

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.  
December 10, 2024  
6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting  
**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:** November 12, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated that councilmembers received the November 12, 2024 council meeting minutes by email. He 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: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

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.  
\$ 129,114.88 plus payroll \$ 15,300.94

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

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**

For the month of November 2024 the fire department responded to 40 alarms consisting of 3 medicals, 12 motor vehicle accidents, 2 structure fires, 4 reported structure fires, 3 vehicle fires, 10 wires down, 5 trees down, and 1 public assist. There were a total of 209 alarms so far for 2024.

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

Mr. Boyd spoke on the Luzerne Co. ARPA generator grant and noted the grant, along with many other towns' grants, were being discussed at the Luzerne Co. Council meeting that was taking place at the same time as the Laflin Borough Council meeting. Greg Gulick, G&R Consulting was attending via Zoom in place of Mr. Boyd. Luzerne Co. approval is needed to modify the grant budget and request a time extension since the generator still hasn't been received and is still on backorder.

It was noted Casella Waste Systems, Inc. formally accepted the contract extension for option years one and two on the existing garbage contract with Laflin Borough. Some discussions took place on the matter.

Stell Enterprises, Inc. completed the PA OneCall notification for the work on Cedarwood Drive that was approved at a prior council meeting. That work should be completed within the next few weeks. They also provided an estimate to lower the catch basin inlet on Peachwood Drive as part of the Creekside Estates paving work. This will be discussed later in the council meeting.

Rainey & Rainey CPAs completed the 2023 general borough audit and financial statements. A copy was provided to all councilmembers and would be available to the public. The Laflin Borough Tax Collector audit was also completed and available.

Mr. Boyd is working with Assured Partners of Northeast PA to prepare for the insurance renewals due in February. Assured Partners will solicit quotes from insurance providers and prepare a proposal for Laflin Borough.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the status of the damaged cameras on Inkerman Road. They were side swiped by a tractor trailer during the snow storm of Friday, November 22, 2024 and will be submitted to the truck company's insurance provider. The Pennsylvania State Police are having a hard time obtaining the driver information but it was the same truck that was stuck on Laflin Road a few minutes later after hitting the cameras. The security cameras provided images to identify the truck prior to being damaged. Mr. Boyd was able to contact Falzone Trucking, who towed the truck from Laflin Road, and obtain some of the required information. The security camera company for Laflin Borough, CVI, will be replacing the cameras on Inkerman Road and a new solar powered, cellular security camera on Union Street near 852 Union Street which was vandalized earlier this year. The new location will provide better protection for the camera and more sun light for power.

### **MS4 Stormwater Report –**

Mr. Boyd reported that the balance in the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) Saving Account is \$60,625. This fund accumulates from a portion of the WVSA MS4 Stormwater fees (rain tax) that all residents pay. Currently, \$34,650 of this saving account is pledged to the Lower Laflin Stormwater project as matching funds for the ARPA stormwater grant. Some additional discussions took place.

**Mayor's Report – Mayor William Kennedy**

He spoke on the Laflin Borough Recreation Board Christmas party that was scheduled for Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1pm. He hoped to spread the word and noted the work that the Rec Board is doing for the party.

**Library Association Report – Melissa Werner**

Ms. Werner spoke on the success of the Friday, December 6, 2024 Gingerbread House decorating event. The event was held at the church with 53 children attending. They made delicious graham cracker gingerbread houses. This was a great and fun event that is held every year by the Laflin Library Association.

A holiday jamboree was held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 with 8 children attending. Ms. Werner also noted the book club event being held at the same time as the council meeting was in session. The historical book discussed was *The Women* by Kristin Hannan. The book is about women in the Vietnam War.

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:**

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – questioned the salary increases for the fire department part-time drivers indicated in the proposed budget and the budget allocation reduction for the ballfield fertilization. Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the 3% increase with the fire driver position being increased by a dollar per hour. He noted that the librarian position rate was too lower and was adjusted up to bring her more in line to where it should be at this point in time.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the budgeted ballfield fertilization line-item budget amount. This was bid out and a more favorable cost was obtained allowing the proposed budget decrease in 2025.

Joseph Niemiec, Concord Drive – asked for clarification on the proposed millage and fees for 2025 for the proposed budget being discussed on the agenda. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that no increase in property taxes or fees is proposed in the 2025 budget.

Walter Wrazien, Redwood Drive – asked Mr. Boyd to better annotate the proposed budget when posted to the Laflin Borough website to show percentages on expenditures instead of numerical amounts so that the residents can see what percentage of the collected revenues are spent. He would also like to see just the collected revenues included in this percentage breakdown, and the awarded grants excluded, since the budget is confusing with everything added together. Some discussions occurred on what he was asking for in the way of a clarification and on the list of bills for the borough. Mr. Marc Malvizzi said anything that could be done, will be done. He also added that the Laflin Borough operating budget and monthly council agendas are the most descriptive in the area.

Mr. Wrazien asked if the fire department is aware that they can bill insurance companies for responding to accidents. Some discussions continued with Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicating the fire department does bill insurance companies for nonresidents' accidents but not for any borough resident. Most don't get paid since the insurance company won't pay for volunteer fire departments, except for large truck accidents.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A) PennDOT Green Light-Go Rt.315 / Laflin Road Traffic Signal Grant Modifications – PennDOT Amended Grant Funding / Increased Liquid Fuels Matching Funds / Re-Bid Project

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the traffic signal project bidding, that was tabled from the last meeting, noting only one bid was received and it was for double the amount of the grant award funding. After the last meeting, PennDOT was contacted and they verbally agreed to increase the amount of the grant award. However, a formal agreement must be executed with PennDOT and Council must agree to use additional liquid fuels monies to match the grant amount increase. The Green Light-Go grant is a 20% match.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the additional matching liquid fuel funding, approve executing the new modified grant amount request, and putting the project out to bid again with the new information pending PennDOT’s formal approval.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi  
Second: Joseph Boos  
Roll Call:  
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

- B) Creekside Estates 2023 Paving Project Final Retainage Settlement – H&K Group Proposal for Peachwood Drive Catch Basin Inlet

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the situation with the contractor repaving a low spot and reseeding lawns for the project. One existing stormwater inlet was too high and creating water pooling around it. The contractor couldn’t grade and repave to allow the water to flow into the inlet. The contractor requested that the inlet be lowered by Laflin Borough with a different local contractor. The expense to do so would be deducted from the retainage owed to the H&K Group that was held back on the project. A proposal was received from Stell Enterprises to lower the inlet and repave around it for \$3,965.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve reducing the retainage by the cost to lower the inlet at \$3,965 and pay H&K Group the difference. The inlet would be lowered by Stell Enterprises, Inc.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos  
Second: Melissa Werner  
Roll Call:  
Joseph Boos                    Yes  
Drew Malvizzi                 Yes  
Marc Malvizzi                 Yes  
Melissa Werner               Yes  
Carl Yastremski               Yes  
Motion passed.

- C) 3<sup>rd</sup> / Final Reading of the Laflin Borough 2025 Operating Budget –

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the proposed 2025 Laflin Borough Operating Budget with a total of \$1,639,871 for revenues and expenditures and no tax increase nor tax anticipate note loan (TAN). Much of the operating budget consists of grants at \$853,436. He continued to review the revenues and expenditures in detail.

After reviewing the balanced operating budget, he asked for a motion to approve and adopt the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading of the 2025 Laflin Borough Operating Budget.

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.

D) 2025 Budget & Tax Authorization Resolution –  
Resolution #15 of 2024

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the 2025 Budget & Tax Authorization resolution that keeps the millage and tax rates the same for the upcoming year and 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 Yes

Motion passed.

**New Business:**

A) One Time Bereavement Stipend for DPW Employee Michael Dudeck –  
3 Days Bereavement

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the situation with Michael Dudeck, the borough maintenance worker, who was primary caregiver to his mother who recently passed away. Mr. Dudeck has missed a significant amount of unpaid time over the last 5 months and hasn't return to work to date. Mr. Marc Malvizzi proposed three (3) paid bereavement days.

A procedure and policy to handle future bereavement pay for borough employees can be discussed at a later date. Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve 3 days of bereavement pay for Mr. Dudeck.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

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

Next Council Meeting: January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting

Mr. Boyd displayed a replacement flooring sample to councilmembers and attendees which represented a proposed flooring type for the borough building hallway and bathrooms for the water damaged insurance claim. No objections or negative comments were made and everyone seemed to like the design and color.

Councilwomen Melissa Werner relayed comments made by Mr. Danny Evancho on how he highly praised the Laflin Volunteer Fire Department on their great assistance helping his father in an emergency situation. Mr. Marc Malvizzi then read a letter, that contained a \$500 donation, from Mr. Danny Evancho thanking the LVFD for the quick response to his father’s situation.

**General Public Comments:**

Joseph Niemiec, Concord Drive – asked if the intersection at Pittston Avenue and Rt.315 is a habitual accident spot with vehicles. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that there are less accidents since the new traffic signal was installed but it still is an accident zone. Some discussions continued.

Walter Wrazien, Redwood Drive – complained that people are playing basketball on the borough court at night and it could be a liability if they fall. Much discussion occurred.

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – asked for the status of the quality-of-life ordinance and when will it be passed. Some discussions occurred with January or February projected to have it in place.

**Executive Session:** No Executive Session.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:41pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager  
Laflin Borough

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