

Lanesboro Council Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2007

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Roll Call – Dan Boughton, Regina Dilello, Myles Limbert, Bob Mireider, Bill Roberts, Stan Rockwell, Colleen Wilkes

Also Present – Secretary / Treasurer Gail Hanrahan, Mayor Chris Maby

Absent –

- 3) Action on minutes of previous meeting

Motion – by Regina, 2nd by Colleen. Unanimous, so carried.

- 4) Correspondence and Resolutions:

- Ordinance # 2007-11-01 for compliance with Realty Transfer Tax changes. Motion by Regina, 2nd by Myles to pass. Unanimous, so carried.
- Quote from WEMS Resources regarding the flow meter, etc at the sewer pumphouse. Items identified in letter related to previous correspondence from TriBoro for parts that need to be replaced. Estimated cost is \$4990, based on work being done at the same time other work is being performed by same for TriBoro and Oakland Borough. Parts cannot be repaired and must be replaced. After discussion, motion by Stan, 2nd by Myles to proceed with repairs. Unanimous, so carried. *Note: After the meeting, Maby called WEMS resources and asked that repairs be made after the first of the year, due to budget constraints. If price would change because of this, WEMS should contact the borough.*

- 5) Code Enforcement – no report

- 6) Community Center- \$450 in rentals for month. Oil price for budget plan is \$2.959 / gallon. Alternative sources may be sought. Thank you letters from Reverend Batzel and Jean Mess-Deakin and husband Jay Deakin.

- 7) Unfinished business:

- Tire pickup coordinated by Boughton completed. 2.5 tons were delivered to Gary's U-Pull It, as they were a cheaper disposal site than the landfill.
- The Jefferson St work agreement with B&S was provided to them over two weeks ago. Work will be started Saturday, November 17. Drainage pipes will be installed first, with the road reconstruction to follow. Maby would like to see part time inspection to verify the work is being done according to the agreement. The inspector could be a borough employee or it could be hired out. If a borough employee is used, he will have to be taught what needs to be looked at. Stan asked Tim Tompkins (in audience) if he would be interested – Tim replied he was not. After discussion, council agreed to have Maby speak with Al Barnes, and others, with the intent of hiring on an hourly basis. Starting salary \$10 with some negotiation room if needed. *Note: Majority of work will not occur until the spring, due to the onset of cold weather. Maby will check drainage pipe installations to save the expense, and will continue the search for someone to monitor the roadway in the spring.*
- Liquid Fuels Account repayment – Lanesboro needs to reimburse the account \$12,714.78 for work that was done “the old fashion way” and did not follow borough code. This payment is needed because of work that was done in 2004 without advertising. Although phone call bids were solicited (as instructed to do so by Mayor Slater), borough code requires that the work

should have been advertised. The same thing occurred in 2003, in the amount of \$13486.02, but only \$1,900 had to be reimbursed. Maby notes that all items related to Liquid Fuels are now compliant and hopes this shows everyone how important it is to do things the state way, even if it is different than how things were handled in the past. Maby called the auditor general – Lanesboro can repay in one lump sum, make quarterly payments, or yearly installments. The repayment must be made by motion, and provided in writing to the auditor general. Maby will write the letter after the vote. The budget (discussed next) includes a \$4238.26 payment, which amounts to a three year payback. The money can be paid ahead of time if Lanesboro has the ability, such as using the money from the Cannon property sale. After discussion, motion by Colleen, 2nd by Stan to repay in 3 annual installments, with possibility of prepayment without penalty. Unanimous, so carried.

- Budget – ready for adoption for publishing. In summary, garbage fees remain the same, sewer fees are reduced by \$44/year residential and \$48/yr commercial accounts. In addition, the local per capita and occupation taxes have been eliminated, saving an additional \$25 to \$30 per adult in taxes. The budget includes line items for the \$6900 fire department contract (missing in previous budgets) and 1st year repayment of the \$12,714.78 discussed previously. Council must approve budget for adoption, advertise, and then approve the tax ordinance at the December meeting. After discussion, motion by Regina, 2nd by Myles to adopt for advertisement for approval at the December meeting. Unanimous so carried. Maby will post copy of the budget and backup data on the borough door, with copies made available for anyone who requests one.
- \$64,100 grant – executed letter arrived 11/2/07, have yet to see the money. Window of opportunity for construction this fall is gone, but design of the work can continue, along with bidding and award for early spring construction. Per discussion last month, a letter was sent to Eugene Beutz asking for a quote on developing plans and specifications. No response was provided, so council needs to select another firm to request pricing from. Maby noted there are many engineering firms in the back of the *Borough News* magazine that council may want to contact. After discussion, motion by Colleen, 2nd by Regina to contact Delta Engineers regarding the work. Format of letter will match that sent previously. Additionally, letter will not be sent until money is received for the various projects, and proposed fee from Delta Engineers must be approved at a council meeting prior to signing any contract. Unanimous, so carried.

8) Mayor's Report:

- Surprising interest from out of area phone calls about the borough property which is being advertised. Bids to be opened at the December meeting.
- Sidewalk has been repaired by PAWC where service entrances were constructed or repaired last year.
- Salt has been ordered and will be stockpiled at the Oakland shed, located near the TriBoro treatment plant.
- No one has expressed interest in snow plowing. Some potentially interested parties have mentioned that plowing Depot St & Mountain Road is one of the reasons they are not interested in it. Council needs to address how to handle plowing everywhere, with the possibility that Depot is plowed by Harmony. *Note: After the meeting, Maby was contacted by two individuals regarding the snow plowing. They were subsequently interviewed by the council and Maby on 11/18/2007, and hired.*
- Harmony Township has been contacted, to see if they would be interested in handling Depot St to Mountain Road, as they need to go that route anyway to take care of their road. Maby would

like permission to enter into an agreement with Harmony or possibly Oakland Township if interested to handle. After discussion, council agreed to let Maby pursue this.

- Annual grant application coming due for CDBG money. The county expects about \$280,000 to be available for distribution to the 41 municipalities. The program is similar to year's past, and there are typically more applicants than funding available. Maby identified two possible applications – one is a replacement pipe for the small bridge on Depot St, the other items for the soccer field, such as completing the fencing, bleachers, topsoil, etc. Maby notes the replacement pipe on Depot would be to allow the roadway to be widened to 2 lanes across what is now a one lane bridge, but noted there is nothing wrong with the existing bridge except its width. After discussion, council unanimously agreed that grant application should be for the soccer field.
- Maby needs to get copies of NIMS 700 & ICS 100 certificates from all councilmen, and forward to the county. Needed within 2 weeks for existing councilmen. New councilmen will need to complete the courses by the end of January and provide copy of completion certificate to Maby.
- Handed out copy of assessment certificate for review. This form, or something similar, is needed for compliance with the UCC, and approved by the council earlier this year. The form simply shows that the borough knows of the activity and is not forwarded to the county. It is for items constructed that do not need a building permit, such as sheds, short fences, etc. If council approves, it will be used immediately. After discussion, motion by Colleen, 2nd by Regina to use, with a \$30 fee. Unanimous, so carried.
- Would like to have Lanesboro adopt a Fire Insurance Ordinance. This idea is not new to Pennsylvania and was brought to Maby's attention by Julie & Gene Walker's insurance agency. How the ordinance works – if there is a major fire of an insured structure, the insurance agency is required to place a portion of the claim in an escrow account held by the borough. The escrow account money is used to guarantee that the repairs will be made to the structure. Once the repairs are made, the money is released to the property owner. If the repairs are not made, the borough uses the money and has it done. An ordinance of this type will eliminate the possibility of someone taking the insurance money, moving, and leaving Lanesboro with an eyesore, similar to what occurred with the Gelineau property on Viaduct St. Ideally, the ordinance would be drafted and advertised this month, with a vote on it in December. After discussion, motion by Stan, 2nd by Regina to have solicitor draw up ordinance. Unanimous, so carried.
- Delbert Foote quit with no notice, leaving Lanesboro one guy short on the garbage truck. Daniel Boughton (Dan's son) has worked the last two weeks covering the spot. He has previously provided his working papers, so there is no issue there. Maby would like to keep him on staff, but notes the job must be advertised. Maby would like permission to run ad in Transcript, interview, and hire someone. After discussion, council agreed with this approach.

9) Police report – major items for September & October:

- 2 felony burglaries, 2 felony criminal trespass
- 2 drug paraphernalia
- 2 DUI(s)
- 1 disorderly conduct.
- Yearly firearms qualifications completed 11/11/2007 at the Canawacta Rod & Gun Club. Maby would like to send thank you letter, as the Club closed for the day to allow the qualification to occur.
- District Attorney had a mandatory Gang Training class for all officers in the county, which amounted to 3 hours of time for each officer.

10) New business:

- Amendment to sewer & garbage ordinances – Gail suggests that council should consider allowing vacant houses (not rentals) whose water has been turned off to have their garbage and sewer billing suspended until the water is turned back on. After discussion, motion by Stan, 2nd by Bob to adjust as discussed, provided a letter or statement from the water company is provided, along with a written request. Additionally, garbage billing can be suspended in quarterly increments, following the same protocol (letter regarding water turn off must be provided). Unanimous, so carried.
- Colleen – concerned about the state of the ongoing repairs at the Viaduct Inn. The construction fence has collapsed, exposing the basement again. Maby noted that a safety issue can be addressed, but that anything beyond such as construction debris etc falls into the category of it has to be addressed at the same time as all other areas in town. Council agreed, Maby to contact Shane to follow up with George.

11) Visitors: Herman Maffett, Dale Rockwell, Tim Tompkins, Sandy Benson, Jerry Benson. No comments, all just visiting.

12) Adjournment – by Myles, 2nd by Bob. Unanimous, so carried.