The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on **Tuesday, February 15, 2011** in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Casimir, Mahon, Molesевич, Morris and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Chief Yost; Manager/Treasurer Smith; Solicitor Lyons; and Secretary Garrison. (Councilmember Morris left the meeting at 8:20 PM.) Absent: Councilmember Cox. Also present: Bill Seigel, David Grey, Chris Brady, Steve Leauber, Joe Deinlein, Wendy Chou, Jim Buck, Tom Zorn, Hank Baylor, and Brian Auman.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Bergonia called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Councilmember Baker, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 18, 2011. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Brian Auman, of SEDA-COG, said he made a very detailed presentation to the Planning Committee for a Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan (Walkability). He provided drawings and a brief explanation for Council. His request is for a $5,000 contribution, which will be paired with other funding partners so SEDA-COG can pursue Federal funding to support a Pedestrian/Bike Master Plan for the greater Lewisburg area, i.e. Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, and Kelly Township. We are also pursuing funding with Evangelical Hospital to have a wellness/active living element to this project. Councilmember Baker questioned if everyone is being asked to contribute $5,000. Mr. Auman explained a study like this costs around $40,000, so if everyone contributes, meaning SEDA-COG receives $20,000, Federal funding could be used to match that amount. Councilmember Molesевич questioned should the application for the grant not be successful, would SEDA-COG proceed with a lower scale project or would the $5,000 be returned. Mr. Auman said that can be discussed. Manager Smith explained the actual Master Plan, when completed, will basically look like this (he held up a brochure that was drafted for another community). Councilmember Molesевич suggested contacting Bucknell University as a contributing partner. Mr. Auman explained they have already asked Bucknell University for trails across their athletic fields to link into the East Buffalo Township neighborhoods, and made contact with the Lewisburg Area High School. There was much discussion. Councilmember Casimir indicated the Planning Committee intended to recommend this tonight, realizing the Borough had already accomplished a lot of these things and that some of these things don’t apply to our Borough. However, like the Union County Comprehensive Plan and the Recreation Comprehensive Plan, the State likes this type of cooperative effort when trying to determine where to apply funding; so for $5,000 it is felt this is something the Borough should participate in.

Councilmember Molesевич made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to approve SEDA-COG's preparation of a Walkability Grant application on behalf of the Borough and the Borough's contribution of $5,000 toward same. Motion was unanimously approved.

Steve Leauber, Vice President/Captain of the William Cameron Engine Company, reviewed the Operational Report for January through December of 2010, which includes a new section titled, "Incident by Municipality Summary", as well as updated Council on the moves accomplished in their training programs. A State Grant in the amount of $10,000 was received for an $11,000 project. They are attempting to purchase a thermal imaging camera, which will be an extremely useful tool. Councilmember Strosser asked the status of the proposed building project funding. Mr. Leauber stated that grant was turned down.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Casimir reported HARB did not meet this month.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to appoint George Jenks to the Traffic Advisory Committee, term expiration December 31, 2015. Motion was unanimously approved.

**POLICE COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to accept receipt of the proposed Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Regional Police between Lewisburg Borough and East Buffalo Township, and to direct the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an ordinance which would allow for the execution of said agreement, with one amendment to Article V, specifically the addition of language immediately after and as initially reflected in Exhibit C, "but subject at all times to the conditions set forth in the said Exhibit." **ON THE QUESTION:** Councilmember Casimir commented he found a couple of things that he feels need tweaked after reviewing this document. Solicitor Lyons explained if Council approves the motion tonight, he will prepare and advertise an ordinance for enactment at the March meeting. Between now and then, obviously with the agreement of East Buffalo Township, minor changes could be made to the agreement, and we can do so before each municipality enacts their ordinance. This ordinance is simply authorization to execute...
the agreement. Councilmember Casimir said his concerns aren’t enough to make him vote against this, but he would like to see the agreement be as tight as possible. Solicitor Lyons said he isn’t sure what is being referred to, but the East Buffalo Township Supervisors agreed so they could not offend their heads if in agreement. Councilmember Casimir pointed out Section 3.2 is very open. Solicitor Lyons indicated it was intended to be. Councilmember Casimir said this is open to political and other, not necessarily constructive, influences. Solicitor Lyons said he hopes is speaking for everyone involved, but you want the ability of each municipality to be able to remove a member not functioning properly or clearly or at the direction of the appointing body. This language allows that. Politically speaking, you would have to have the Council or the Board of Supervisors vote against the removal. Councilmember Casimir said he sees that you want to have some control, but not micromanagement. Solicitor Lyons said the problem was coming up with some middle ground that allowed someone to be removed at will and to avoid the situation you are referencing. We would hope intelligent minds would be able to determine that. Councilmember Casimir stated his comments are aimed at his being suspicious and as critical as possible. Section 3.6 addresses alternate representatives attending meetings, participating in discussions and voting, if the Municipal representative is absent; this seems to open the possibility for people with an agenda to press that agenda, especially because later on we allow for special meetings with one day written notice. What if a Municipal representative is out of town for three weeks? Solicitor Lyons said the alternative representative shall not have the right to vote unless the Municipal representative is absent at a meeting. It is similar to having a Temporary Treasurer, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, and a President and a Vice President; your suspicions are probably justified, but on the other hand, you hope intelligent minds prevail. Remember, it takes the commission members to vote for it and you are talking about one commission member. Councilmember Casimir suggested that person’s vote be specified as a proxy vote or something similar. Solicitor Lyons said he thinks he understands the connotation of what is being referred to, but what if there is an essential issue that requires a vote and immediate action. You then usurp the ability to be able to proceed if there is a necessity to do so. He stressed he cannot imagine that this would occur on a regular basis or even occasionally because you have a commission that will be meeting on a regular basis, they will know the operation, etc. Councilmember Molesevich asked if meetings will have to be advertised. Solicitor Lyons said this is a separate entity, not subject to the same rules as a public entity, but on the other hand, there is no reason why it should not, and there is no reason it will not be brought to full disclosure so the public is well aware of what is going on. Councilmember Casimir said this is subject to the Sunshine Law. Solicitor Lyons said correct; nothing will be hidden from public view. Councilmember Molesevich said the aspect of calling a special meeting would be rare. Solicitor Lyons said he would imagine so. Councilmember Casimir commented the agreement reads, “The chairman or two members may call a special meeting” so it is not difficult to do. This commission we are creating will have a lot of power, will have important employees, be in charge of a $2 million dollar budget, and in spite of his friend and colleague’s published statement that this will be a living document and can be amended as we go along, it certainly is easier to amend it at this point in time. Solicitor Lyons stressed you aren’t amending anything at this point, but simply changing something before it is actually executed. He said he understands the issues Councilmember Casimir has pointed out, but he isn’t sure about a solution. Councilmember Casimir said because he understood there was time, he didn’t really bother to come up with a solution. Solicitor Lyons stated there is nothing in the agreement to prohibit the committee from meeting again before next month’s meetings to review these issues to see if there is another means to address them. Councilmember Casimir commented Section 6.2 talks about additional revenues that can be earned and after talking with Chief Yost he understands that when this money comes in it is for the Commission’s budget, not this amount goes to East Buffalo Township and this amount goes to the Borough; he would like this made clearer. Also, Chief Yost explained Section 7.10 to his satisfaction today. If our force and EBT’s force declines to be employed by the Regional force, as long as they remain the employee of the municipality they would be bound by the terms of the last employment agreement with that municipality. Solicitor Lyons read, “The officers of each Municipality shall continue to operate under the terms and conditions of their then existing agreement, including all wages, hours, benefits, etc., as well as any and all past practices of their respective police agencies, unless and until a new collective bargaining agreement is reached.” Solicitor Lyons clarified the existing collective bargaining agreements expire, as there is a finite date. Councilmember Casimir said the Chief referred to Act 111 which is not referenced in this agreement. Solicitor Lyons stressed there are many Acts not referenced in this agreement or the Police contracts in existence now, so we are subject to them and they still have to be complied with. Chief Yost indicated there was a time when the Unions could block a regional contract by State law, can do that. They are required to move to the new agency, but there still must be compliance with the Act 111 process and negotiations. Councilmember Casimir said maybe this could be made clearer. Finally, Section 10 reads, “The Operational Headquarters shall be determined by the Commission.” He is being paranoid and suspicious about this, but if the first Commission, which Lewisburg has the at-large member, decided to use the empty high school, and then a few years later when the majority switches, EBT could say we now want our new Township Building
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Jim Buck, East Buffalo Township Supervisor, commented he is not opposed to having a Regional Police Department. However there are kinks in this document that need to be worked out. He agreed with Councilmember Casimir’s comments. One concern is relative to funding and the number of incidents. His understanding is 52% of the total man hours or patrol hours will be spent in East Buffalo Township, but the relative number of incidents of the two municipalities suggest either Lewisburg will not get the coverage it needs, or it will, and East Buffalo Township may not get the number of police protection units being paid for; this could lead to friction down the road. Chief Yost clarified the formulation isn’t based on incidents alone. There were five different formats used to determine the way the funding should be distributed based on State standards. It always came down to 52%/48% in regard to this process. What constitutes an incident has to be determined, as well as how an incident is documented. There are agencies that are not busy, but look busy, and agencies that are overly busy and do not look busy. Relative to the budget, there is no real way to determine where we are going to be until we are one year into this process. Until the actual operation phase, he can only base everything off information gathered from the two individual department staffing records and how they do business. Because we are a bordering community, when Lewisburg backs East Buffalo up on a call, we log the call; so a call that wasn’t a Lewisburg call shows up on Lewisburg’s stats and vice versa. This can’t be based upon calls alone. Manager Smith said we found minutes from February of 2009 where we brought this percentage based concept to Council’s attention, after studying population, demographics, housing units, road miles, etc. and everything came back with the 52%/48%. At that time the Committee was willing to accept that, a motion was approved by Council, and that is what was used to proceed; it was recognized that the Police Protection Units (PPU’s) was the best way to afford each individual municipality the right to purchase. Mayor Wagner clarified that PPU’s are created by allowing others to come on board with a cost factor that is easy to understand and accept, and they approximate all the different funding formulas we have looked at before. Chief Yost commented the Commission is to track the PPU’s on a monthly basis with quarterly reports to see exactly how many PPU’s were put into a municipality during a certain period. Manager Smith said adjustments could be made during the following year’s budget proposal. Chief Yost explained the PPU’s are based upon what is available and then municipalities buy what they feel is needed. There was much discussion relative to the PPU formula for funding, with references made to language in Article V and language in Exhibit C. Councilmember Casimir suggested the language be cleaned up as much as possible now. Chief Yost said you can make changes to the PPU allocation based on needs and desires, but at the same time it must be justifiable. Again there was much discussion. Chief Yost explained that we have NOT addressed how the revenue will impact a reduction in the actual costs to each municipality, but have only been dealing with full blown figures. Solicitor Lyons explained there must be a certain amount of dollars to run your force at the current level, and that is the starting point for budgeting purposes. That fair share may change as future PPU’s change, but you cannot reduce the force. Therefore there is a bottom line here that each municipality is going to have to pay. Councilmember Molesevich commented there will be a learning curve and the vagueness being referred to will allow flexibility for freedom and movement with intelligent minds on the commission.

On roll call the vote was as follows:
YES - Baker, Strosser, Casimir, Molesevich, Mahon, Morris and Bergonia
NO - None

Motion was approved by a 7 to 0 vote.
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Solicitor Lyons asked if the Regional Police Committee would like to meet again to make any changes before ordinances are enacted. Township Supervisor Hank Baylor stated, as a committee member, he is willing to accept the contract as it is with the change noted. It was noted by the Regional Police Committee members present (Wagner, Mahon, Baylor, Zorn) that another meeting was not needed. Solicitor Lyons indicated he and Pete Matson already discussed the ordinance, and will be referencing the agreement as an attachment, and will coordinate so the language of our ordinances are the same. This will be advertised for enactment at the March meeting, which will authorize the municipalities to execute the agreement; that starts the process. Hank Baylor commended Manager Smith and Chief Yost for being the glue in this whole regionalization effort over this past year, and of course, thanked the CK-COG for their coordination efforts.

Councilmember Mahon reported the Chief will be conducting a traffic count at the intersection of North 15th Street and Terrace Drive for a potential stop sign installation, and conducting a traffic count on Beck Street and Hazel Alley due to blind intersection issues. (Note: Councilmember Morris left the meeting at 8:20 PM.)

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to direct the Solicitor to prepare an ordinance prohibiting parking on unimproved surfaces for the committee’s review. ON THE QUESTION: Solicitor Lyons reported this is already empowered in our zoning ordinance and property maintenance code, which allows our Zoning Office to enforce it. What Councilmember Baker is looking for is an amendment to an ordinance to empower our Police Department to also enforce that particular restriction. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve advertisement of the bid for the South Fifth Street Project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Seigel, SEDA-COG, stated he asked to be able to address the CDBG Program briefly, but would like to make a statement regarding the regionalization efforts; they take a tremendous amount of work that is unappreciated, and he commended the committee for their work. He explained there are so many rumors right now regarding Federal funding with regard to the CDBG Program; he has heard talk about a 7 1/2% reduction this year. This is one program that has resulted in the direct investment to local “antiquated” infrastructure in this nation, and both parties agree there is a need for this. Federal funds under the CDBG Program flow through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development. Act 179 was passed in 1985 and created the Entitlement Grant Program. There is a recommendation proposed to move the CDBG Program from DCED to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). The only way that program could be moved would be with legislative action, which would reopen Act 179; if that happened, it is highly likely that Act and the Entitlement Program as we know it would change. First, when Act 179 was passed they tied eligibility to population and a distressed rating which was published under a Federal HUD Program called the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG). There hasn’t been a distressed list published since 1989. So all communities qualified under the entitlement program of Act 179 are only there because of an old list, and if reopened they would be remiss in not looking at that list. Second, the cities, the League of Cities specifically, are very powerful and have always felt they didn’t get their fair share. So he expects lobbying on behalf of the League of Cities. He wants Council to be aware of what is taking place. He feels our small rural communities will likely see less assurance of funding and/or less actual funding if Act 179 is reopened. He suggested the Borough consider contacting local legislators regarding your opinions.

David Grey, SEDA-COG, indicated he met with the Public Works Committee regarding prioritizing funding and referred to his memo dated February 14th. Final adjustments to these numbers could still occur, and any change would be brought before Council.

Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Molesevich, to prioritize the 2011 CDBG Projects as follows: Fifth Street Reconstruction ($63,200); Removal of Architectural Barriers ($41,000); Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc. ($1,095); and, Administration ($19,600). ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Strosser asked if our total allocation would go down, these would all go down proportionately, except for the Agency on Aging. Bill Seigel said accurate; SEDA-COG would follow the Borough’s direction and would reduce administrative fees to stay within the legislative maximums or less. Motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to approve payment of the bills from 01/15/11 through 02/11/11 in the amount of $330,005.11. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir commented that Councilmember Morris asked that he point out the $95,000 expenditure to Berman
Mayor Wagner welcomed our guests this evening. She thanked the East Buffalo Township Supervisors for working with the Borough and for all their support in the police regionalization efforts. The Ice Festival was a huge success again, as was the Polar Plunge.

POLICE CHIEF: No report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: No report.

SOLICITOR: Solicitor Lyons stated at the last meeting he was authorized to prepare an ordinance changing the no parking on North Third Street from Friday between Midnight and 7 AM to Tuesday between Midnight and 9 AM. Subsequent to that motion, for various reasons, Manager Smith felt we should limit the no parking on Tuesday between Market and St. John Streets from 7 AM to 9 AM, as the crew could get the work done in that timeframe, so this change was made before the ordinance was advertised to save the Borough from having to readvertise. Council action is needed on this change.

Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Molesevich, to amend Council’s motion of January 18th to approve of the Solicitor advertising a change to the parking restrictions on North Third Street (from Market to St. John Street) FROM Tuesday-Midnight to 9 AM TO Tuesday-7 AM to 9 AM. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Smith explained we wanted to get the day consistent and there is nowhere else in the Borough with a nine hour parking restriction in a residential area. Motion was unanimously approved.

Solicitor Lyons reported this ordinance, making this change to the parking restrictions on North Third Street (from Market to St. John Street) has been duly advertised and is ready for Council action.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to adopt Ordinance No. 1001, prohibiting parking on North Third Street Tuesday’s from 7 AM to 9 AM from Market to St. John Street. Motion was unanimously approved.

MANAGER: Councilmember Molesevich made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to approve the lease agreement between Julia E. Sanders, Executrix of the Estate of Richard C. Sanders, Deceased, and the Borough to allow the Borough to access land adjacent to salt shed for purposes of accessing salt shed; performing work on, demolition and excavation of, and replacement of such salt shed; and providing for parking of Borough’s motor vehicles and those of its officers, agents and invitees. ON THE QUESTION: Manager Smith said when we started the Salt Shed Project, the owner of the rail line wasn’t interested in a temporary construction easement and wanted something more permanent. This project is complete, and we have now finalized a more formal easement for the Borough for the cost of $1.00 per year. Solicitor Lyons said this is for five years, with three five year renewals. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Smith explained Bucknell Field Hockey has requested using our three globe street light for a t-shirt fundraiser; he distributed a drawing showing “I (LOVE is signified by a heart with the lampost in the heart) LBG.”

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to allow Jamie Whitten, on behalf of Bucknell University’s Field Hockey, to use the street light logo on t-shirts being sold as a fundraiser. Motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilmember Casimir reported the Shade Tree Commission is trying to be more proactive following up on non-plantings; currently there are seven delinquent properties that will be receiving letters explaining they need to plant or the necessary work will be done and they will be billed for the work. Also, we are going to deal with North Second Street, similar to North Third Street. There are 35 trees in total from Market Street to St. John Street and in both directions for a portion on St. John Street. These 35 trees will be an Arbor Day Project, so bare root trees will be bought, which are significantly cheaper. We are hoping the Borough will dig the holes and he is hoping there will be volunteers for the plantings. Although there isn’t a formal process for the Shade Tree Commission to access monies, we need to make sure there is approximately $3,000 available. Manager Smith clarified there are two separate issues: 1) property owners not replanting, for whatever reason, so the Borough will take the responsibility to plant and bill the property owner accordingly; and 2) there is a potential project in conjunction with Arbor Day, to be paid for completely by Shade Tree Commission funding. Solicitor Lyons said the ordinance empowers the Shade Tree Commission to direct the planting of trees, replacement of trees, and to say yes or no for...
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removal of trees; if money has been budgeted, it can be used. Manager Smith pointed out the problem is that the Borough accesses that fund for Borough work on trees and plantings. Councilmember Casimir said he is looking for guidance for the expenditure of monies; approximately $5,000 is what is needed. There was much discussion. Councilmember Molesevich suggested the Planning Committee set up a procedure that is more permanent and structured for the Shade Tree Commission access of Shade Tree Commission funding.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Molesevich made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to acknowledge receipt of the Budget Index; Police and Parking Report, Zoning Officer Report, and Code Enforcement Officer Report. Motion was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: Council President Bergonia announced there will not be a work session held on Tuesday, March 8, 2011.

There being no further business, Councilmember Molesevich made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mahon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison
Borough Secretary