

December 16, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, December 16, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: John Kreitz, Bessie Bauchspies, John Bird, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons, Solicitor James Nanovic, Mayor Donald Rehrig and Officer-in-Charge Joe Lawrence. Absent: Fire Chief Gary Frable and Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Frank Potoczak – 2013 Bike Nite Report

Frank said the 15th Annual Bike Nite event went very well. He thanked council for allowing the event. Ty Poole, his partner for the event this year, was not present.

Frank said last year the bike they raffled off cost about \$7,000 and the profit was split 50/50. 50% went to LDIC and the other 50% was split between the fire department and the police department.

This year Ty wanted to kick it up a notch and raffle a \$12,000 bike. Frank said he was nervous but they made an \$8,997 profit which will be split 3 ways this year. The police department will get \$3,000 plus they have \$372 from last year to spend. The fire department will also get \$3,000 and the remaining \$3,000 will go to LDIC.

Frank said it was a great event. He and Ty are already planning next year's event and are planning some changes and will probably come back to council with their ideas at the January meeting.

Ben Ronemus – Presentation of Lehighon Infrastructure Photos

The mayor said he took a course for newly elected officials and learned that having a pictorial history of the borough in case of a disaster is highly recommended. Ben approached the mayor because he was looking for a project in the borough. He was also part of the Bike Nite cleanup crew after the event. Frank said Ben had also gotten a great team together and did a clean up behind the Castle Grill this summer and did a fantastic job.

Ben took approximately 174 photos of the borough and it is on Nicole's laptop if anyone would like to see it. The mayor presented Ben with a certificate of appreciation for taking time to do the project and for having interest in the borough and for doing a project that will serve the community for years to come.

Hearing of Person's Present

Steve Ebbert of the fire department wanted to give an update on the project. He said they are almost complete. They have occupied 3 of the apparatus bays over the weekend. Two of the bays are still under construction. They are hoping by the 1st of the year to have full occupancy.

They would like to invite council to come for a tour next Monday evening between 5 & 6 o'clock. The members of the fire department would be overjoyed to take you through the facility. They are planning a formal dedication of the building in the fall of 2014. The fire department is really grateful for council's support. It's a very functional building that was desperately needed.

Approval of Minutes

None were submitted.

Motion to approve changing the 2014 rental rates for the Annex Auditorium and Rec Center

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve 2014 meeting dates

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to accept George Petrole's resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to accept with a letter of thanks being sent for years of service and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to advertise for 2 vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board and 1 vacancy on Sewer Authority

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to advertise and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to reappoint the following members to the following boards/commissions/authorities with permission

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions reappoint Jim Deebel to the Sewer Authority with a 5-year term;

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to reappoint Ricky Graver and Randall Semmel to the Zoning Hearing Board with a 5 year term;

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to reappoint Scott Wingert, Ken Leffler and Robert Strausberger to the Shade Tree Commission with a 3 year term;

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to reappoint Jeff Bachman to the Civil Service Commission;

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to reappoint Carl Teets to the Water Authority;

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to reappoint Chris Schnell to the Property Maintenance Board;

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to reappoint Lyle Christopher to the Vacancy Board and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to appoint System Design Engineers as the Sewer Enforcement Officers for 2014

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to appoint and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-029-2013 authorizing Borough Manager to sign the Penn DOT Agility Partner Agreement

Councilors Kreitz/Arner made the motions to adopt the resolution and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to sign the Penn DOT Agility Partner Agreement

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to sign the agreement and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-030-2013 setting the 2014 rate of contribution for the Police Pension Fund

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to set the 2014 contribution rate of 5.5% and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-031-2013 setting salaries for Non Uniform Employees for FY 2014

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to adopt and all were in favor with no questions or objections

Appointment of Bruce Steigerwalt as Zoning Representative for the Lehighton School District Project (due to a conflict with Barry Isett & Associates as borough and school district representative)

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to appoint Bruce at his regular hourly rate and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Letter of Interest for appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to appoint Ryan Bowman as a deputy and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of grant agreement in the amount of \$250,000 for the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program for Colonel Jacob Weiss Park Improvements Project and Acceptance of DCED funding

Nicole said she would also like approval for using the TEA Grant as a match and we can get out of it if no money is spent.

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to approve and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to approve Greg Semanoff's 90-day waiver request

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the waiver request and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Unfinished Business

Motion to waive the Penn DOT Highway Occupancy Permit requirement for a dedicated left-hand turn lane in the AutoZone property entrance on Route 443

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to waive the highway occupancy permit and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval to purchase modified proposal for a 2014 Ford Sedan Police Interceptor from Sunbury Motors in the amount of \$35,161.72

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to approve the modified proposal at a cost of \$35,161.72 lease/purchase with Sunbury motors with camera and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of the (3) three-year financing proposal from First Niagara Leasing for the 2014 Ford Sedan Police Interceptor at a rate of 3.04%

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the three-year financing at 3.04% and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to follow Planning Commission's recommendation to grant waiver request for sidewalk requirements and grant a partial waiver for curbing on the AutoZone project

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to table this item until clarification of partial waiver is provided.

Officials' Reports

Borough Manager

She met with Autumn regarding the 150th Celebration. The next meeting will be February 13.

Nicole commented on the passing of the GIS Coordinator Larry Stawiarski. She worked with him for many years and he helped the borough implement our GIS mapping. He was a great asset to the county and deserves recognition.

Engineer

Absent

Police

Thanked council for getting the new cruiser.

Mayor

He said this will be his last meeting as mayor or councilman and wanted to thank the residents of the borough for putting their trust in him for the last 24 years. It has been a pleasure serving the borough.

Fire Chief

Absent

President of Council

Nothing

Solicitor

Nothing

Treasurer

A transfer of \$225,000 from L&P to General Fund is requested. Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to approve the transfer.

Finance & Administration – Darryl Arner, Chair, George Kogut, Co-Chair – nothing to report.

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz, Chair, Bessie Bauchspies, Co-Chair – John thanked Public Works for moving the bus stop once again and said it should not have to be moved again. He also thanked them for painting numbers in the parking spaces and said they did a good job plowing the snow.

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Rehrig, Chair and John Bird, Co-Chair – He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Light & Power Committee – John Bird, Chair, Scott Co-Chair – absent

Sewer Committee – Bessie Bauchspies, Chair, Darryl Co-Chair – absent

Public Works & Recreation – George Kogut, Chair, John Kreitz Co-Chair – absent

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to accept and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus the additional fire station bills and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go in to Executive Session for personnel

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go in at 8:05 p.m. for personnel.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go out of executive session at 8:40 p.m.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to name Officer Brian Biechy as the Officer-in-Charge of the Lehighton Police Department starting at midnight Tuesday night. The current salary for 2013 and then go to the 2014 for the current salary and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to appoint new member to the Lehighton Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of William Howland

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to appoint Gordon Ripkey to fill the unexpired term and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Vacation carryover request from the Borough Secretary

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to allow the carryover and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to reappoint Utility Engineers as L&P Department's electrical engineers for 2014

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to reappoint and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. and all were in favor

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary