

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.  
September 10, 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 – Lisa Natt – Thomas Parry – Mayor Maureen Zavislak – Junior Councilmember Matthew D’Elia

Absent: None

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

**Special Presentations:** None

**Minutes:** TABLED (not available)

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to table the prior month’s meeting minutes’ approval.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

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: Lisa Natt

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 as presented on the list of bills. Mr. Boyd noted the two fire escrow payments being returned to the insured after completion of the property restoration and final inspection by code enforcement. Mr. Yastremski inquired as to the remaining balance to be paid on the 2019 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Mr. Boyd responded and indicated approximately \$55,000.00 is owed and this balance will be paid next month.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Councilman D’Eliseo abstained on the CVI invoice due to employment status.

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 reported on damage to a pole at the Creekside playground that was caused by a tractor trailer attempting to turn around off Market Street in Lower Laflin. The truck caught the wires and pulled the utility pole housing the old playground lights and electrical power for the playground. The fire department was called, and insurance information was obtained. Mr. Boyd is anticipating the truck insurance company will pay for the damage. Bernie Gavlick provided an estimate to replace the old pole and transfer the lighting and electrical panel and meter to the new pole at \$4,775.00.

Mr. Boyd reported on a follow-up status of the new traffic light at Rt. 315 and Pittston Avenue noting the project will most likely start in the spring of 2020 after it was bid-out again.

Mr. Boyd referred to a letter received from Mr. Lubert regarding excessive speed on Old Mill Road during school bus stop times. The letter was provided to all elected officials and will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Mayor's Report –**

Mayor Maureen Zavislak briefly reviewed the state police report provided, noting a total of 25 calls to the borough and, separately, 21 calls for I81 by the Pennsylvania State Police.

Motion to Approve Reports: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) 60 Oakwood Drive Property Bids –  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bidding

Mr. Boyd opened the one bid received for the second solicitation to sell the borough property at 60 Oakwood Drive. Mr. Kyle Costello bid \$20,000.00 for the lot next to his house and provided the required \$1,000.00 deposit. The bid also noted that the property, if obtained, would be utilized to build a new home for his in-laws and not, as previously noted in a prior bid last month, to be split with his other neighbor Mr. & Mrs. Woytowich. Mr. Costello further indicated this bid was a fair market price for the property.

Solicitor Sanguedolce, Esq. noted the bid did not meet the advertise minimum bid requirement and the bid could not be accepted at the meeting and should be rejected. Solicitor Sanguedolce will reach what needs to be done for council to act on the only bid received at the next meeting. The property does not need to be advertised again and he will contact Mr. Costello after he reviews the procedures in the Pennsylvania Borough's code.

He will advise council before the next scheduled meeting.

Motion to Reject the Bid: Anthony D'Eliseo  
Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Paul Benderavich | <u>Yes</u> |
| Anthony D'Eliseo | <u>Yes</u> |
| Lisa Natt        | <u>Yes</u> |
| Thomas Parry     | <u>Yes</u> |
| Carl Yastremski  | <u>Yes</u> |

Motion passed.

B) Manchester Drive / Maplewood Section Paving Bids –

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| M & J Excavation Inc.        | \$232,860.00 |
| American Asphalt Paving Co.  | \$295,443.00 |
| Sikora Brothers Paving, Inc. | \$39,525.00  |

Mr. Benderavich recommended, based on the bid amounts, rejecting all bids and put it out to bid again in the spring. All agreed.

Motion to Reject Bids: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Roadway Crack Sealing Work –

Cedarwood / Oakwood / Old Mill / Salem/ Concord/ Fairfield/ Ashwood Partial/ other 300Lf.

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| U.S. Seal, Inc. (labor)  | \$4,432.25 |
| Crafco, Inc. (materials) | \$1,200.00 |

Mr. Benderavich noted the borough is two years behind on crack sealing work due to the weather last year and that the cost to seal the road cracks will be State Liquid Fuel eligible. He recommended the borough purchase the materials and have U.S. Seal, Inc. install the material.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Vincent Kasa Pole Barn / Salt Shed Property Purchase –  
\$10,000.00 Offer Accepted

Motion to Approve Purchase: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| Paul Benderavich | <u>Yes</u> |
| Anthony D'Eliseo | <u>Yes</u> |
| Lisa Natt        | <u>Yes</u> |
| Thomas Parry     | <u>Yes</u> |
| Carl Yastremski  | <u>Yes</u> |

Motion passed.

E) LSA Grant Salt Shed Design Specifications –  
Salt Shed Foundation & Access Gate

Mr. Boyd proposed redesigning the proposed salt shed to reduce the overall cost. The Coon Industries, Inc. 3'x3'x6' V-wedge concrete blocks can be used at three courses high for a 9' foundation with an asphalt floor and apron and canvas or metal doomed roof in place of original specification provided by Pennoni Associates.

The specs would be revised, and the project rebid. It was noted that Pennoni Association does not approve of the V-wedge precast concrete block. Much discussion followed.

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

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**New Business:**

A) Patelunas Schoolhouse Property –  
Trailer Removal Added Cost

Mr. Benderavich indicated the trailers removal cost was not originally included in the demolition specifications and bidding. Mr. Benderavich wanted to approve the added costs associated with the removal for the trailers from the property. Mr. Benderavich did not have a cost from Stell Enterprises due to Robbie Stella being on vacation. He believes the cost should not be more than \$3,000.00. Some discussion followed.

Mr. Yastremski questioned Solicitor Sanguedolce if the judges order, in his opinion, included the removal of the trailers from the property. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded that it did include the trailers.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the removal of trailer at a cap of \$5,000.00.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) J.P. Mascaro & Sons Garbage & Recycling Collections Contract –  
Advertise for Bids / One Year Extension

Mr. Benderavich inadvertently skipped garbage contract agenda item. See approval later in meeting.

- C) Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMOs) for 2020 –  
Police Pension Plan \$0 / Non-uniform Plan \$3,505 (Estimated State Aid \$3,505)  
Recommended Changes to Pension Plans by Jason Fine, Korn Ferry:
1. Reduced Police Pension Plan Assumed Rate to 5.0%
  2. Adopt New Mortality Tables (PUB-2010)

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the MMOs and recommendations.

Motion to Approve: Lisa Natt

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

- D) Robert Barna Trucking Brush Hog Mowing –  
8hrs. @ \$125.00/hr. State Liquid Fuels Account

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve Robert Barna Trucking for 8hrs. of work in the borough.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- E) 2020 LSA Grant Submission –  
Oakwood/ Fordham/ Pinewood/ Manchester Road Paving Work

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the submission for the 2020 LSA Grant.

Motion to Approve: Thomas Parry

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- F) Bartoli/Lupas Property for Sale –

Mr. Benderavich asked if everyone is aware of the Bartoli 30 acres of property for sale near Dogwood Drive and Cherrywood Drive. The property borders the Vince Kasa property that was to be donated to the borough for a possible Rails to Trails project. Mr. Benderavich asked if this is something Council wants to entertain to protect the integrity of the municipality, so we don’t have what happened with the Rt.315 American Asphalt property where it was clear cut and filled in. Everyone should remember what happened with that property.

Is the Borough interested in making an offer to purchase the property and declare it Clean and Green for Parks and Rec, Mr. Benderavich asked?

Councilman Yastremski added the property is two parcels near the back of Walnutwood Drive, Dogwood Drive and Cherrywood Drive that just came available and listed at \$80,000.00. In Mr. Yastremski's opinion the price is not unreasonable and creates a barrier of trees. He noted the Borough does have the funds if anyone looks at the Treasurer's Reports. He stated this would be an investment for the municipality.

Much discussion followed.

Mr. Yastremski motioned making an offer of \$40,000.00 for the 30 acres of land that would be half of the listing price.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Lisa Natt

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo NO

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

G) J.P. Mascaro & Sons Garbage & Recycling Collections Contract –

Advertise for Bids / One Year Extension

(inadvertently skipped on the agenda and discussed during public comment period)

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the one-year garbage contract extension with J.P. Mascaro & Sons from the 2015 contract. This would be the second extension.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Thomas Parry

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Lisa Natt Yes

Thomas Parry Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

**Public Comments:**

Dan Evancho, 109 Cedarwood Drive – stated he has been living in the borough for a longtime and dealing with the septic tank removal issue. He asked if the borough has money in the Sewer Maintenance account to handle the conversions.

Mr. Benderavich responded that the issue isn't related to funding but is the continuous hold-up with DEP approval the revised sewer planning module for the conversions. Since 2015 DEP has been asking for more and more documentations from the borough engineer to prove the system is adequate. Much discussion continued.

Gary Lubert, Fairfield Drive/Cedarwood Drive (not present at the meeting but submitted a letter on motor vehicle speeding on Old Mill Road during school bus hours) – Mr. Boyd asked for feedback on his letter submitted.

Mr. Benderavich responded that speed bumps can not be installed. Mr. Boyd suggested requesting the traffic speed radar trailer to requested from Luzerne County and installed on Old Mill Road to calm traffic.

Eileen Vera, 12 Cherrywood Drive – wanted to address Council on the Trap, Neuter and Return program for feral cat problem in Laflin. She was not aware of the ordinance banning the feeding of feral cats. She went on to talk about her problems with feral cats. She would like Martha Kahan from No Nonsense Neutering to be allowed to address Council in the near future on her program.

Much discussion took place on the issue.

Michael Reese, 24 Main Street – voiced his thoughts on feeding feral cats and did not think the TNR program would be cost effective.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Thomas Parry

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough