

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

March 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 – Paul Benderavich – Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Kyle Costello

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

**Special Presentations:** None

**Minutes:** February 14, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Yastremski asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. Asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

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: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

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

Ayes carried and motion passed.

Mr. Boyd added that he received the LSA Grant money and will pay Don E. Bower, Inc. for the Inkerman Road Flood Abatement work completed. This was previously approved but included on the current list of bills.

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

**Reports:**

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

The state police discontinued providing monthly reports since the completion of the PSP crime data website.

**Manager's Report –**

Mr. Boyd spoke on the Williams Transco gas pipeline project and noted that representatives from the gas company were due to attend the council meeting but, due to a delay in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval and bad weather, they were asked to attend the April council meeting instead. A large gas pipeline map will be positioned in the borough building for residents to review, as needed. Most questions from residents are asked on the location of the pipeline. Having a full-sized map will help answer those questions since recent postings by the borough on social media and the website had smaller sectional maps. Mr. Boyd indicated the FERC approval will be, or should be, obtained on Thursday (3/16/23). The commission has a regularly scheduled meeting set with the gas pipeline on their agenda. Again, as noted in the past, the trees must be felled before the local bat population comes out of hibernation at the end of March. Trees only need to be cut down and not necessarily logged and removed.

The Jenkins Township proposed zoning change request for warehouses off Rt.315 near Laflin Borough was denied by the township officials. The company has not appealed the decision. The owner of the property is contemplating an appeal but MOTUS, the company requesting the change, has taken it off their website.

The borough's COSTAR bulk salt contract with the state for the 2023-2024 winter season was renewed.

**Mayor's Report – No report presented**

**Grant Report –**

Mr. Boyd reported on two possible grant opportunities as a follow-up on Councilman Kyle Costello's request at the last council meeting for Pickleball equipment and to look into grant opportunities for a dedicated court installation. One grant opportunity has a deadline that can not be met due to the requirements of a study and the documents needed for submission. That deadline for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant is the first week in April. A second grant, that could provide funding, would be through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The DCED Greenways Trail grant program might provide funding and has a submission deadline in June. DCNR would fund a Pickleball court installation but it is a competitive grant that requires 50% municipal matching funds. Only about 60% of the applications as a whole (all types) get approved. Mr. Boyd indicated the estimated cost of a typical court installation was between \$50,000 and \$70,000 with fencing and engineering work. A similar grant through DCNR for small communities has a smaller required match. Again, the DCNR grants have a quick deadline.

Mr. Boyd is waiting on pricing for Pickleball equipment to be used temporarily on the basketball court.

Mr. Benderavich suggested that the potential grant request should be for a tennis court and Pickleball court combination for multi-use. Mr. Yastremski concurred.

Some discussion ensued on the hidden tennis courts already existing in the borough that don't have available access and are in poor condition.

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) Proposed Street Lights for Old Mill Road –

Mr. Boyd reported on his information for additional lighting on Old Mill Road which was previously sent to councilmembers by email. Street lights would be provided at no installation cost to the borough by ppl Electric. A utility pole with 150' of wiring along with an LED street light would cost the borough approximately \$16.00 per month per light according to the electric company. Mr. Boyd estimated the monthly cost was probably an old estimate and, with the current electric rates, the actual cost would be \$20.00 to \$25.00 per month per light.

One of the problems is that the lights have to be extended down from existing poles to get to the center area of Old Mill Road where the problem of low lighting exists. You have to start on the ends and work your way in to get to the center. Each pole is required to have a light on it to get the free installation from ppl Electric. That might add too much lighting and be too bright in that area. Also, some trees may need to be cut and some trimmed to allow for installation with an estimated cost of \$1,000 to \$2,000 per Mr. Boyd. The electric company could do the tree work but at a higher cost to the borough than the private market.

Mr. Boyd suggested, as an option, that the borough could start with two street light installations and add on at a later date, if needed.

Mr. Yastremski spoke on the costs needed to remove and trim trees. The initial concern is paying for the tree work and where would it come from out of the 2023 budget. There isn't a problem with the monthly light cost. Mr. Yastremski believes waiting to determine the cost on the Chestnutwood Stormwater Piping project and, on the cost of a few other budget items, would be the best course of action. That is the major hold up in seeing what is leftover after those costs are identified. Mr. Yastremski asked Mr. Boyd if the stormwater project is ready to bid out and if he could obtain pricing on tree removal in that area in question.

Mr. Yastremski opened up the floor for other councilmembers.

Mayor Kennedy said that if it fits into the budget, it would be a 'no brainer' to get the lights installed. Councilman Benderavich interjected and asked Mr. Boyd if he obtained the numbers back for the new proposed pavilion and new sign in lower Laffin. Mr. Boyd responded to say that some pricing came back but it was inaccurate and the wrong design.

Some discussions took place on timing of bidding the Chestnutwood Stormwater project, the metal pavilion, new sign installation, and pricing on 6"x6" brown PVC border ties at the lower playground. Mr. Boyd indicated the current pricing estimate for 6"x6" wood border ties with installation by Cut Rite Lawn Services is \$9,000.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to table the issue until May so that all the costs are available and then it could be determined if funds are available for the lighting project.

Motion to Table: Anthony D’Eliseo  
Second: Marc Malvizzi  
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**New Business:**

- A) Hire Part-time Plow Driver –  
Salvatore J. Giamber

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to hire Salvatore Giamber as a part-time plow driver.

Motion to Hire: Anthony D’Eliseo  
Second: Paul Benderavich  
Roll Call:  
Kyle Costello Absent  
Paul Benderavich Yes  
Anthony D’Eliseo Yes  
Marc Malvizzi Yes  
Carl Yastremski Yes  
Motion passed.

- B) Lafin Rec Board Summer Camp Counselors -  
Confirm: Noelle Benderavich and Sara Zydallas

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to confirm Noelle Benderavich and Sara Zydallas as summer camp counselors for 2023.

Motion to Confirm: Anthony D’Eliseo  
Second: Marc Malvizzi  
Roll Call:  
Kyle Costello Absent  
Paul Benderavich Abstained on Noelle Benderavich (wife)  
Anthony D’Eliseo Yes  
Marc Malvizzi Yes  
Carl Yastremski Yes  
Motion passed.

- C) Approve Chestnutwood Drive Stormwater Bid Advertisement –

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the Chestnutwood Drive stormwater project bid advertisement. Mr. Boyd stated that the design still needs to be finalized and some questions still need to be answered but this would allow for the project to be bid out for pricing.

Motion to Approve Chestnutwood Stormwater Project Bid: Paul Benderavich  
Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Boyd asked councilmembers to consider amending the motion to allow for Council President Yastremski to make some decisions on specification changes prior to bidding the Chestnutwood Stormwater project. Mr. Boyd indicated that a decision needs to be made on connecting the Maplewood Drive stormwater pipe that currently runs under the project pipe down to the ballfields and walking track area. A second decision needs to be made on increasing the Chestnutwood pipe to 24" diameter and modifying some catch basin inlets to accommodate the larger pipe size. Much discussion ensued.

Solicitor Sanguedolce summarized the amended motion to authorized Council President to make decisions concerning the Chestnutwood Stormwater project bid advertisement.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D'Eliseo  
Second: Paul Benderavich  
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) 38 Laurelwood Drive Vacant Lot Municipal Liens –

Solicitor Sanguedolce, Esq. explained that the property was in the 2021 free and clear tax sale where he was present and authorized by Laflin Borough Council to bid on the property up to a certain amount. He assumes the borough received notice since he was there bidding on the property. He believes, by looking back at his notes, there were about \$75,000 owed in back taxes and \$25,000 in liens. The buyers' attorney is asking for the liens to be satisfied or for the borough to send a letter on the liens. Atty. Sanguedolce believes we can never collect on the liens and he suggests we do it; whatever they are asking us to do. Attorney Sanguedolce doesn't have the authority to do it on his own and requested it be put on the agenda that the municipal authority is to satisfy the liens or send a letter to the title company that the liens are extinguished.

Councilman Benderavich interjected and asked who is the attorney. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded that he received a copy of the email from Attorney Angelo Terrana's office but doesn't know if it is the buyers' or seller's attorney.

A resident, J.P. Endler 124 Cedarwood Drive who currently owns the property, asked from the audience if he can give an update to councilmembers. Mr. Endler indicated that Melissa from Attorney Terrana's office is handling the closing and the it is proceeding to closing next week. Laflin Borough may not need to do anything with the sewer and trash liens at this point. He believes a lien for the demolition cost was never placed on the property by the borough. He believes the liens would have been wiped-out at the free and clear sale. Elite Revenue Solutions should handle the sewer & trash lien satisfaction. The title insurance company is okay with closing on the property as-is but will try to clear-up the lien. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded to say if anything is asked of him, he will do it. Some discussions followed.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve Solicitor Leonard Sanguedolce to draft a letter to satisfy the lien on the property at 38 Laurelwood Drive, if necessary.

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Motion to Approve Satisfying the Lien: Anthony D'Eliseo  
Second: Paul Benderavich

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed.

**Public Comments:** None

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:27pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough

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