

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

April 11, 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 – Paul Benderavich – Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Anthony D’Eliseo and Kyle Costello

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

Special Presentation: Williams Transco Gas Pipeline Project

Allan R. Berenbrok, Roadway Permitting Engineer – Brett Becker, Engineering Group – 2 Other Representatives

Mr. Berenbrok introduced himself and noted he has been working with Mr. Boyd for the last 2 years on the proposed Williams Transco Gas Pipeline project. He also introduced other representatives: Brett Becker, Pipeline Engineering Department; Matt Hoare, Construction Chief Inspector; Lance Stange, Public Outreach.

Mr. Berenbrok indicated he didn’t have much of a presentation but indicated that they should be able to answer any questions on the project. Copies of the project map were presented that indicated where the proposed and existing pipelines are in the borough. He also brought in a large map that indicated the haul routes for the project where bonds have been placed on the two main routes with other town roads having light duty traffic. Mr. Berenbrok noted an agreement with the borough is already in place and stated that if any road damage occurs, Mr. Boyd will call him and they will take care of it and make repairs. A roadway inspector will be in the area during construction. At the end of the project the roads will be inspected and compared to the preconstruction videos that are already completed.

Councilman Benderavich asked if a street sweeper would be staged in town during construction. Mr. Berenbrok replied. If the roads get dirty or muddy, they have to comply with their environmental permits and each instance must be dealt with immediately. If it becomes a problem, they will stage a street sweeper on site. Dust complaints are more common this time of year and a call to Mr. Berenbrok will have the inspectors out and things will be cleaned up.

Mr. Becker spoke on the construction schedule, in general terms, and noted crews should be back in town in late April and, the current construction schedule, indicated that work will be completed through the borough by the end of July. That would be the stretch from I 81 to the river, a 3.5-mile segment, done by the end of July. Mr. Boyd asked for clarification on what specifically would be done. Mr. Becker responded that pipe installation, clean-up, etc. but hydrotesting will still need to be done. Above ground activities will be done.

Resident Justin Ryncavage asked what are the hours of operations. Mr. Becker responded to say that they are typically 7am to 5pm, Monday through Saturday. Sunday work will be on an as needed basis and they would need to have a strong reason to work on Sunday. Mr. Ryncavage followed-up with a question on tree clearing. Mr. Becker indicated all the tree felling is done.

Mr. Berenbrok spoke on the need for flaggers at the curve on Laflin Road (meant Union Street) near the ballfield access road. PennDOT is requiring traffic controllers there at all times, during all working hours, due to the site distance requirements. The ballfield access road will be blocked-off. The old DPW wall across from the access road will be rebuilt per PennDOT and environmental requirements. Materials will be reused on site and put back as close as they can to the original.

Councilman Yastremski asked for clarification on a letter many residents received from Vibertech regarding interior and exterior videoing of homes within a certain distance from the pipeline construction. He asked why it is something that needs to be done. Mr. Becker responded to say that it is a structural inspection to ensure that anything pre-construction is documented so that any vibration issued caused by the pipeline work can be recorded. Mr. Yastremski follow-up with a question on what is anticipated in Laflin in regards to blasting? Mr. Becker responded to say that it depends on the situation and location but some areas are restricted due to the local bat population. Some blasting will take place but it is very focused and regulated by PennDOT and the blasting permits that the contractor gets from the state. Councilman Malvizzi asked what notice will be given before blasting happens in the borough. Some discussions continued on the type of blasting, restrictions on areas for blasting, rock hammering, rock sawing, and notifications on blasting events.

Allan Berenbrok concluded and asked if anyone had additional questions, to reach out to him and they will be taken care of quickly. Mr. Yastremski thanked the representatives for attending the council meeting.

Minutes: March 14, 2023 Meeting

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: Marc Malvizzi
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: Marc Malvizzi
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the bills for \$ 97,563.94 plus payroll \$ 9,636.10.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich
Second: Marc Malvizzi
Roll Call:
Ayes carried and motion passed.

Correspondences (e-mailed to Council during the month): Mr. Yastremski thanked Mr. Boyd for sending all correspondence during the month. No discussions.

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 gave information on the Chestnutwood Stormwater Project replacement pipe. The project was advertised on Friday, April 7, 2023 and plans have been sent to approximately seven contractors for bidding. A preconstruction meeting is set for Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 10am. Bid proposals are due Thursday, April 20, 2023. Council will have them available for the next council meeting in May to act upon.

Mr. Boyd noted that the council meeting room was painted recently by Michael Dudeck, Laflin DPW. It was also noted that Mike Dudeck worked on clearing and grading the sewer cross country run off Old Mill Road to ensure truck access to that area in case of a sewer issue in the wooded area. Mr. Dudeck will bring-in stone for gully areas that are potential MS4 stormwater issues.

Pennoni Associates, Inc. inspected the proposed demolition project that will be funded by the Luzerne Co. Community Development office from HUB block grant funds. Our borough engineer was inspecting for asbestos and other airborne items that may need to be mitigated prior to demolition. Luzerne Co. Community Development will also perform an environmental study before demolition specs can be developed to bid. CDBG funding was approved for Laflin Borough demolition for the rear structure at 877 Union Street.

It was noted that Jenkins Township replaced their culvert pipe across Inkerman Road at the former flood abatement project area in anticipation of the upcoming paving projects that will occur on the road with Laflin Borough grant funds and, separately, Jenkins Township funds. Their culvert pipe was replaced and paved over and Laflin Borough will change both culvert pipes in our town during the Inkerman Road paving project that will take place later this year.

Mr. Boyd also spoke on the completion of work for the solar powered security camera installations. An additional camera was installed on Old Mill Road, one on Fordham Road and a third, on Union Street near the 'S' turns. The borough now has a total for four (4) solar powered security cameras with internet connection. The second camera proposed for Fordham Road was not feasible so it was relocated to the 'S' turn area to help prevent illegal dumping in that area. It was noted that the Pennsylvania State Police did cite an individual in that area, prior to the camera installation, and that this could help with enforcement and preventing issues with trash dumped.

Mr. Boyd spoke on a potential grant opportunity for Pickleball court funding from an upcoming DCNR grant. He anticipated input from Councilman Costello (absent) to discuss moving forward on the grant submission but also noted the large matching funding requirement needed. A decision will need to be made soon on moving forward with the request but the matching fund requirement is not in the current year budget. A tennis court or Pickleball court installation could be estimated at \$50,000 to \$70,000. The matching grant would be at 50%. Mr. Boyd didn't hear from Mr. Costello on purchasing equipment through the Laflin Rec Board for temporary Pickleball equipment. Some discussions followed.

Laflin Rec Board Summer Camp program is moving along in planning. A change will be made to discontinue the Friday farmer's market food produce distribution. This will be eliminated since distribution of the produce and storage until Tuesday's trash day is problematic. CEO, the company that provides food to the program, will still provide a nutrition program for the children.

Mayor's Report – No report presented

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

Motion to Accept: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Amended Resolution for Luzerne Co. Community Development CDBG Demolition Block Grant – Resolution #3 of 2023

Mr. Benderavich made a motion to approve the amended resolution.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- B) Yatesville Borough Sewer / Wastewater Flow Meter Installation Request –

Mr. Yastremski asked if a request letter was received from Yatesville Borough. Mr. Boyd responded to indicate a letter was not received to date. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to table the issue until such time that an official request is made to the borough.

Motion to Table: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

- A) Appoint New Laflin Borough Rec Board Member – Kelly LoBrutto

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Kelly LoBrutto to the Laflin Rec Board.

Motion to Approve Appointment: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Absent

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Absent

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) Anthony Burko 914 Union Street Sewer Billing Suspension Request –

Mr. Yastremski explained the request was due to a dispensation from the Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority (WVSA) on granting a suspension of their sewer treatment billing. Mr. Malvizzi responded to say that past practices have not allowed for this request to suspend billing and he didn't want to set a precedent on vacant structures. Mr. Benderavich responded to say that this could affect the garbage billing when residents ask for suspension of billing due to living in Florida six months of the year. Mr. Benderavich made a motion to deny the request to suspend the Laflin Borough sewer billing for 914 Union Street.

Motion to Deny: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) MS4 Stormwater Pipe Issue at 8 Dogwood Drive –

Mr. Yastremski explained that this issue arose in the last 48 hrs. and asked Mr. Boyd if the sewer authority (WVSA) was at the property. Mr. Boyd explained that WVSA did inspect the situation and he did request that they address the pipe replacement. WVSA will bring a camera to scope the stormwater pipe to better determine what the problem could be since a surface visual inspection couldn't determine it. Mr. Boyd stated that the water is leaving the pipe and washing out alongside of the pipe until it outfalls at the rear of the property. This can be seen at the outfall area and by the erosion alongside the stormwater pipe.

Mr. Benderavich explained the history of the pipe along with prior problems with it and indicated it is imperative that the issue is addressed.

Mr. Benderavich made a motion to review the pending WVSA camera work and then put the pipe replacement out to bid to see where we are at with cost. This would be based on Joe Mullen's recommendations.

Discussions continued on what the camera work might find, the process on bidding, the idea of including correcting the outfall at the same time, the use of WVSA saving fund that has already been pledged as matching funds to another stormwater grant project and if specifications are needed for the project.

Motion to Bid: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D)

Public Comments:

Anthony Menendez, 4 Walnutwood Drive – Introduced himself and his son-in-law, Justin Ryncavage, who also lives on Walnutwood Drive. He stated the reason he was attending the council meeting was to, again, express his interest, and Mr. Ryncavage's interest, to purchase property behind their homes from Laflin Borough. This was brought before council approximately a year ago according to Mr. Menendez. He believed survey costs and deed problems were the holdup at that time. Mr. Ryncavage interject to add that he understands that

whatever the borough did was to prevent building or development of anything back there but, as he drives around, he gets more concerned because stuff is popping-up everywhere. He is looking for 200' behind his property, and so is Mr. Menendez, that is basically a sloped hill. He asked if the borough was interested in selling this land. Mr. Menendez interjected to add or if the borough is willing to sell the land. Mr. Menendez recently spoke to Mr. Boyd about survey issues and he believes that isn't a problem since things are done by satellites now and shouldn't cost that much to complete. He believes that the pipeline coordinates are established now and their properties can be extended to meet them.

Discussions continued on: certified land appraisals and value of the land, bidding requirements, their intentions to maintain a buffer between the quarry, the leverage the borough had to work with the gas company to move the pipeline location, and rails-to-trails master plan for recreation. Much discussion continued.

Mr. Menendez stated that if it is a hardship or difficulty for the borough, he was willing to get a surveyor to do the work and he would pay for the subdivision costs. Solicitor Sanguedolce indicated that this would be possible and could work but council needs to discuss at the next meeting. Some discussions continued.

Councilman Benderavich, in his opinion, stated that the property is in better hands with Laflin Borough. He respects Mr. Menendez's position to protect his assets but, for the good of the community, it is in the best hands of this municipality. Mr. Menendez disagreed.

Councilman Yastremski voiced his concerns on subdividing off the property in that area and then, in the future, the property could end up in the Luzerne Co. repository and sit without ownership. A similar situation is happening on Chestnutwood Drive where one wooded parcel is in the repository and, another nearby, will be in the repository soon. Mr. Boyd noted that the property, if subdivided off, could be joined to the resident's existing parcel in the same subdivision process. Instead of having two parcels they would have one parcel combined.

Solicitor Sanguedolce advised that this should be added to the agenda for next month so that all councilmembers are present to decide. In the meantime, he will discuss the issue with Attorney Angelo Terrana who is more versed with the subdivision situation.

Justin Ryncavage 2-1/2 Walnutwood Drive – spoke along with Mr. Menendez on the same topic of purchasing property behind their lands.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:08pm.

Motion: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough

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