

Lafin Borough Council Meeting

August 11, 2020

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Present: Paul Benderavich, President – Carl Yastremski, Vice President – Anthony D’Eliseo – Matthew D’Elia – Kyle Costello – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: None

Also Present: Solicitor Substitute Jessica Pleskach, Esq., Charles Boyd, Borough Manager and Maintenance/Fire Driver Jared Aigeldinger

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: None

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to table the 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: Matthew D’Elia

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.

\$ 40,225.31 plus payroll \$7,644.66.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Matthew D’Elia

Roll Call:

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

Ayes carried and motion passed.

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

Reports:

State Police and Laflin Volunteer Fire Dept. reports were emailed to councilmembers. No discussions.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Boyd discussed the restoration work progress at the ballfields' access road by the Pennsylvania American Water Company. Work is almost complete with grading, culvert pipe cleaning, and rock stabilization installation. Partial access road paving work will be completed by the water company at a later date. The PAWC work included grading an area previously approved to be bid out by the borough and fixed. This was approved at an earlier council meeting and will no longer need to be done.

Regarding the Manchester and partial Maplewood paving work, Mr. Boyd noted the milling work started on Manchester Drive and is progressing as planned. The finished course will be completed in the next few days for both roads.

Mayor's Report – None

Fire Department –

Mr. Benderavich introduced Jared Aigeldinger, who was in attendance, to all the elected officials. Mr. Aigeldinger, who was a part-time worker for the borough, was hire in the full-time capacity at the last council meeting and previously met some individuals but was introduced to the rest of council and staff. Council welcomed Mr. Aigeldinger aboard.

Mr. Benderavich spoke about the paid fire driver's responses to mutual assist calls across the river during working hours. It was noted in the past that the borough always had two pumpers in town but are now down to one pumper and a rescue. If the pumper goes to Exeter for an assist to their fire department, our town doesn't have anything in the way of a pumper. The late Bruce Phillips, Esq. advised in the past that, although council can't dictate to the volunteers, the borough does have a say over the full-time paid fire driver that is an employee. Having the fire driver responding to a call in Exeter and not being able to respond to medical calls in town is also a concern.

After much discussion, Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion restricting the paid fire driver from responding to mutual aid calls over the river.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Kyle Costello Yes

Matthew D'Elia Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Benderavich clarified and stressed that this does not restrict volunteers from responding to any calls including across the river with or without the pumper. Mutual aid responses by the paid fire driver on this side of the river are still allowed. This includes allowing responses to Plains Township and Jenkins Township specifically.

Reports Continued from prior page ...

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

Motion to Accept Reports: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A) Terminate All Part-time Fire Drivers / Maintenance Workers –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to terminate all part-time fire drivers/maintenance workers that were formerly on the payroll.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Carl Yastremski

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Mr. Benderavich stated all calls will be handled by volunteers when Jared Aigeldinger is off work.

B) Approve Advertisement for Part-time Plow Drivers –

With the passing of longtime plow driver Ray Lauer, Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve advertising for part-time winter plow drivers. Mr. Benderavich believes the borough should hire a minimum of two or three along with having Jared Aigeldinger.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Luzerne Co. Cares Grant Funding Resolution –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve Resolution #6 of 2020 regarding federal funding for the CARES Grant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Boyd indicated the current resolution is a revised copy with minor changes to allow for additional items to be added to the grant before it is finalized. Solicitor Pleskach noted the resolution, as prepared by Solicitor Sanguedolce, was in order.

Motion to Approve Resolution #6 of 2020: Carl Yastremski

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Kyle Costello Yes

Matthew D'Elia Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Boyd asked councils' opinion on ordering the pressure washer trailer with water buffalo tank. Council agreed to include the purchase in the CARES grant funding. The smaller 100-gallon tank trailer would work best to keep the weight down on towing around town with the ATV quad.

D) Compact Utility Loader for Road Salt –

Due to the passing of Ray Lauer, the borough has an uncertainty for the continued rental of his skid-steer machine for winter salt loading. Since Susan Lauer is unsure if she will continue renting the machine, Mr. Benderavich feels the borough should purchase a compact utility loader for loading road salt into the plow trucks during winter storm work.

Some discussions took place on delivery dates of a new unit, options available for the new loader, and the usefulness of a snowblower attachment, if purchased.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve up to \$45,000.00 for the purchase of a new medium duty utility loader based on the quotes received from Lindsey Equipment. This would be a Costar program purchase.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Matthew D'Elia

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Kyle Costello Yes

Matthew D'Elia Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Benderavich asked for Councilman Yastremski's opinion on financing options and if the borough should use F.N.B. Equipment Finance to finance the purchase. Mr. Yastremski agreed with a lease purchase through the company at 3.99% for 4 years. He believes the four-year term gives the borough some flexibility and it could always be paid off earlier if the funds are available.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve the lease purchase with F.N.B. Equipment Finance at 3.99% for a 4-year term with no down payment.

Mr. Boyd clarified the first lease purchase payment in 2021 would need to come from the general fund and remaining payments could be paid from the state Liquid Fuels account for 2022 to 2024.

Motion to Approve F.N.B Equipment Finance: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Matthew D’Elia

Roll Call:

Paul Benderavich Yes

Kyle Costello Yes

Matthew D’Elia Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

E) PennDOT Winter Services Agreement for 2020/2021 –

Laflin Road / Main Street S.R.2026 Snow Plowing and Salting

Mr. Benderavich asked councils’ opinion on keeping it in-house or turning it back over to PennDOT.

Mr. Benderavich reviewed the pros and cons noting that the borough wouldn’t burn through so much salt taking care of the state road. PennDOT handles bigger snow storms better with the larger trucks ability to curl back the snow and widen the roadway. They come through the borough approximately every two hours to get to other municipalities. Our crews could still maintain the roads but it will take the pressure off our drivers. However, PennDOT does use antiskid materials that creates a mess during the winter months and at the end of the winter. The borough would give up approximately \$6,100.00 in state funding.

Mr. Benderavich indicated there are pluses and minuses but, with the absence of longtime plow driver Ray Lauer, it would be better to take the pressure off the newbies. Mr. D’Eliseo agreed.

Some discussion continued and it was noted that the borough could still jump on the state road, if needed, while waiting for the state to arrive during inclement weather.

Paul Benderavich recommended that the borough should not enter the agreement and turn it back to the state. We would have PennDOT and our own guys taking care of the state road.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to NOT approve the Winter Services Agreement and to turn back plowing and salting maintenance of Laflin Road and Main Street to the state.

Motion: Carl Yastremski

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

F) Borough Roadway Crack Sealing Work –

U.S. Seal, Inc. - Don Zurenda

Mr. Boyd asked Council if roadway crack sealing work should be done this fall utilizing U.S. Seal, Inc. to apply the materials already in the possession of the borough. The materials are stored in the borough garage and we need to decide which roads, if any, should be done this year.

Mr. Benderavich indicated Chestnutwood Drive needs to be done and suggested Mr. Boyd and Jared Aigeldinger survey the borough roads to provide a list.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve using U.S. Seal Inc. for the labor to apply crack sealant.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

G) LSA Grant Projects 2021 Submission –

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve applying for paving work again for 2021. Mr. Benderavich recommended Oakwood Drive infrastructure improvements and paving work for both Oakwood Drive and Fordham Road. This would be the same grant specifications as applied for last year.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

The submission will include either concrete gutter replacement or using asphalt curbing in lieu of concrete gutters. If awarded, both will be put out to bid to compare the costs associated with both methods.

H) Lawn Restoration due to Sewer Work –

Kopcho 149 Maplewood & Kennedy 17 Manchester

Mr. Boyd received a quote from Frank Hulihan, Cute Rite Lawn Service for \$125.00 per property for grass restoration work after sewer repairs at 149 Maplewood Drive and 17 Manchester Drive.

Mr. Benderavich asked for a motion to approve Cute Rite Lawn Service to repair the lawns as quoted.

Motion to Approve: Carl Yastremski

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments: None

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:48pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Matthew D'Elia

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough