

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.
December 13, 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 – Anthony D’Eliseo, Vice President – Paul Benderavich – Kyle Costello –
Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: None

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

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: November 8, 2022 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: 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: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Yastremski noted that everyone on council received a copy of the bills and then asked for a motion to approve the bills.

\$ 161,211.69 plus payroll \$10,976.60

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D’Eliseo

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Malvizzi abstained on the Yesco invoice due to employment.

Ayes carried and motion passed.

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

Reports:

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

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

Manager's Report –

Mr. Boyd indicated that the 2021 General Borough Audit was completed and emailed to councilmembers. The audit had no problems noted.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the addition of new security cameras at the intersection of Union Street and East Saylor Avenue. A few additional cameras need to be installed as indicated in the approved proposal.

Tree clearing work was completed at the lower playground which completed the approved project. This included the area of the ballfields and walking track.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the completion of the Inkerman Road Flood Abatement project. A tail ditch was added along the pole barn road to increase the water volume retention capacity.

The scheduled dates for the 2023 Laflin Borough Council meetings were advertised in the Times Leader newspaper, as required.

Mayor's Report – No report presented.

Grant Report – No report presented.

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

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

A) Laflin Borough Ambulance Service Provider –

Mr. Yastremski noted that Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance and Plains Volunteer Ambulance both previously gave presentations on their associations and indicated the borough needed to make a decision on whether to switch associations or stay with Plains Ambulance. Mr. Malvizzi said that both organizations are quality organizations. Based on the presentations, he believes that Pittston Ambulance has more equipment and, certainly, more vehicles. He believes Pittston Ambulance would make more of the initial calls but both have a great and talented staff. Mr. Malvizzi said that the Laflin Fire Department would be happy to work with either organization. Mr. Benderavich interjected and asked if Mr. Malvizzi had any issues with Plains Ambulance handling calls since he remembers that five years ago the fire department voiced concerns at that time. Mr. Malvizzi responded that his concerns were more with the financial issues at that time but he hasn't had any issues with them covering calls in the last two or three years. Some discussions ensued on Pittston Ambulance staffing levels; plans for a larger ambulance building; Pittston Ambulance named EMA Agency of

the Year for the entire state of Pennsylvania in 2019; staff pay is better than other organizations; Laflin Borough being part of the original Greater Pittston Ambulance charter communities in 1952; fund drive procedures; and proper notice to both associations.

Mr. Yastremski asked what council would like to do. Mr. D’Eliseo made a motion to switch from Plains Volunteer Ambulance to Greater Pittston Regional Ambulance Association as the primary ambulance.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. D’Eliseo made a motion for the effective date of the switch to be on April 1, 2023.

Motion to Approve: Anthony D’Eliseo

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D’Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Yastremski thanked Mr. Lombardo and Edward Szafran who were in attendance. Both are members of the Greater Pittston Ambulance Association.

B) Internet Service Provider for Rt.315 / Laflin Road Security Cameras –

Mr. Yastremski stated that a decision needed to be made to use hard wired service through RCN or go with wireless service through Verizon Wireless. Some discussions ensued with Councilman D’Eliseo indicating wired service would be better but the wireless service would be more cost effective. Some discussions followed.

All agreed that wireless service would be the way to go. No vote taken.

C) 3rd / Final Reading 2023 Laflin Borough Operating Budget –

Mr. Yastremski read the final operating budget with noted revenues of \$1,166,044.00 and total expenditures of \$1,166,044.00 for the general operating budget (excluding the enterprise funds and state liquid fuels accounts). Mr. Yastremski brought to the attention of other councilmembers, to make them aware, that there is approximately \$537,000.00 in non-recurring revenues. The budget has a carry forward of about \$236,000.00 and grant revenues account for \$302,000.00. Mr. Yastremski wanted to point out the situation because the

revenues will drop 46% after next year going forward. Mr. Yastremski indicated that, unless the borough receives grant funds, the borough will not have funds for capital improvement projects. In addition, the borough has a contract for electrical supply service that will expire in 2024. The current yearly total is approximately \$34,000.00 with a projected rate increase of 75%.

Mr. Boyd added that the state liquid fuel fund will take a hit this year with the traffic light repairs needed at Rt.315 and Laflin Road.

Mr. Yastremski noted that the proposed budget does not include an increase in property taxes nor the need for a tax anticipation note for the start of the year. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the budget as read.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

D) 2023 Budget & Tax Authorization Resolution –
Resolution #15 of 2022

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the resolution on tax authorization.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

New Business:

A) Pennoni Associates Borough Engineering Agreement for 2023 –

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the Pennoni Associates, Inc. borough engineering agreement.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Northeast Land Bank Authority Membership (Pittston) –

Mr. Yastremski noted that this was discussed in the past with regards to blighted and abandoned properties but council took no action on joining. Mr. Yastremski noted that Laflin Borough doesn't have too much of this issue. Mr. Boyd added that a structure in lower Laflin will be removed by Laflin Borough with Luzerne Co. Community Block Grant funds. Mr. Benderavich doesn't think the borough needs to join since strict code enforcement is all that is needed. Solicitor Sanguedolce indicated there was a \$1,500.00 annual fee to cover some costs of insurances. After some discussions, no action was taken on joining.

C) Joseph Semyon Trucking for Back-up Plow Company –
\$95.00/hr. for truck & driver

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve Joseph Semyon Trucking for the back-up plow company.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Additional Security Camera at Pole Barn Access Gate –
CVI Proposal \$753.00

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Councilman D'Eliseo abstained due to CVI employment.

Ayes carried and motion passed.

E) Replacement of Inkerman Road Culvert Pipes –
Don E. Bower, Inc. Change Order Proposal \$25,700.00 for both culvert pipes

Mr. Yastremski stated that the culvert pipes were inspected and found to be rotted on the bottom sections. Camera work was completed by Koberlein Environmental. Don E. Bower, Inc. was asked to provide a proposal since they are the approved contractor to pave Inkerman Road.

Mr. Boyd noted that the Pennsylvania State Boroughs Association indicated 15% of the paving contract could be used as the recommended percentage for allowable change orders on an awarded project. Also, Jonathan Brett, DCED LSA Grants Department said this would be okay but grant funds should not be used since it isn't in the grant scope. Solicitor Sanguedolce indicated that this is an exception to the bidding rules

Some discussions continued with Joseph Sperrazza, Jenkins Township Supervisor (who was in attendance) asking if both sets of culvert pipes (both in different towns) could be bid out at the same time. Discussions followed.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to accept the Don E. Bower, Inc. change order proposal for \$25,700 for both culvert pipe replacements on Inkerman Road in Laflin Borough prior to road paving work.

Motion to Approve: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Yes

Anthony D'Eliseo Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Mr. Boyd noted that this would be paid from the general fund and not available through the grant funding.

F) Laflin Borough Police Pension & Non-Pension Benefits –

Mr. Yastremski noted that this item would be moved to executive session for further discussions. Mr. Benderavich requested to allow Mr. Daniel Evancho, Jr. (who was in attendance) to speak prior to the executive session.

See Public Comments for Mr. Evancho's remarks. See below, under executive session, for vote taken on this matter.

[[Public Comments were held prior to Executive Session]]

Non-Agenda Items: [[This item was discussed prior to item "F" of New Business]]

Mr. Yastremski informed councilmembers on a grant application project submission that ran into a problem regarding the scope of work. The DCED grant is a Small Water ARPA grant they cannot have non related grant projects package under one grant if they are not interrelated. If the grant application is going to move forward, it will need to be scaled back to include only one proposed project.

After some discussions on the lower Laflin stormwater project, catch basin inlets and sewer manholes on Laflin Road with the possibility of future paving work on the state road, Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion.

Motion to add grant scope discussion to the agenda for a vote.

Motion to Add Item to the Agenda: Paul Benderavich

Second: Anthony D'Eliseo

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to narrow the grant scope for the state Small Water ARPA grant submission to just include the lower Laflin stormwater work and maintenance equipment. This would include approval of a revised resolution for the same.

Motion to Approve New Grant Scope: Paul Benderavich
Second: Anthony D'Eliseo
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments:

Daniel Evancho, 27 Fairfield Drive – Spoke to councilmembers prior to the executive session regarding his retirement from Laflin Borough (police department). Mr. Evancho presented paperwork dated: May 19, 2008 indicating his commencement date for receiving pension benefits was January 1, 2023. A benefit calculation form was also provided at that time by Barbara Fairchild (Laflin Borough Manager in 2008) with the letter to Mr. Evancho that noted his retirement benefits. He wanted to know if his pension benefit were included in the new budget for 2023. Mr. Yastremski responded to say that pension benefits are not part of the general operating budget. Mr. Evancho asked if the funds are available and why there is an executive session scheduled. Some discussions continued.

Mr. Evancho concluded to indicate that this was his only concern - to ensure councilmembers were aware of the commencement of his pension benefits.

Melissa Werner, 28 Fairfield Drive – Inquired on the process to request additional street lights on Old Mill Road since it is very dark at night. Some discussions followed on prior requests in other areas of the borough; some residents are not in favor of more street lights; the borough would survey residents in that area; and the need for additional lighting at the curve on Fairfield Drive.

Mr. Yastremski asked Mr. Boyd to discuss the situation with ppl Utilities, survey residents in the area, and then it would be discussed at the next council meeting.

Executive Session:

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to leave the regular meeting and enter executive session to discuss personnel issues on employee pension benefits

Motion for Executive Session: Anthony D'Eliseo at 7:08pm
Second: Paul Benderavich
Ayes were unanimous.

Motion to reconvene regular meeting by: Paul Benderavich at 7:39pm
Second by: Anthony D'Eliseo
Ayes were unanimous.

Atty. Leonard Sanguedolce noted the reason for the executive session was related to a legal issue concerning a former police officer's eligibility for benefits under the police pension plan.

Mr. D'Eliseo made a motion to table discussions on 'New Business Item F) Police Pension Benefits' until next month.

Motion to Table: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:40pm.

Motion: Anthony D'Eliseo

Second: Paul Benderavich

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Laflin Borough

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