

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.  
October 18, 2024  
[Postponed Meeting from October 8, 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

Absent: Carl Yastremski and Mayor W. Kennedy

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:** September 10, 2024 Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

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: Joseph Boos

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.       \$ 129,248.13 plus payroll \$ 9,854.19

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

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 15 alarms in the month of September with a breakdown of 2 medical calls, 5 motor vehicle crashes, 1 confirmed structure fire, 1 miscellaneous incident, 2 reported structure fires, 1 tree down, and 3 public assists for a total of 151 alarms for the year.

### **Manager's Report – Charles Boyd**

Mr. Boyd spoke on the upcoming work for Laflin Road (and all of S.R.2026) that is scheduled to be tarred and chipped in 2025 by PennDOT. After talking to a few people with PennDOT, it doesn't seem like anything can be done to prevent this seal coating process from taking place. The alternative would to have PennDOT conventionally repave S.R.2026 at a higher cost to the state.

Mr. Patelunas, 934 Union Street (a.k.a. 64 Main St.) paid his back taxes just prior to the tax sale and was removed from the sale in September. Laflin Borough was going to bid on the property if it was listed.

In regards to the state police monthly reports, that have been discussed over the last couple of council meeting, Mr. Boyd followed up on the status of PSP providing or not providing the police reports as was done in past years. Mr. Boyd made several phone calls along with a few emails and they definitely will not give any type of written monthly report to the borough since the crime data website is available to the public. Mr. Boyd noted the crime data website is not very user friendly and reports can't be processed, downloaded nor printed. The website is not updated often enough to provide timely reports since it is only updated quarterly. Although it was stated at prior meetings (by audience members) that PSP would still provide the monthly police report to Laflin Borough, that is certainly not the case. The Pennsylvania State Police will not provide monthly reports.

The H&K Group did finish the grass work on Creekside Drive and Peachwood Drive for the paving project. However, the patch near the intersection, that was done to fix the water ponding problem, did not workout. The borough engineer wants to push getting the ponding problem resolved and will talk to the H&K Group again. Some discussions continued with Marc Malvizzi and Joseph Boos indicating another attempt to correct the patch will be done to get the water off the middle of the road.

### **MS4 Stormwater Report – Charles Boyd**

The Lower Laflin Stormwater project at the intersection of East Saylor Ave. and Union Street is ready to advertise to receive bid proposals and should be on the agenda in November to award.

### **Mayor's Report – Absent (no report presented)**

### **Library Association Report – Melissa Werner**

The Laflin Library had a full house for local author of fictional history Barbara Taylor who was at the library on October 1, 2024. Mrs. Werner talked about how fascinating it was to hear her talk about local history and her fictional trilogy was based on Scranton. She is working on a new series of books that might include Laflin.

The Laflin Library will be participating in the Truck-or-Treat event with the Laflin Rec Board on Oct. 27, 2024. Other events planned by the library for Halloween are a story time program, scavenger hunt, and basket give-a-way. There will be a book of the month club for kids and a Day of the Dead story time for kids.

**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: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

**Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:** No comments offered.

**Unfinished Business:**

A) Luzerne Co. Comm. Develop. Block Grant (CDBG) Rear 877 Union Street Demo –

Rear Structure Demolition at 877 Union St. for James & Margaret Simerson

Brdaric Excavating Inc.	\$15,800
RLE Enterprises Inc.	\$16,100
Linde Corp.	\$27,000

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted the borough received a \$40,000 grant for demolition work from Luzerne Co. Community Development several years ago and engineering work has been completed on a home at the rear of 877 Union Street in Laflin Borough. The bids were reviewed and Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the low bidder, Brdaric Excavation, Inc. at \$15,800.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

Motion passed.

B) Luzerne Co. ARPA Grant Laflin Borough Building Generator Project –

Labor Installation Bids

Robert Stella Electric
Advanced Electrical & Communications, LLC
Action Contracting

PennBid Results 10/18/2024

\$36,337.50 with gas line from meter
\$43,303.44 with gas line from meter
\$47,633.00 with gas line from meter

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that the generator, transfer switch and battery are already on order but the installation labor and construction work still needed to be bid-out (see above bids).

Mr. Boyd updated councilmembers on the status of the ordered generator noting that the company still hasn't received the generator from the supplier. It could take another month or two from what he is hearing from other contractors and suppliers about the order delays for generators. The request for proposals was advertised in the local newspaper and three bids were received. He read the bids aloud.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained that the 'add alternate' gas line option was used since that runs the gas line directly from the gas meter to the generator even though there is an existing tee connection in the gas line above the garage fire bays. This was done based on the recommendation of all the contractors.

Some additional discussions continued on grant funding totals and borough matching funds that will be needed since this was an ARPA federal grant.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the low bid of Robert Stella Electric at \$36,337.50.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

**New Business:**

A) Municipal Roadway Crack Sealing Work for 2024 –

Up to \$8,000 from Liquid Fuels Fund

Smith Blacktopping \$5,000 labor per pallet with materials by Laflin Borough

After noting the work would be done from a separate account from the general fund which consists of state funding for road work and road salt, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve up to \$8,000 from the Liquid Fuels fund for roadway crack sealing work by Smith Blacktopping.

Some discussions took place on ordering additional crack sealing materials.

Motion to Approve Crack Sealing Work: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

Motion passed.

B) Hire Part-time Fire Driver / DPW Employees –

Carson Crossley

Jeremy Cook

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that the applicants have been reviewed and hiring would be contingent upon passing the background, motor vehicle and insurance checks. The hires would add to a pool of employees to be used and no promised hours are made to the applicants. The position would be for a fire driver / DPW person.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to hire Carson Crossley and, separately after voting was completed, asked for a motion to hire Jeremy Cook. Both hirings would be contingent on further background check as previously noted.

Carson Crossley

Motion to Hire: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

Jeremy Cook

Motion to Hire: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

C) Ehrlich Annual Insect Control Treatments for 2025 –

Commercial Pest Management Agreement \$990 per year (May & September Treatments)

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the proposal for Ehrlich at \$990 per year for two treatments.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

Motion passed.

D) 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the 2025 Laflin Borough Operating Budget –

Mr. Marc Malvizzi stated that the borough started off with a pretty challenging year with a check book balance of just \$75,115 with all of the funds committed to projects. But he is estimating the borough will begin next year with \$137,341 with \$30,000 being committed to projects. He noted that no tax increase will be added to the proposed budget but income is projected to be flat at \$602,030. Mr. Marc Malvizzi continued reviewing the proposed budget line items.

Notably, he discussed the electric supply rates that will need to be renegotiated since the current contract will expire in December 2024. The current supply rate is at .05 cents a kilowatt hour and this rate will not be obtained again. He noted Mr. Boyd is currently working to obtain a favorable new rate for the borough building, street lights, and all other electrical needs. The annual budget will increase from \$32,000 per year to an estimated \$37,000 depending on the new supply rate obtained.

Also of note, was the garbage collection rate of \$290 per residence where the borough is actually losing \$4.00 per unit based upon the current contract cost. With the pending two-year garbage contract extension that includes an increased annual cost, the borough would need to increase the garbage fee by \$15 per residence. However, Mr. Marc Malvizzi is proposing in the new budget to transfer \$10,000 from the general fund to the refuse fund and will pay the increase from tax revenues for the next two years. There won't be a garbage fee increase for the next two years. However, the borough will need to expect a large increase, after the contract expires, based on the experiences of other towns that have recently renewed a garbage contract.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the refuse, sewer and liquid fuels budgets and stated the proposed new budgets will remain the same for 2025.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if anyone had any questions on the first draft that included \$1,658,237 in revenues and expenditures and he then asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

**Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:**

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted the next scheduled council meeting will be November 12, 2024 at 6pm.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the comments being made on social media concerning the heavy truck traffic on Laflin Road. He noted that he lives on Laflin Road and a road cut done 30yrs. ago causes many trucks to produce a loud noise as they drive over the slight depression in the road. He has complained many times over the years about the truck traffic noise. He noted that Laflin Road is a state road and the borough only has so

much control over it. Some speed controls have taken place over the years but the trucks are legal to use the road.

Some discussions continued on truck restrictions for Laflin Road that the state has in place for size and weight on tractor trailers, the lack of restrictions on dump trucks from the quarries, and the engine retarder ordinance that the borough tried to enact on Laflin Road many years ago.

He then asked for public comments.

**General Public Comments:**

Betty Szumski, 106 Cedarwood Drive – asked if there are any benefits to the tar and chip paving that will take place on Laflin Road. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that there aren't any benefits besides saving PennDOT money on road paving work.

Mrs. Szumski also asked if the vehicle and person responsible (or persons) for the stolen iPhone delivery on Ashwood Drive was ever found. Mr. Boyd responded to say that the borough was able to provide the license plate information to the Pennsylvania State Police and a person was identified but lived out-of-state.

David Yurko, 214 Sprucewood Drive – asked if Laflin Road will be leveled before tar and chipping of the road surface takes place. Mr. Boyd responded to say that PennDOT will come through Laflin a month prior to the seal coat work and mill and repave sections to repair and level the roadway.

Mr. Yurko also asked what the status of the proposed warehouse project was that was scheduled for Jenkins Township near Sunset Drive. Mr. Boyd responded to say that the project was denied by Jenkins Township Supervisors and it hasn't been appealed to the court system.

**Executive Session:** No Executive Session.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:32pm.

Motion: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough

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