

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

June 13, 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 – Kyle Costello – Marc Malvizzi – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Anthony D’Eliseo and Paul Benderavich

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

Donald J. Totino, P.E. - Pennoni Associates, Inc. - Borough Engineer

**Special Presentations:** None

**Minutes:** May 9, 2023 Meeting

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

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

Motion to Accept: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

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.

\$53,776.68 plus payroll \$17,749.30

Motion to Approve: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Correspondences (e-mailed to Council during the month):** Mr. Yastremski thanked Mr. Boyd for providing all correspondences by email. 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 reported on the progress of the Williams Transco Gas Pipeline construction in Laflin Borough. Two (2) issues of roadway dust and dirt should have been resolved by the gas company. It was noted that a resident on Dogwood Drive who initial complained to the borough on dirt and dust was happy with their response. He said that the gas company is using the water truck and sweeper for the hill on Dogwood Drive. Mr. Boyd noted the agenda item for a request from the gas company that will be discussed later in the meeting.

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

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

Motion to Approve: Kyle Costello

Second: Marc Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) Dogwood Drive Stormwater Pipe Replacement Extension –

GP Sewer & Water                      \$635.00 (45° Angled Pipe Extension)

Mr. Yastremski explained that this extension would be added to the stormwater pipe that was just replaced at Jeff Yench's home (8 Dogwood) to the back of his property due to a collapse. The storm pipe takes a lot of water from Dogwood Drive and Sprucewood Drive. Mr. Boyd added that this would help slow the water down as it leaves the pipe on the outfall end. Mr. Yastremski indicated it seemed like a good idea.

Motion to Approve: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) New LSA Grant Submission Project(s) for September Deadline –

Discussion only – No vote taken

Some projects mentioned as possible grant ideas were: all stormwater outfalls improved; paving project for E. Saylor Ave that could be partially funded by Williams Gas Company since they are using the road heavily; backhoe attachment for the borough's compact tractor; and a pickleball/tennis court.

Mr. Boyd noted that the borough did already receive grants for previously discussed projects: Storz fire hydrant adapters; lower Laflin Stormwater rehab project; and a utility DPW pickup truck.

Mr. Boyd also spoke on the pending Green Light-Go state grant for the traffic light upgrade; the borough building generator grant already awarded; and the pending stormwater grant under the ARPA state funds.

Mr. Yastremski advised anyone to email Mr. Boyd if other ideas are thought of before next month's meeting since a determination needs to be made on which project or projects to apply for in September.

C) Laflin Borough Tree Removal & Tree Trimming Work –

Mr. Boyd wanted this item discussed so that councilmembers are aware of the tree work costs. This would help with making decisions on other projects, especially the street lights proposed for Old Mill Road. Mr. Boyd reviewed the proposal noting the \$1,800 for tree removal and trimming on Old Mill Road would only need to be done if the lighting project is approved. The \$1,100 for stormwater outfall area is only needed if rehab work is approved for Old Mill Road added street lights. Mr. Yastremski tabled the item for future discussions. Discussion only – No vote taken.

D) Security Camera Policy Discussions –

Mr. Yastremski noted the draft policy and ordinance prepared and emailed by Solicitor Sanguedolce to all elected officials regarding security camera usage and video sharing. Mr. Yastremski asked councilmembers to review the draft so that a final policy and ordinance can be presented and acted on at the July council meeting.

Some discussions took place. Discussion only – No vote taken.

E) Rear Walnutwood / Rear Cherrywood Property Sale / Conservatory Discussions –

Mr. Boyd indicated that this issue should be tabled until North Branch Land Trust can provide information on their conservatory program. Mr. Yastremski would like to see what the conservation program presents before deciding on selling off any land. Discussion only – No vote taken.

**New Business:**

A) Hire Part-time Summer Rec Camp Counselor – Lynn Meizanis

Mr. Yastremski noted that Lynn Meizanis was a longtime head counselor and was asked to come back to fill-in for both current counselors for a few days they need off. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to re-hire.

Motion to Hire: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Kyle Costello Yes

Paul Benderavich Absent

Anthony D'Eliseo Absent

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Carl Yastremski Abstain (family relation)

Motion passed.

B) Jenkins Township Connection to Old Mill Road Stormwater System –  
34 Old Mill Road

Mr. Yastremski indicated that the proposed project will be completed by Jenkins Township and, once completed, will help with road drainage. The basin would need to tie into the borough's catch basin inlet. Mr. Boyd added that Jenkins Township is doing the project to help mitigate the road surface water in the area from getting into the sewer manholes and possibly causing inflow and infiltration issues in Yatesville Borough. Some discussions continued. Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Williams Transco Gas Pipeline Truck Route Change Request –

Mr. Yastremski summarized the request to say that the gas company would like to haul 100 truckloads of large course rock approximately 2' to 3' in diameter up Chestnutwood Drive to their access road off Walnutwood. They could run the rock through the ballfields on their existing route but they feel the easier way would be by Chestnutwood Drive. Mr. Yastremski advised that Williams wanted to avoid compaction issues on the ballfields. Some discussions followed.

Mr. Yastremski asked for a motion to deny the Williams Transco request.

Motion to Deny Request: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Lower Laflin Welcome Sign at Creekside Community Playground Memorial –

Tabled due to lack of information.

**Public Comments:**

Walter Wrazien, 38 Redwood Drive – Had a couple issues for councilmembers to address. First, he would like to see the council meeting dates posted on the sign at the front of the borough building. Secondly, he found out that companies in New York and New Jersey are buying houses in Laflin Borough for business pursuits. The homes are being purchased way above the asking price. After he did some investigation work, he found a program in the federal government called Operation Outreach. This program is spearheaded to move intracity families to the suburbs and to move immigrants coming over the border into the suburbs to take them out of the city. Mr. Wrazien believes this is a very creative way they (the federal government) are having out of state companies purchase and rent properties in the suburbs for one or two years. Then they can eventually be

used by federal agencies to be rented out to intracity families or immigrants. The thing that concerns Mr. Wrazien is that this is very similar to a program in the 1960s that allow for O’Karma Terrace in Wilkes-Barre City. Mr. Wrazien believes the federal government might be looking for 60 homes in Laflin Borough but will not admit that they need 10% of the homes in town. Mr. Wrazien believes something needs to be put in place to prevent this from going any further. Mr. Wrazien continued to breakdown the issue.

Some discussions took place on the current use of properties as Airbnb short term rentals, zoning ordinances, educating the families of town on the Airbnb issue, lack of enforcement of the ordinances, realtors contacting Laflin residents to sell their homes, and continuing the discussion on the above Operation Outreach program.

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood Drive – Questioned how public comments on agenda items are handled and believed that a section should be included on the agenda prior to issues being voted on. Mr. Boyd responded to say that public comments are allowed and handled after a motion is made and prior to voting on an issue. He was satisfied as long as the public has the opportunity to comment on each agenda item.

Mr. McCabe asked who received the contract or purchase order on the borough security camera system. Mr. Boyd respond to say Computer Visionaries, Inc. (CVI). Mr. McCabe asked if someone on council is related to the company. Mr. McCabe asked if he abstained from voting on any issue related to the camera system. Mr. Boyd responded in the affirmative. Some additional discussions took place.

Mr. McCabe also want to see the short-term rentals stop before the borough becomes a community of hotels. He continued to opine on the issue and some discussions continued on the problems of Airbnbs.

Patricia Butts, 5 Pinewood Drive – She voiced her disgust that the borough doesn’t have its own zoning officer and questioned the cost of having a borough zoning officer. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded to say that the procedures would be the same but without the cost. Donald Totino, borough engineer, noted the cost of a comprehensive zoning plan would be between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Mr. Boyd noted the liability issues connected to zoning issues. Some additional discussions took place.

Frank Desidero, 1 Pinewood Drive – Continued the discussion on the Airbnb issues.

Evelyn Wilson, 157 Maplewood Drive – Indicated she attended the council meeting last month and she believes she was bullied and belittle by Paul (Benderavich). She said no one else on the council spoke and she felt this big (gesturing a small amount). She wanted a copy of the ordinances in Laflin Borough but Mr. Boyd only provided the feral cat ordinance. Mr. Boyd explained that the borough doesn’t have ordinances of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs & Quads) nor public urination. [Much discussion continued with many speaking at the same time.] Cindy Lucarelli, 157 Maplewood Drive – Also interjected a neighbor dispute where the Pennsylvania State Police had to be called due to a neighbor erecting a temporary fence. She remembers where the stakes were installed in 1974 but the stakes were removed when a neighbor installed a fence many years ago. She told the state police that she knows where her lines are but can’t prove it. The state police said

that she could not remove the temporary fence and that it was a civil matter to be resolved. Some discussions followed. Ms. Wilson continued to say that her main point was on her treatment at the last council meeting.

**Non-Agenda Items:**

Carl Yastremski, Council President – Asked Solicitor Sanguedolce, Esq. what further could be done regarding the overgrown property at 24 Laurelwood Drive. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded to say that the property is being cited but must be brought before the magistrate before discussions can take place on getting someone onto the property to cut it. He believes the state police would need to be present if that happens. Some discussions followed.

Donald Totino, Pennoni Associates, Inc., Borough Engineer – provided a status update on the Chestnutwood Stormwater Pipe Replacement Project awarded to M& J Excavation, Inc. The bonding and agreements have been sent to his office and a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Boyd and the contractor next week. At that time a Notice to Proceed will be issued and it will take the contractor about 8 weeks to receive the materials from the precast company. Construction should start in August.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:00pm.

Motion: Marc Malvizzi

Second: Kyle Costello

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Lafin Borough

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