

# Laflin Borough Council Mtg.

May 10, 2022

6:00 P.M.

## MEETING MINUTES

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

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: Carl Yastremski, President – Paul Benderavich – Kyle Costello – Marc Malvizzi –

Absent: Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President and Mayor William Kennedy

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

**Special Presentation:** Michael Lombardo, Vice President - Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance Association  
Edward Szafran, Deputy Chief of Operations

Michael Lombardo, III, Esq. introduced himself as Vice President of Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance. He is a borough resident and grew up living on Laurelwood Drive where his parents still reside. He attended the meeting on behalf of the Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance Association and would like Laflin Borough to consider using their services as an EMS provider for the town. They are based out of Pittston and have a station in Exeter.

They have been recognized on the statewide level as EMS Agency of the Year. They are very proud of their service to the communities they serve. They have been around for 70 years. He stated that they are not here to denigrate any other service but to talk about their services and why he believes they could be a good fit for the borough.

As Chief Administration Officer of the organization and a borough resident, he would be responsive and accountable to the residents and borough elected officials. He is available by his cell phone 24/7. He has been with the association since 1995 and still works operationally in the field while being in administration.

They are a non-profit, community-based organization that is not supported by taxes. Funding comes from insurance billings and membership fund drives similar to what is in place now for Laflin. They formed, over the last decade, from the merger of three (3) ambulance associations. Jenkins Township and Exeter Borough merged with Pittston Ambulance. Laflin Borough was once a charter founding member in 1952.

The organization is a combined BLS, ALS and Special Operations provider. ALS means paramedics. They have very robust staffing with more staffing on a daily basis than any other provider, including Wilkes-Barre City. Minimally, they have three fully staffed ambulances on each day with up to 5 units per day at the paramedic level. They can respond to any type of emergency. They have a group of very committed people to ensure the best service available. Currently, they respond to Laflin Borough as the ‘second due’ unit if Plains is busy.

Additionally, they have special operations capabilities that have been deployed in Laflin Borough during the tragic house fire on Oakwood Drive a few years back. They can respond to unusual or major emergency calls like mass causality events. Greater Pittston has a better than national standard average response time and is the closest ALS/ambulance to Laflin Borough.

Mr. Lombardo, additionally, spoke about his accountability to the town, modern fund drives, community involvement with parades and festivals, USDA grant, new vehicles, staffing levels, and their award-winning organization.

Some discussions took place from questions from elected officials on transition from the existing fund drive to their fund drive program and the number of calls to Laflin Borough as a back-up of Plains Ambulance.

Councilman Yastremski asked why Council should consider switching providers since he can't recall any complaints regarding the existing service provider. Mr. Lombardo indicated that it was a fair question that he anticipated. Being involved in emergency services, he is more aware and hears more of the scuttlebutt but isn't here to denigrate the other service provider. In his own family there was a serious mistake from the other provider and he believes Greater Pittston can provide something better. They offer something better with more vehicles, equipment, experienced staffing and call times to the borough. They have more resources and can do more for the borough.

Discussion continued on various topics. Upon conclusion, Mr. Yastremski thanked both Michael Lombardo and Ed Szafran for the presentation.

**Minutes:** No minutes presented. Tabled until next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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

Motion to Accept: Paul Benderavich

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Mr. Boyd noted that the PNC Bank Payroll account, that has been dormant for many years, was closed and funds moved to the Fidelity Deposit and Discount Bank Payroll account. The account remained open for access to old payroll records that may have been needed. Since less direct access is need to the older records, the information was archived by PNC Bank. The information is still available, as required by the retention records code, but not as easy to access.

**List of Bills for Approval:**

Mr. Yastremski asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills.

\$30,332.02 plus payroll \$8,253.94.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

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 discussion.

**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Boyd spoke on an error shown on Google Maps. The service indicates Inkerman Road in place of Laflin Road on the section of roadway out to Rt.315. This section of roadway should not have been changed in 2021 when Inkerman Road replaced a section to Jenkin Township. This has caused mail and delivery problems for borough residents. Although, Google Maps doesn't have a direct telephone number, Mr. Boyd has contacted them several times through Google Feed Back. Luzerne Co. 911 was also notified of the problem and will try to resolve the problem.

Summer camp child registrations are slow to arrive but Mr. Boyd believes a third camp counselor should be hired. Registrations should total 20 to 30 children before start of camp.

WVSA will continue with roadway street sweeping work in Laflin Borough for 2022. They estimate the borough roads will be done four times this year and the state roads, within the borough, will be done two to three times this year.

**Mayor's Report –** No report presented (absent)

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) Chestnutwood Drive Stormwater Catch Basin Inlet –

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the installation of a catch basin inlet on Chestnutwood Drive up to the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Boyd added that the basin would be located in front of 4 Chestnutwood Drive to help alleviate surface water problems.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Absent

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

**New Business:**

A) Add to Council Agenda the Removal of Dead Ash Trees –

After some discussion, Mr. Benderavich made a motion to revise the agenda to add emergency tree removal work at the Creekside Community Park.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Remove Two (2) Dead Ash from Creekside Community Park –

Mr. Benderavich made a motion to remove two dead ash trees at the Creekside Community Park for a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Absent

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

**Public Comments:** None

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:39pm.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Kyle Costello

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough

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