

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

January 8, 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 – Carl Yastremski –
Junior Councilmember Matthew D’Elia

Absent: Lisa Natt, Thomas Parry and Mayor Zavislak

Also Present: Solicitor Samuel Sanguedolce, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Special Presentations: Borough insurance proposals for 2019 were discussed by William Joyce of Joyce Insurance Group and Gino Bartoli along with Tyler Salerno of Assured Partners of Northeast Pennsylvania who presented their insurance proposals to councilmembers. Assured Partners total insurance package was \$31,557.00 for Selective Insurance with slightly higher limits according to Tyler Salerno. Joyce Insurance total was \$47,263.00 with increased limits from prior year policies according to William Joyce. A change in carrier to Argonaut Insurance allowed for the higher limits for Joyce Insurance. Both will use the State Worker’s Insurance Fund (SWIF) for worker’s comp. coverage.

Much discussion followed on the State Worker’s Insurance Fund for worker’s comp. coverage. Both proposals indicated much different mod rate factors which caused the wide difference in pricing. Joyce Insurance was quoted a mod rate factor of 2.041 and Assured Partners received an experience mod rate factor of 1.000. Both parties agreed that the SWIF pricing would be the same for both insurance brokers and the experience mod rate will need to be clarified. The experience rate modification factor is a published rate and should be the same for all insurance providers that utilize the state fund. Also discussed is the availability of other insurance companies taking on the borough for worker’s comp. coverage if the mod rate factor is actually 1.000. Gino Bartoli indicated he did not have any other company willing to consider Lafin Borough since the mod rate just dropped to 1.000 and that municipalities have the presumption of cancer clause in the state requirements for coverage. Many companies will not take on municipalities because of this presumption.

A disagreement followed regarding the insurance limits for uninsured/underinsurance coverage. Joyce Insurance believed a higher limit would be better for the employees of the borough from \$35,000. to \$100,000. However, Assured Partners believed that worker’s compensation provided enough coverage and the higher limits on uninsured/underinsured would potentially open the borough to more claims and higher pricing.

Solicitor Sanguedolce recommended taking the proposals under advisement until the next meeting. This would give him more time to thoroughly review both proposals for comparison and make recommendation to Council. Anthony D’Eliseo added that he wanted more clarity on the actual mod rate factor.

Mr. Benderavich thanked both companies for taking the time to provide proposals and attending the meeting.

Minutes: December 11, 2018 Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Motion to Accept: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

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.
\$ 84,744.47 plus payroll \$ 6,838.58.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous 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 reached out to Jeff Colella, WVSA Stormwater Division Manager to discuss a town hall meeting for Laflin Borough residents on the new MS4 program education and stormwater fee. This could be done with other area municipalities as a joint meeting or individually with just Laflin residents. Mr. Boyd will post on Nextdoor Laflin to determine residents' interest for this meeting. Some discussion took place on the billing format and amount of the fee.

Mr. Boyd gave an update on the blighted properties in the borough. Both the Moll, 38 Laurelwood and Patelunas Schoolhouse, 64 Main Street properties will have final default court hearings on January 14, 2019 at the Luzerne Co. courthouse. The borough should receive court approval to demolish the structures and lien the properties. Mr. Boyd will be attending the hearing in lieu of Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Holter who is unavailable on that date. Solicitor Sanguedolce and Mr. Holter discussed the Bellanca, 60 Oakwood fire damaged property. The property is now bank owned and a procedure should be in place to clean up the property and maintain the lawn.

Mayor's Report – No report due to absence

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

Motion to Approve Reports: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

A) Reject All Prior Demolition Bid Proposals for Janet Moll 38 Laurelwood Property –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to reject all prior demolition bids.

Motion: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

B) Joseph Niemiec Finance Committee Report on Laflin Volunteer Fire Department –

Mr. Benderavich indicated more time is needed to review the report and appointments need to be decided upon before making any decisions. He asked for a motion to table.

Motion to Table: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

C) Parking Restrictions at Creekside Playground Parking Lot –

Mr. Benderavich reviewed the ordinance and no changes can be made due to liability concerns. No action was taken by Council. Mr. Michael Slesinski, 56 Market Street understood proper notice would be given prior to towing any vehicle from the borough parking lots.

New Business:

A) Approve Advertising for Demolition Bid Proposals for Blighted Properties –

Jerome J. Patelunas Old Schoolhouse – Main Street, Laflin

Janet Moll – 38 Laurelwood Drive, Laflin

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion for a combined demolition bid for both properties.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

B) Salary Resolution #1 of 2019 –

Solicitor Sanguedolce read the resolution and Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

C) Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Resolution #2 of 2019 –

Solicitor Sanguedolce briefly read the material terms of the resolution and noted the interest rate of 2.94% for \$125,000.00. Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

D) Reappoint Angela Reese to Laflin Rec. Board –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to reappoint Angela Reese to the recreation board.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

E) Pennoni Associates Annual Engineer Agreement –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the engineering agreement for 2019.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

F) Creekside Park Walking Track Asphalt Sealing Bids –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to have Mr. Boyd solicit bids to seal coat the walking track at the Creekside Park since it is showing cracks. Mr. D’Eliseo would like to see sand added to the sealant for anti-slip.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Aye Unanimous and motion passed.

- G) Commercial Liability Insurance Package Renewal Bid Proposals for 2019 –
Joyce Insurance Group
Assured Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania
EHD Insurance

Mr. Benderavich noted the insurance renewal bids will be tabled until next meeting as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:40pm.

Motion: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough