parking there and he will chain the driveways eventually.

Rick said there are 2 houses - a single and a twin across the street. One has a driveway and there are 7 parking spots. The house on the corner has a driveway. From that house on the corner up to the corner there are 5 spots and across the street there are 9 spots at the cemetery.

President Hunsicker asked if Mr. Bjorkman has parking on South 4<sup>th</sup> Street along his property and Rick said yes. Mr. Bjorkman feels there is plenty of parking for residents. He has 4 large buses and 4 medium buses and 6 vans that come in each day. A vehicle parked there is an issue. There is plenty of parking for the residents and with the signs the buses will not be backing up traffic all the way down 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Councilor Abelovsky asked if Dance with Kim had an agreement with him to allow parents to park in his lot and he said no. Autumn said she would not be for no parking all the time because it would take away from another business. Rick said they don't park in front of the school they park in his lot.

Councilor Abelovsky asked if the buses arrive at 7:20 and pick up at 1:30 would a no parking between 7-8:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. work Monday thru Friday work. Rick thought it might and he is grateful but if it doesn't work because of the neighbor across the street continuing to park there Rick needs to have him towed. Autumn said he would just need to call the police. Other council members said he can park there at night and Rick agreed but said if he is not gone in the morning it is a problem. They told him to call the police as well.

Councilors Abelovsky/Perry made the motions to allow no parking between signs 7-8:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and Rick will pay for the signs and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

#### Presentation of Capital Funds, Sewer Funds and Electric Funds

Nicole went over each fund. Under Capital Projects Fund the budget modifications this year eliminated the transfer. This is our pass through for grant funding so be aware we are still waiting on a \$200,000 reimbursement for the Upper Park Project since February from DCED. The COVID programs have been prioritized and our money is on hold.

Highway Aid - we are expecting less money due to the reduction in gas taxes due to the pandemic. Our major equipment balance is at zero meaning we can start to consider purchase of equipment from Liquid Fuels. She did increase the transfer to the General Fund for wages.

Nicole provided council with the Power Supply update by AMP. The main change is the load reduction due to COVID. We need to update our rate study and look at a rate increase for electric. In 2022 we will see the increase of \$16 per megawatt hour because we will no longer be receiving the credit for the Landfill Projects. We are involved in the R.I.C.E. Project but we will not see any credit from that until 2030 due to increased debt.

Council had no questions on any of the funds except for Councilor Saunders who asked if the projected milestones could be provided for the electric rate increase? Nicole said she can provide the 2017 rate study so council can see where we were then. Nicole said instead of having the engineers do the rate study she is going to try and do it herself using their template. We have different rate classes that can be adjusted as needed.

#### Motion to advertise the 2021 Budget

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

Motion to advertise the 2021 Tax Levy Ordinance

Councilors Rehrig/Abelovsky made the motions to advertise and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Saunders/Perry made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Brenda L. Kreitz  
Borough Secretary