

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

February 14, 2023

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Present: Carl Yastremski, President – Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President – Kyle Costello –
Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Paul Benderavich

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

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: Tabled

Mr. Yastremski noted that the meeting minutes were not completed and tabled review until next month.

Motion to Table: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report:

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

Motion to Accept: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

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

\$47,798.63 plus payroll \$12,995.67

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

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:

Laflin Volunteer Fire Dept. report was emailed to councilmembers. No discussion.

Pennsylvania State Police discontinued providing monthly reports.

Manager's Report –

Mr. Boyd spoke on the Williams Transco gas pipeline project and informed councilmembers that the project could start this year or next depending on final Notice to Proceed from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the local protected bat hibernation period. FERC approval will need to happen in early March, 2023 in order for Williams Transco to have enough time to cut and clear trees before the bats come out of hibernation at the end of March. Some discussions ensued. Mr. Boyd posted information on the borough website and Nextdoor Laflin social site informing residents of the upcoming project and park closure. Signs will be posted at the park.

The Inkerman Road paving project will be delayed until the gas pipeline project is completed. Don E. Bower, Inc., the awarded contractor, works with Williams Transco on other issues and has agreed to delay the start from this April until a later date.

Mr. Boyd stated that the approved security cameras have been installed on Inkerman Road with an additional camera at the pole barn access gate. Computer Visionaries, Inc. (CVI) also installed one approved solar powered security camera on Old Mill Road for testing. Some discussions ensued.

Mr. Boyd reminded Solicitor Len Sanguedolce on the need for a letter to be sent to the Luzerne Co. Communications Center (911) on the Pittston Ambulance first due change for the borough. Plains Ambulance will now be the second due ambulance or medic unit to town.

Mr. Boyd advised councilmembers on the upcoming municipal elections for council and mayor positions. He noted that nomination paperwork is ready at the Luzerne County Election Bureau and needs to be completed and submitted to them by March 14, 2023 to be placed on the ballot. He hoped all current elected officials would be interested in continuing on.

Mr. Boyd informed councilmembers about the proposed warehouses in Jenkins Township near Laflin Borough. Information was posted on the borough website and social media to inform town residents of the issue. A Jenkins Township meeting was noted for Thursday, February 16, 2023 regarding the warehouse issue. Some discussions ensued on the current zoning in that area, the amount of additional truck traffic the warehouses would bring on Rt.315 with lost tractor trailers within the borough, and the possibility of a new traffic signal light needed on Rt. 315.

Mr. Boyd reminded elected officials on the need to file their state ethics financial disclosure forms with the borough office before May 1st.

Mayor's Report – No report presented.

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

Motion to Approve: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A) Additional Security Camera for Lower Playground Footbridge Parking Lot –
CVI Proposal \$1,030.55

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the installation of the added camera at the footbridge.

Motion to Approve: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Absent

Anthony D’Eliseo Abstained

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

- B) Williams Transco Pipeline Construction Route Road Use Agreement –
Revised \$200,000 Road Use Bond

Mr. Yastremski explained that the bond would cover potential damage to the borough roads by heavy construction vehicles during the gas pipeline project. This bond would be used in case Williams refused to pay for the roads to be repaired if damage occurs. It is highly unlikely but it is something that needs to be in place to protect the residents. The original bond amount proposed was based on PennDOT standards but seemed to be too low in total. Mr. Yastremski asked if anyone had questions and then asked for a motion to approve the road use agreement with the revised bond amount of \$200,000.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Absent

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

- C) Williams Transco Pipeline Construction Closure of Walking Track & Ballfields Areas –
Tentative on FERC Approval (contingent on pipeline construction activity)

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve closure of the ballfield / walking track area of Creekside Community Park during gas pipeline construction for safety reasons.

Motion to Close Area: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- D) Municipal Roadway Pothole Patching and Curb Repairs, if needed –
Up to \$5,000 from the Municipal Liquid Fuels Fund

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve pothole patching and curb damage repairs, as needed to \$5,000.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello	<u>Yes</u>
Paul Benderavich	<u>Absent</u>
Anthony D’Eliseo	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

- E) Municipal Roadway Crack Sealing Work for 2023 –
Up to \$10,000 from the Municipal Liquid Fuels Fund

After some discussion on the need for crack sealing work and the additional sealing work needed since the contractor wasn’t available in 2022, Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for roadway crack sealing work in place of the indicated agenda amount of \$8,000.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello	<u>Yes</u>
Paul Benderavich	<u>Absent</u>
Anthony D’Eliseo	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

- F) Proposed Warehouse Construction in Jenkins Township –

Mr. Yastremski explained that a letter should be sent to Jenkins Township Supervisors indicating Laflin Borough Council’s position on the requested zoning change for the proposed warehouse site in Jenkins Township. Mr. Boyd noted two upcoming township meetings on the issue and, if a letter is going to be sent, it should be sent soon. Mr. Yastremski asked if anyone is opposed to sending a letter indicating the borough objection to the proposed project. After no disapproval voiced, Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to have a letter sent to Jenkins Township Supervisors objecting to the proposed warehouses that will bring additional truck traffic to the area.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

G) Lafin Borough Rec Summer Camp & Community Yard Sale –
Discussion

Some discussion took place on having a community yard sale and a date was set for Saturday, June 24, 2023. Advertisements will be placed in three local papers a minimal cost to the borough. No objection was made for hosting the annual Rec Board Summer Camp program again this year. Counselor positions will be offered to prior year counselors. The cost is already included in the approved budget. Dates will still need to be determined.

No voting was needed.

Other / Non-Agenda Items:

Councilman Kyle Costello indicated a few borough residents inquired to him on the borough or rec board purchasing equipment and providing an area for the game of Pickleball. According to Mr. Costello equipment would run about \$200 to \$300. He believes grant funding should be looked into for a Pickleball court installation behind the borough building firehouse. Some communities are converting tennis courts into Pickleball courts and the game is becoming very popular. Some discussions followed on the existing older tennis court on private property in the borough, funding for equipment from the rec board, temporary equipment for use on the basketball court and investigating grant opportunities for court installation.

Public Comments:

Melissa Werner, 28 Fairfield Drive – inquired about the progress on her request from last meeting for lighting to be added to the Old Mill Road area. Mr. Boyd responded to say that he was waiting on a ppl Electric technician to get back to him on meeting to check feasibility. Mr. Boyd also noted he emailed Mrs. Werner the survey map on existing lighting in the area.

Executive Session:

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to leave the regular meeting and enter executive session to discuss the Daniel Evancho agreement.

Motion for Executive Session: Anthony D’Eliseo at 6:26pm
Second: Marc Malvizzi
Ayes were unanimous.

Motion to reconvene regular meeting by: Marc Malvizzi at 6:35pm
Second by: Anthony D’Eliseo
Ayes were unanimous.

Atty. Leonard Sanguedolce noted the information discussed in the executive session were the terms of the retirement agreement with Daniel Evancho.

Atty. Leonard Sanguedolce asked for a motion to approve the retirement agreement with Daniel Evancho and to authorize the Council President to make any changes necessary to finalize the agreement.

Motion to Approve Agreement: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello	<u>Yes</u>
Paul Benderavich	<u>Absent</u>
Anthony D'Eliseo	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:37pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Marc Malvizzi

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Lafin Borough

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