

November 10, 2014

The Special Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, November 10, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: Helen Torok, Joe Flickinger, John Kreitz, Bessie Bauchspies, Darryl Arner, Scott Rehrig and Grant Hunsicker. Absent: None.

Officials in attendance were: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons and Mayor Tom Mase.

Pledge of Allegiance

New Business

Motion to advertise for part-time seasonal Public Works help

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

Motion to approve 2014 Audit Confirmation Letter

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

Discussion of 2015 budget

Nicole went over the General Fund spreadsheet and memo. 7.5 mills of tax bring in \$608,085. 1 mill = \$81,078. She also found out prior to the meeting that CDBG money can no longer be used for debt service on Annex loan.

Council asked if the CDBG money could be used for the bypass. Nicole didn't think so because there were no residents living along the bypass. She said an income survey would need to be done to be sure we meet CDBG income guidelines to do any street projects with the funds. She said Bruce had suggested using the funds for the ADA curbing. That would not require a survey being done but the borough would pay for the paving and/or reconstruction. The CDBG funds can be used for recreation, ADA access, housing rehabilitation, historic preservation, infrastructure improvements and the prevention/elimination of blight and other community development. It will cost approximately \$28,000 for ADA ramps on Stedman and \$42,000 for North 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Scott suggested using reclamation materials on those roads.

Nicole said that we could possibly use 2 years of CDBG yet for the loan and then pay off the rest with borough funds but it doesn't sound hopeful. Without using CDBG funds for the loan repayment we will lose \$75,000. Council had talked about forgiving the loan but that must be done by resolution.

Councilors Rehrig/Bauchspies made the motions to have the solicitor draft the resolution to forgive the loan and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole said that as of the memo a 2.6 mill increase would be needed. There is \$48,000 in General Fund reserves that is not earmarked for any specific project that could be transferred into the operating account and would decrease the mills.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to transfer \$48,000 from the General Fund Reserves to the operating accounts and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Nicole can make additional cuts and bring things down to 2 mills, approximately \$160,000 or she can increase the transfer from L&P. The transfer is about 20% of our General Fund Expense and taking the extra funds would only raise it to 22%. She also made council aware that the loader and snow blower are not part of the 2015 budget.

Councilors Rehrig/Helen made the motion to raise the transfer from L&P to 22% of General Fund Expense but the funds should be taken only if needed.

Councilor Rehrig asked council to consider putting a mill of tax on for roads.

Councilor Flickinger said the mutual aid agreement with Mahoning Twp. for fire service has not been changed since 2000. He suggests sending a letter to Mahoning Twp. to renegotiate contract and raise the amount to \$5,000 because they do respond to all Mahoning fire calls.

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to have Nicole redo the agreement with the price to not exceed \$5,000 and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to have no overtime except in extreme emergencies as deemed necessary by department heads or the borough manager and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Councilor Kreitz also suggested doing shift changes and reclassification of job descriptions if council approves. He would like Nicole to send a letter to the Water Authority asking for their help plowing and maintain roads during bad weather.

Nicole said she was notified that the TAP grant was not funded. She is going to talk to DCED to see if we can use the other DCED grant as a match.

She also told council of the fire chief's decision to step down as chief at the end of the year. Council asked that she draft a letter of appreciation for his years of service.

#### Adjournment

Motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel

None required

Motion to go back into Regular Session

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Councilors Rehrig/Flickinger made the motions to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons  
Borough Secretary