

# Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

July 9, 2019

6:00 P.M.

## MEETING MINUTES

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG RECITED.**

### Roll Call:

Present: Paul Benderavich, President – Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President – Lisa Natt  
Mayor Maureen Zavislak (arrived later during the course of the meeting) – JCP Matthew D’Elia  
Absent: Carl Yastremski and Thomas Parry  
Also Present: Solicitor Bruce Phillips, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

**Special Presentations:** None

**Minutes:** June 11, 2019 Meeting

Mr. Benderavich asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. Asked for a motion to approve the prior month’s meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

Roll Call:

Lisa Natt abstained due to prior meeting absence.

Ayes carried and motion passed.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion to Accept: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

### **List of Bills for Approval:**

Mr. Benderavich asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills. \$ 157,812.10 plus payroll \$ 7,833.05. Councilwoman Natt asked if the invoice for the fire bay garage door opener would be reimbursed by the Lafin Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Benderavich responded that building repairs are paid for by the borough.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Councilman D’Eliseo abstained on CVI invoice due to employment relationship

Ayes carried and motion passed.

**Correspondences (e-mailed to Council during the month):** No discussion.

**Reports:** Fire report was emailed to Council. No discussion.

**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Boyd advised on the changes to the upcoming summer camp program regarding the C.E.O. meal program. Protein snacks and drinks will be provided in place of prepared meals per Lynn Meizanis, Laflin Counselor. In addition, twenty-eight (28) backpacks were received by C.E.O. from Bodan, U.S.A. and distributed free to the Laflin summer campers. The Pittston Chamber of Commerce also helped by recommending Laflin Borough for the backpack program.

The 2018 general borough audit was completed by Rainey & Rainey CPAs and available to the general public, if anyone would like a copy. The audit was emailed to elected officials prior to the council meeting.

Mr. Boyd announced he identified the problem with the recycling truck that caused issues with scattering small pieces of broken glass on the borough roadways. J.P. Mascaro & Sons cleaned up the glass again and will get the truck repaired so that it doesn't happen again.

Mr. Boyd asked Solicitor Bruce Phillips, Esq. if the Janet Moll, 38 Laurelwood property should be allowed to go through the county judicial property tax sale. Mr. Benderavich noted the legal fees will continue with a low likelihood the borough would breakeven at the end. The county and school district will receive the majority of the sale proceeds and the borough won't cover the demolition cost and legal fees. After much discussion, the lien will not be filed and the borough will not stop the tax sale of the property.

**Mayor's Report –**

No report due to mayor being absent.

**Grant Report –**

Councilwoman Natt wanted to confirm the Greenways, Trails and Recreation program grant was submitted for the proposed basketball court fence. Mr. Boyd responded in the affirmative. Councilman D'Eliseo asked how long before the borough receives an answer on the grant award. Mr. Boyd indicated it could be the spring of 2020 before awards are announced.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the reports as presented.

Motion to Approve Reports: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Aye were unanimous and motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) 60 Oakwood Drive Purchase Bids –  
Sealed Bid Opening

Mr. Boyd announced two bids were received for the 60 Oakwood Drive property. The first bid opened was from Michael Murphy for \$40,000.00 and contained the required \$1,000.00 deposit. The bid was received on time and meets the minimum requirements. The second bid received and opened was from Kyle Costello for \$15,000.00 with the required \$1,000.00 deposit.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the sale to Michael Murphy at \$40,000.00.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Absent

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

The remainder of the money for the lot purchase must be provided within sixty days. Solicitor Phillips indicated a call should be made right away letting him know he is on the clock.

*[Mr. Murphy arrived later during the council meeting and was advised he was the winning bidder for the property. He was advised to start securing financing for the property purchase. Some discussion took place on the type of home to be allowed on the property and that he would be responsible for all encumbrances that may arise in the future.]*

B) Front Door Security Access Aiphone Buzzer –  
Acme Lock - LEM Aiphone Access System \$1,407.00

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the front door access quote from Acme Lock at \$1,407.00.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt No

Thomas Parry Absent

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

**New Business:**

A) Paul Zavislak Crime Watch Group Chairman Resignation –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Paul Zavislak.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Hire New Fire Driver / Maintenance Personnel –

Marc Malvizzi, Jr.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to hire Marc Malvizzi, Jr. as fire driver.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) MS4 Stormwater Catch Basin Rehab at 114 Laflin Road –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the catch basin repairs at 114 Laflin Road.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) MS4 Stormwater Run-off at Borough Welcome Sign –

Install Asphalt Swale Mihalka Trucking & Excavation \$300.00

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the asphalt swale near the borough sign as proposed.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

E) PennDOT Winter Services Agreement 2019-2020 –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the winter services agreement for Laflin Road.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Other Non-Agenda Items:**

A) Salt Shed Grant –

Councilman D’Eliseo asked for a status update on the salt shed design and if the project is stalled. Mr. Benderavich responded to say different designs are being looked at as alternatives to reduce the cost of the unit. Mr. Boyd noted the 2’x2’x6’ precast concrete blocks proposed as an alternative foundation type don’t meet the borough engineer’s minimum requirement specifications as noted in an email forwarded to councilmembers. However, a 3’x3’x6’ precast concrete block that is four tons should be looked at for this project to keep costs down. Mr. Benderavich summarized that Pennoni’s doesn’t want to put a stamp of approval on it. Some discussions continued on the salt shed design.

B) Patelunas Schoolhouse 64 Main Street Property Court Hearing Date –

Councilwoman Natt asked for a status on the hearing set for Jerome Patelunas. Solicitor Bruce Phillips, Esq. indicated the court hearing was rescheduled again until next month. Solicitor Phillips reminded everyone the borough already received judgement on the case but this final hearing is the order to allow entry to demolish the property and a lien to be put on it. Since all Luzerne Co. judges recused themselves an out-of-town judge was brought in to hear the case. Some discussions followed.

**Public Comments:**

Dorothy Tarasek, 112 Cedarwood Dr. – Complained about the basketball court usage after the 10 o’clock curfew. She said the court was in use the night before at 12:45am. The basketball court players are not reading the signs posted at the park. Mrs. Tarasek went on to explain another incident that happened on July 3<sup>rd</sup> where she approached the players on the court and asked them to read the signage indicating the 10 o’clock curfew. They were unaware of the curfew. The ordinance isn’t working. She would like to have the basketball rims removed from the basketball court.

After some discussions on the Pennsylvania State Police responding to our ordinance, former police chief Danny Mimnaugh’s past responses to illegal drugs to solve the situation, removing the rims from the backboards, fencing in the basketball court with an electronic latching system and using the borough code enforcement officer, it was determined the enforcement of the ordinance needs to take place.

Solicitor Bruce Phillips suggested having the code enforcement officer send a citation notice to anyone in violation of the curfew (without approaching the players on the court) if they could be identified. The borough security camera system cannot identify individuals and/or license plates in the parking lot. Someone needs to come to the park to identify the person or persons and then use the camera system footage as back-up evidence. Mayor Maureen Zavislak might be able to identify the individuals from the camera system.

The violation citation should be mailed to any identified individuals.

Christine Connors, 12 Walnutwood Drive – sent a Thank You card for the borough’s response on fixing her damaged driveway from a paving project completed a few years back. Councilmembers all received email copies of the letter and is entered into the minutes by reference.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:56pmpm.

Motion: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough