

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 28, 2025
7:00 PM**

The May 2025 Borough Meeting was on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Mr. Bob Sheils, Mr. Gene Hallinan, Ms. Roni Lope, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, and Junior Council Person Mr. Owen McVety. Junior Council Person Ms. Siddiqui and Ms. Kathleen Simrell were absent.

CDBG Public Hearing: Joe Rovinsky from Lackawanna County CDBG spoke to council explaining the restriction and uses for CDBG monies. Mark Spatz, a volunteer for Hillside Park spoke to council discussed the projects on deck at the Senior Center. They are also working on handicapped improvements at the park. Bob Sheils asked how much CDBG money does the borough have. Mr. Rovinsky said around \$430,000. Bob Sheils stated that the Cooperation Agreement states numerous times that the borough shall provide all funds necessary to finance all construction costs in excess of \$69,875 for Lackawanna County federal fiscal year. He asked why the borough is guaranteeing a loan if there is \$400,000 of CDBG money. Josh Mitchell stated that the work came in under budget. Mr. Sheils wants to make sure this project will not end up coming out of the borough's budget. Mr. Rovinsky stated that won't happen, it will all be from the CDBG money. The stock cooperation agreement was approved by their solicitors. The issues is with the wording in the agreement says if the project cost goes over the borough would have to pay for the additional costs. Mr. Rovinsky said if the borough didn't have any more CDBG money available, that would be an issue. They would be able to do a modification to move money from the money in our CDBG account. Josh Mitchell asked if modifications can be made to the cooperation agreement. Mr. Rovinsky would look into it. The issue is the time constraint on the project. They have been using this cooperation agreement for the last 20 years. Solicitor Krowiak would reach out to their solicitor. Josh Mitchell stated that if the money isn't used in time we would lose the \$85,000. It is essentially a moot point because there is so much money left that is available for us. Mr. Mitchell stated that the reality is that we have several hundred dollars of available funds, we have no additional project that were approved. The borough is not at risk. Josh also thanked Mark Spatz for assisting us with the borough door, which had nothing to do with the park, it is a borough project. Bob Sheils stated that he thinks this is a simple change, if they ask their solicitor. Mr. Rovinsky stated the county had their worksession and the changes are not permitted after that. Solicitor Krowiak stated that the way he is reading the agreement, the borough funds mentioned are referring to the CDBG program funds in which there is over \$400,000. He will speak to their solicitor. Josh Mitchell stated that he believes there is greater risk to us with losing funds by delaying, than there is real risk to the borough by approving this. Mark Spatz stated that the next project under consideration is the Lakeside pavilion senior and handicap improvement project.

1. WORKSESSION:

President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Carey

James Mitchell, from Troop 160, discussed seeking approval for the Eagle Scout project to improve the gazebo at Lewis Lane Park. He intends to pressure wash, replace broken parts and redo the roof. He will need some help from the borough transferring materials. He will be seeking donations for materials. He estimates the cost being around \$2,000. Council needs to approve his proposal next week. James Mitchell also stated that he is interested in the Junior Council Person position.

3. DISCUSSION:

President Carey

- CDBG Resolution 2025-04: Available for vote next week.
- CDBG Cooperation Agreement: Available for vote next week.
- Decker Property: Bob Sheils discussed his conversation with Mr. Decker. Council needs to decide how much they want to spend on the clock tower, or if they are interested in this at all. Gerrie Carey stated that she spoke with the Rotary Club, they would be the group who would purchase the clock. The Rotary Club would need to speak to Mr. Decker concerning the clock and the usage of his property. The borough has been maintaining the clock. The 911 Memorial is also there. The DPW maintains the sidewalks and grass, we plant a flower bed and keep up with that maintenance. We have an electrical panel box that powers the clock and Christmas lights. The borough does not have any ownership of the Decker property; we would need paperwork reflecting that. Solicitor Krowiak stated that it is Mr. Decker's property, but the borough has been maintaining it. There is no documentation showing the borough owns the clock tower. Ms. Basalyga will check with PPL to see the documentation for the power box. Josh Mitchell commented that this is an opportunity to get this cleaned up and documented. Gerrie Carey also suggested having the clock tower moved to the triangle in the borough, it is owned by PPL. A written agreement is needed by all 3 parties.
- Clock Tower Estimates: Fix, replace, teardown quotes: Jenn Basalyga had a breakdown of costs. This was also emailed to the Rotary Club.
- South Abington Paving Proposal response: South Abington will be paving Noble Road and replacing the borough sidewalks in that area. Council discussed options. Josh Mitchell stated the borough should stick to we will pay the prorated portion of the overage for the project. Gene Hallinan and Gerrie Carey agreed. Mr. Mitchell stated that the \$15,840 which is 17% of the overage. He believes that is a fair and reasonable amount to contribute. This is only for the Noble Road paving. Jenn Basalyga stated that the sidewalk tie in project which would cost \$2,430. Borough engineers recommend the side walk tie in. Jenn Basalyga will reach out to South Abington to see if the paving and sidewalks would both be combined in the \$15,840.
- Noble Road Sidewalk Replacement - \$2,430
- Municibid – Spreader \$6,880 - \$5,000 savings from leaf boxes: Jenn Basalyga stated that we received \$2,500 from Municibid. Council would need to vote on the sale on Municibid. Also, vote on the purchase of the leaf Boxes.

- ABPA Summer Solstice special event application-June 14th: Special event application was provided.
- Police Car vote: The borough received the LSA grant in the amount of \$66,211. Council needs to vote to accept the grant. Then Chief Yarns can sign the agreement with the police vehicle dealer. The grant covers the entire cost of the car.
- Act 167 Countywide Stormwater Management Plan-MOA: Solicitor Krowiak stated that this agreement would not cost the borough any additional funds. Bob Sheils stated that with this signed MOA the borough would lose a little control with our stormwater management plan. We will look into the other municipalities involved. This would present a cost savings for the borough in the long run.
- Hired Code Officer 05/19/2025: George Parker was hired. He is Clarks Green's Code Officer.

Susan Dapsis spoke under Public Comment at the end of the meeting. She inquired about televising the council meetings. She knows seniors who would like to know what is happening at the meetings. They would not be able to directly participate. The residents would have to submit questions before the meeting. Jenn Basalyga mentioned that the meetings are not on cable tv. They would be broadcast on you tube, you would need to use an app. Josh Mitchell's concern was the last time they went on you tube, he thinks they were getting too loose with council's attendance at the meetings. Solicitor Krowiak could write up something an advise council on what the requirements are, what conditions need to exist to participate virtually. Solicitor Krowiak will draft a resolution. The only fee is \$15.99 a month for Zoom.

Bob Sheils mentioned the Clarks Summit Borough Day with the Railriders on Sunday.

Jenn Basalyga stated during the meeting with South Abington, they discussed the paving of Old Trail Road, 200 yards between Terrace Drive and Gravel Pond Road. That area was micro paved about ten years ago, but that section of road now is in significant disrepair. Borough Engineers suggested paving the borough portion. We can look at the borough paving bids and a decision can be made after that. This has not been budgeted for. We do not know when this work will begin, but it will be this year.

4. REVIEW JUNE 4, 2025 AGENDA

5. ADJOURN:

President Carey