

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.

July 9, 2024

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Present: Marc Malvizzi, President – Joseph Boos, Vice President – Drew Malvizzi – Melissa Werner –
Carl Yastremski – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: None

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

Mr. Boyd read to meeting attendees the Sunshine Act notification as stated on the council meeting agenda.

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: June 11, 2024 Council Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the report.

Motion to Accept: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills. \$101,992.34 plus payroll \$14,044.59

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

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

Reports:

Fire Department Report – Drew Malvizzi

The fire department responded to 22 alarms in June. Mr. Drew Malvizzi noted 9 medicals, 2 fire alarms, 6 motor vehicle crashes, 2 structure fires, 2 brush fires, and 1 public assist. In June, 19 alarms were in town and 3 alarms were out of town. The total calls for the year stand at 97.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd spoke on the installation of the aluminum plate to repair the pedestrian walk bridge at the Creekside Community Park and thanked resident Edward Sankus for helping with the plate fabrication. The bridge is now re-opened to the public. Mr. Boyd indicated the bridge repair costs will be paid from state grant funds that have been approved to be used on the bridge. Discussions continued on the status of the ballfield grass restoration by the Williams Gas Company.

Mayor's Report – No report presented.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The children's summer reading program is continuing and the library is working in conjunction with the recreation board on an eagle program from the Carbon Co. Environmental Center for July 12th. On July 22nd Amazing Animals will be presented by Pocono Wildlife and an ice cream truck will be at the library on July 31st. A local author's discussion is scheduled for October 1st with Barbara Taylor who authored *Rain Breaks No Bones*.

Council President's Report – No report presented.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the reports.

Motion to Accept Reports: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood Drive – spoke on his concern that the Luzerne Co. ARPA funds will be reallocated from Laflin Borough on the generator project if not used quickly. He also questioned the funding source for the new ballfield pavilion installation that is on the agenda.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi respond to both questions by informing him that Mr. Boyd recently attended the county council meeting and a resolution was passed by the county to extend the deadline for most grant programs. He also stated the borough negotiated with the Williams Gas Co. to provide funding for a pavilion.

Discussions continued on the condition of the concrete pad for the pavilion and the water fountain status at the pavilion pad site.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Finalize 2024-2025 Local Share Account Grants (LSA) Project Submissions –
Luzerne Co. LSA Grant (September) and Statewide LSA Grant (December)

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the pedestrian walk bridge replacement grant submission; the request for grant funding for the paving of Haverford and Broadway roads; and a public safety grant application for personal protective gear (air packs) for the volunteer fire department.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the statewide LSA Grant funding option and suggested duplicating a project from the Luzerne Co. September submission for the LSA December grant.

After some discussions, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve all three grant submissions and approval to also submit the pedestrian bridge replacement as a duplicate to the statewide LSA Grant program.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- B) LSA Grant for Ballfield Stormwater Outfall Drainage Improvement Project –
Approve Engineering Design Work for Awarded Grant at \$225,340

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the project would encompass the outfalls behind the homes on Chestnutwood Drive down to the ballfield drainage basin to the creek and the embankment under Union Street to the drainage basin to the creek along the front area. The third area of the project would work on the embankment behind the dugout area to include a fence and work to shore up that area.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve Pennoni Associates to start the engineering design work on the awarded grant of \$225,340.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- C) LSA Grant DPW Accessory Equipment Project –
Approve Backhoe Attachment & Utility Trailer Purchase for Awarded Grant at \$18,873

<u>Backhoe Attachment</u> - Lindsey Equipment	\$13,868.82	<u>Trailer</u> - Kutz Farm Equipment	\$2,870
		Wide-World RV Center	\$3,200
		Powell's Rentals & Sales	\$3,000
		Five Star / John Deere	\$3,973

After some discussions on the specifications for the John Deere backhoe attachment and a request from Mr. Boyd to holdoff on selecting a trailer until quality is determined, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for two motions.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to purchase the backhoe attachment from Linsey Equipment at the Costar proposal of \$13,868.82 that includes the pallet forks and a separate motion to table the purchase of the utility trailer.

Backhoe Attachment

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Utility Trailer

Motion to Table: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Luzerne Co. ARPA Grant for Borough Building Generator Project –

Approve Generator Costar Purchase for Awarded Grant at \$64,546

City Electric Supply \$25,141.88

Cooper Electric \$27,703.99

Mechanical Service Co. \$33,430.00

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the situation on waiting for information from the borough engineer to move forward with the project. Mr. Boyd noted the need to obtain specifications from the engineer on the type of generator and the need to also receive specification sheets from the engineer to bid the installation of the unit.

At the June 25, 2024 Luzerne Co. Council meeting, a resolution was approved extending the grant deadline for many municipalities until November 30, 2024. Mr. Boyd reviewed the three bids received and discussed ordering the generator as soon as possible once the information is received from the borough engineer. Then, bidding out the labor part at a later date.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the matter.

After some discussions on the need to get the generator ordered due to the 16-to-18-week backlog, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the Borough Manager to place an order up to \$28,000 at Costar pricing or to obtain 3 bids for the lowest priced generator.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

E) Creekside Community Park Ballfield / Walking Track Pavilion Project –

TCR Solutions \$14,041 with footings and assembly

Jerry Chilewski \$19,700

Willow Playworks \$46,500

After noting that a bid was approved last year for the installation of the pavilion, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to table the item until more information can be obtained about the status of the labor bids from last year.

Motion to Table: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business: No new business discussed. No new business on the agenda.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi stated the next scheduled council meeting will be held on August 13, 2024 at 6pm. He then opened the meeting to general public comments.

General Public Comments:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood Drive – commented on graffiti on the walking bridge that could be sidewalk caulk but it is still defacing public property. He wanted to report that to the borough.

He brought up at a previous meeting about the asphalt curbs that are cracking along the tops. If future roads are going to be paved, he wants the borough to consider if these types of curbs are considered ‘best practice’. He believes they might be the cheapest way but if they don’t last why install the asphalt curbs. Some discussions continued with Mr. Boyd stating that faulty curbs are caused by three factors. The temperature of the materials and air; the special curb mix from the asphalt plant that is bad; or poor installation by the contractors cause the problems.

Questioning the new fire driver position duties, he asked what the goal is by having the fire driver / DPW person drive around the borough for a set amount of time. He stated that the fire driver log records were reviewed by Mr. Wrazien recently and the driving around task was noted in the log. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say it is to look for any problems in the borough that need to be addressed including road problems, sign problems, code enforcement issues, permits and safety issues. Some discussions continued with Mr. Wrazien explaining what he found in the notes of the fire driver.

Mr. McCabe asked what the primary purpose is for the new pick-up truck obtained through the LSA Grant? Mr. Boyd responded the say that the vehicle can be used during the summer months to avoid using the bigger trucks with the dump bodies and, if a vehicle goes out of service during a winter storm, we have a back-up vehicle for plowing. In the past, before Michael Dudeck was able to fix many truck repairs, we had to take the truck to a repair garage leaving us with only one plow truck.

Mr. McCabe complained about the patch repairs done to the ballfields by the Williams Gas Company and opined that it shouldn't have been given back to the borough in the current condition.

Mr. McCabe continued on other topics including the borough building HVAC systems.

Walter Wrazien, 38 Redwood Drive – asked how many part-time fire drivers are on the payroll since he believed the total was four (4) drivers. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to confirm that there are four part-timers but only one per 8-hour day shift during the week, as needed.

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Wrazien asked why the part-time fire driver is acting in the capacity of a custodian for the building since, he believed, that position was only for a paid fire driver to be on-call. After reviewing the fire driver logs, he doesn't believe there are enough emergency calls in the borough for the position.

Mr. Wrazien believes the primary purpose, put out to the public, was that the position was to drive the fire truck. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that the position has always been, since 1977, to be half part-time fire driver and half part-time maintenance worker for the borough.

Mr. Wrazien stated that since the position is being used as a fire driver, he believes, it should be paid from the fire department funding and not the borough general fund. Further discussions continued on the fire department.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi summarized the fire driver position that was instituted by his father (Mario Malvizzi) and remains unchanged since 1977. The position is a borough maintenance employee that drives the fire truck and does borough maintenance at the borough building and parks.

Further discussions continued on the fire department fund balances.

Executive Session: No executive session held.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:42pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Lafin Borough

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