

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2025

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – the Meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough Council was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania on March 11, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Daylight Savings Time by Nick Pizzola.

PERSONS PRESENT – President - Nick Pizzola, Vice-President - Cheryl Oessenich, Councilpersons: James Niwinski, Devin Keating, Phil Gillies, Sam Jennings and Bob McBeth, Solicitor: Thomas J. Profy, IV., Borough Manager: Peter Gray, Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie McGoldrick.

PERSONS ABSENT – Mayor Robert Byrne, Police Chief John Kenney.

- 2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Nick Pizzola
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council President asked if there were any questions, concerns, corrections, or comments on the minutes of February 11, 2025.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2025 Bob McBeth made the motion as called for. Phil Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions, concern, corrections, or comments on the minutes of February 25, 2025.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2025. Bob McBeth made the motion as called for. Phil Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

RESIDENT COMMENT – Teresa Weiser, 206 Prospect Avenue. Ms. Weiser said she had questions about the proposed EIT tax. Council President said that the

tax issue is on the agenda tonight and there will be time for any questions during that discussion.

Grace Judge, 1004 Hill Avenue. Ms. Judge asked about the water leak on North & Elm Avenues. Mr. Pizzola advised that BCWSA has agreed to repair the leak, but this is not their priority at this time and will probably address it in warmer weather.

Doreen Y, address and name unclear, asked about litter on the borough roadways. Mr. Pizzola advised Nick Palladino, who was present at the meeting, to address the litter problem.

4. **POLICE REPORT** – Chief Kenney did not attend the meeting, there was no report.
5. **INSPECTOR’S REPORT** – 1 Permit issued in February.
6. **REVIEW OF RVE PROPOSAL FOR 2024-25 MS-4 SERVICES.** Council President received a contract renewal from Remington & Vernick Engineers for our Storm Water Management. Mr. Cundari explained that RVE has represented the borough for approximately four years. The Borough is federally required to address stormwater management issues and lack of compliance would result in penalties. The extent of those penalties are not defined but could result in fines or limited access to future funding resources. Mr. Pizzola explained that the borough has secured several grants to address the costs for the required projects, both upcoming and in the past, but engineering management is unfunded and is paid from our operating budget.

Through discussions between Mr. Pizzola and RVE, the contract for this year is reduced from \$42.5K in 2024 to \$35K in 2025.

Mr. McBeth commented that he thought engineering costs would be covered by grants this year. Mr. Pizzola clarified that the engineering costs of project design will be covered in part. However, the reporting and project management done by RVE is not for design and is not covered by grants.

Mr. McBeth asked if there is anything we can do to scale back on future expenses for storm water management. Mr. Pizzola said not for this report, which is not unlike income tax, it must be filed completely, every year.

Ms. Oessenich noted that we only have so much property, so much land, that we cannot continue to add projects. Mr. Pizzola said we will not be adding projects but monitoring what we have already installed to make sure they are still performing well enough to keep our stormwater credits intact. Mr. Cundari explained that part of the report is to explain the limitations of the Borough as well as reporting those accomplished requirements.

Ms. Keating noted that we still have one outstanding project that will contribute to our required credits for the initial plan. We do have grant money to fund the project and one of the Grants will cover some engineering design costs.

Ms. Oessenich would like the residents of Langhorne Manor to understand that this is not a result of mismanagement but rather a mandate that has been put on us. So far, we have been successful in securing grants but those grants may not always be available. The contract with RVE is to help us manage our ongoing requirements to avoid the failure of our endeavors.

Mr. Niwinski recapped that the RVE contract is for monitoring the effectiveness of the completed projects and completing the annual reporting requirements on our behalf and asked what part of the contract fee is just for reporting. Mr. Cundari stated the proposal is broken down into different phases, the report phase is \$8,500.

Ms. Keating asked if the \$35K proposal is essential to keep RVE on a retainer fee for our purposes beyond any additional project? Mr. Cundari agreed.

Council President called for a motion to approve the proposal with RVE. Ms. Keating asked if she could review the proposal first. Mr. Gillies concurred. Council President agreed, he will defer the motion until Council has time to review the proposal.

Mr. Jay Ferraro, 402 Hill Ave., questioned characterizing the proposal as a retainer and asked Mr. Cundari to clarify that the proposal is for RVE's specific costs related to MS4 requirements and not a retainer. Mr. Cundari agreed that the scope

of the proposal is to manage the MS4 for the 2024-2025 recording period. Although there is a significant decrease in the proposal from last year, the scope of the work remains the same and the rates were not increased.

7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION** – Council President asked Mr. Jennings to explain the need for the Arbor Day Proclamation. Mr. Jennings advised that the Shade Tree Commission would like the borough to be recognized as part of Tree City USA. The requirements include: a Shade Tree Ordinance, a celebration of Arbor Day and a Shade Tree Commission Board. The one piece we do not have is the Proclamation, and we were hoping to have the Mayor address that tonight.

Mr. Niwinski asked if there was any cost. There is not.

Mr. Pizzola asked what the benefits were. Mr. Jennings advised that recognition honors the Borough as one that governs the renewal resource of trees, values the beautification of our neighborhood and the contribution trees offer to a community.

The Council President asked the borough secretary to prepare the proclamation for approval at the next meeting.

8. **STATUS OF PEDDLING AND SOLICITING ORDINANCE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES.** Council President asked Mr. Profy to update the council. Mr. Profy presented the latest version of the Ordinance as modified by Ms. Kay Weeder and with the assistance of the Borough Manager. There remains one section that requires clarification regarding the limitations on Saturday and Sunday. Council President asked members to take a moment to review the paragraph in question.

Council President called for a motion to approve the Peddling & Soliciting Ordinance. Mr. Jennings made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked the Borough Secretary to see that the ordinance is advertised as required.

9. **UPDATE ON EARNED INCOME TAX** - Council President reviewed facts relating to the EIT. Anyone earning less than \$12,000 per year is exempt. Retirees are exempt. Income from interest and dividends is exempt. Corporations registered in LMB are exempt. Anyone working out of their home and reporting Schedule C, D or E revenue on their federal income tax will be required to pay EIT on that income, in the municipality where they are domiciled. A domicile is defined as the place where one lives and has one's permanent home.

EIT Taxes, currently withheld by employers from non-residents, will be paid promptly to the jurisdictions entitled to the taxpayers' funds.

As an example, if you reside in Langhorne Manor Borough and work in Middletown Township, you are already paying EIT and Middletown Township gets to keep that tax money because the municipality where you are domiciled (Langhorne Manor Borough) does not have an EIT Ordinance. Once LMB enacts the EIT Ordinance, .5% of that tax bill will "come home" to Langhorne Manor Borough.

Council President commented, we do not know how much revenue the EIT will generate but, if the amount collected is more than we need, we will lower the local tax to give back to the residents.

We do not know, right now, how much the tax will generate in revenue. An assessment must be made by Keystone Collections. We must file our intention for the tax by October of this year and the assessment is required on that filing. There was continued discussion/speculation regarding the amount, by who, to which municipality, etc.

Mr. Jay Ferraro, 402 Hill Ave. Stated that he is sorry that the council feels they need to apologize for instituting the EIT as he is already paying 1% to another municipality and would much rather see his 1% come back to Langhorne Manor.

Mr. Mark Shapcott, 108 E. Langhorne Ave, asked if we know how many residents will be paying the tax as he has 4 working adults in his home. He was advised that we do not know the exact number yet but it is determined by the PA40.

Ms. Teresa Weiser, 206 W. Prospect Ave., stated that she is concerned that we do not know the amounts we'll bring in, the number of residents who will be impacted or the cost but we're going to push forward as fast as we can.

10.REPORTS

- a. **Jim Niwinski** – reported on a grease clog in the sanitary sewer system that resulted in damage to a residential property on Hill Avenue. It was recommended that we have the system cleaned periodically.
- b. **Cheryl Oessenich** – Since we changed to Whitetail Disposal they do bulk trash on regular trash day and you are limited to one item. Council President asked that Cheryl discuss a change to our contract.
- c. **Nick Pizzola** – Advised residents that there will be a question on the May primary asking if residents support small games of chance in Langhorne Manor. Mr. Pizzola reminded residents that this was initiated by Mr. Jay Ferraro who, in memory of his wife and our former borough secretary, established “The Barbara T Foundation” a charity to fund Ovarian Cancer research. The council supports this referendum and encourages residents vote in favor of allowing small games of chance.
- d. **Bob McBeth** – no report
- e. **Sam Jennings** - Mr. Jennings suggested that council members encourage residents to approve small games of chance, while they are polling this year.

At a previous meeting Ms. Weiser asked the council to talk to PennDOT about sidewalks on the bridge between the two sides of Langhorne Manor. Mr. Jennings advised several council members addressed the subject and it did not seem like PennDOT was receptive. Mr. Pizzola added that PennDOT would not install sidewalks to nowhere, but PennDOT would consider the request if sidewalks existed on the adjacent streets. Within the next 5 years, council will need to decide if we want to install sidewalks on Highland and Gillam Avenues.

- f. **Phil Gillies** – the liquid fuels report is complete and we should be receiving a check for 2024.
Mr. Gillies also addressed the name of the bridge over Route 1. Mr. Pizzola will look into who we need to contact.
- g. **Devin Keating** – no report but she will send updates to the borough secretary to the Storm Water information on the website.

11. MAYORS REPORT – No Report

12. BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT– is continuing to work on the BCPC Hazard Mitigation Plan.

13. SOLICITORS REPORT – no report

14. CORRESPONDENCE – We received a request from the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post #148, to make our annual donation.

Council president called for a motion to approve a \$500 donation to Jesse W. Soby. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

15. APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT – Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the General Unpaid Bills Report for March 2024.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Unpaid bills for March. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Sewer Unpaid Bills Report for March.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer Unpaid bills for March. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Jennings seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Highway Aid Unpaid Bills Report for March.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Unpaid bills for March. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

16. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT - Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns about the Treasurers Reports for February 2025.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the General fund Report for February. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. Jennings seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer fund Report for February. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Report for February. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Ms. Keating seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

17. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS –

Christine Bach, 601 Station Avenue asked about 2 potholes at Station & Prospect, near a school bus stop. Mr. Pizzola said this was supposed to be repaired when the other road repairs were done in 2024. Mr. Pizzola will follow up.

Mark Shapcott, 108 E. Langhorne Avenue, asked the status of the telephone poles left by PECO. Mr. Gray advised that PECO has been contacted several times regarding these poles and we will continue to follow up with them.

18.**ADJOURNMENT** - Council President called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. McBeth seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

19.**NEXT MEETING MARCH 25, 2025**

Respectfully Submitted

Bonnie McGoldrick

Secretary/Treasurer

AMENDED