

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, February 4, 2008, in the Village Office.

Present: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Larry Fresinski, John O'Neill, Frank Moore and Lynn Leopold; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M. and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

### Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Fresinski moved to close the public comment period. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Frank Moore-Aye

Trustee Lynn Leopold -Aye

The next item on the agenda was to consider the Cold War Veterans Exemption. Dubow had prepared Proposed Local Law B which Jodi sent to Jay Franklin at the Tompkins County Assessment Office so that he could review it. Jay suggested some revisions that reflected the very recent amendments to the NYS enabling legislation for this tax exemption signed by Governor Spitzer on January 28<sup>th</sup>. It was explained that this tax exemption can be implemented only if local taxing authorities take appropriate action to authorize it. It was reported that the only other municipality in Tompkins County that has implemented this new exemption is the Town of Lansing. Tompkins County and the Town of Ithaca did not and Groton is the only other municipality that is still considering it at this time. Dubow indicated that he did not have any legislative history on this Cold War Veterans Exemption and the manner in which the State decided to authorize it. He explained that if someone claims any other permitted veterans exemption, that individual is not entitled to this new exemption.

After further discussion, the Board tabled this until they could look into it a little further. It was acknowledged that there is currently no rush to get this done because unless a special meeting was called, a public hearing could not be completed by the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to have it apply to this next year's taxes. It was questioned whether this exemption was more symbolic than substantive. The Mayor indicated that he assumes so because there is not much of an effect in the Village. Although, if it was 15% of school taxes then it would have a much bigger impact. It was suggested that this subject be talked about in the next newsletter.

The next item for discussion was the proposal for a local law to control solicitors in the Village of

Lansing. It was acknowledged that in a previous meeting John O'Neill had brought up the issue of creating such a law. He has had 4-5 residents in his neighborhood complain about people coming to their doors to sell things. Jodi had previously distributed a copy of the Village of Cayuga Heights's Peddler Law to the Board for their review. Don's main concern was with licensing and creating more work for Ben to solve an issue that really isn't that big of a problem. It was suggested that John tell residents that these solicitors are actually trespassing on private property and they have the right to tell them to go away. Lynn suggested that these residents put up a sign that says "no soliciting". Frank feels this is more like a solution in search of a problem. Don feels there is an enforcement issue, and David explained the enforcement duty and obligation that may arise out of this type of local regulation. He also observed that the Village may want to evaluate whether this is one of those instances where only a few problems may have arisen, but a local law will then have a much broader application that could raise other and questions and issues. John suggested it may be best to take no action on this matter.

Originally it was thought that Don could not attend the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. He has checked his schedule and will be able to attend, so it is not necessary to try to reschedule that meeting. John O'Neill will be the only one not able to attend that meeting.

The Board discussed how to proceed with future newsletters. It was explained that the Town of Lansing has gone to electronic newsletters. They sent cards out to all of their residents stating that the newsletter is now online and that if they wanted to receive it in paper copy, they should call the Town Office. Currently the Town of Lansing only sends out about 50 paper copies. This seems to be a very cost effective way to stay in touch with the public. It may even allow the Village to do newsletters more frequently. Frank asked about having a blog whereby the Village and its residents can communicate. The problem with that is that individuals participate anonymously and the Village wouldn't know if the person is actually from the Village or not. Also, someone would have to constantly monitor this.

Jodi suggested that a postcard be sent out that gives the residents a place to go online to request that they receive a paper version of the newsletter or be notified of the availability of a newsletter. We currently have the Yahoo group set up to inform residents of special events if they chose to sign up. Dan Veanor of the Lansing Star stated that he uses [Constantcontact.com](http://Constantcontact.com) to notify Lansing Star readers every Friday when a new edition comes out. Dan stated that it costs about \$300 a year. Larry will look into this. Jodi will create a few versions of a postcard to submit to the Board at their next meeting for final approval.

Mayor Hartill entertained the following motion:

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from January 7, 2008.

Trustee O'Neill moved that the draft meeting notes, as reviewed and revised by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Board, are hereby adopted as the official minutes. Trustee

Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from January 16, 2008

Trustee Leopold moved that the draft meeting notes, as reviewed and revised by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Board, are hereby adopted as the official minutes. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain	Trustee Larry Fresinski-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was Mayor's Comments. Mayor Hartill stated that about two months ago there was an incident where a Town of Lansing resident had a stray slug hit the window frame of his house. This residence is located about a mile from the Tompkins County Fish and Game Club that is located partly in the Village but mostly in the Town of Lansing. The slug was allegedly a 9mm. Everyone is guessing that this was not from the Gun Club. There are a lot of questions associated with this event. One concern the Mayor had was that we have recently passed a law that says there is no discharge of firearms in the Village of Lansing. Dubow has researched this and there is an Environmental Conservation Law exemption from the otherwise applicable firearm discharge regulations for membership corporations that provide shooting ranges and similar activities. It was explained that the Village cannot supersede the State exemption and cannot prohibit them from shooting as permitted under the State exemption. It was also explained that the only discharge of firearms on the portion of the Fish and Game Club located in the Village is the skeet shooting range which could not have been the source for the incident reported. There is a barrier around the pistol range so it is also very unlikely that the slug came from the range. It was suggested that Dan run an article on this in the Lansing Star. Dan indicated that he already ran an article two weeks ago.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> Don will be meeting with Scott Pinney, the new Town of Lansing Supervisor, and Walter Lynn, Mayor of Village of Cayuga Heights, to talk about extending sewer to the commercial park on Warren Road in the Town of Lansing and possibly the apartments just past that location. Don has already verbally agreed to let them hook in through the Village of Lansing. The phosphorous removal design for the Village of Cayuga Heights Sewer Plant is complete and should go out to bid soon. The Town of Ithaca and the Village of Cayuga Heights are still negotiating over the flow through the Kline Road Bypass.

Don attended the TCCOG meeting where they discussed Countywide Health Benefits. Don wonders if it is worth the trouble because it will actually only save us about 10%. Don is unsure of the

effectiveness of this group.

It is budget time again. Jodi has sent out requests for budget information. The plan is to begin discussion at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and have the public hearing on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The heavy construction is complete on N. Tripphammer road Project. We are still waiting for forms so that we can pay Suit Kote and close out this project.

John O'Neill asked the Mayor if he had had a chance to look at the Flood Insurance model law. Ben Curtis has looked at it and given John comments. Don has not had a chance to review it but we are still moving forward.

Larry has sent an email to all the Trustees informing them that Danica Computing will no longer be providing internet service in the area of the Village office. They have found that it is not cost efficient for them. They have agreed to continue to be our service provider. Larry has contacted Time Warner regarding their Roadrunner service, but hasn't heard back yet on how much it will cost. Larry will soon have a recommendation for the Board.

Mayor Hartill requested an executive session.

Motion- To Go Into Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Issues Permitted To Be Discussed In Executive Session Under The Open Meetings Law

Trustee Fresinski moved to go into executive session and Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold -Aye	

The board went into executive session at 8:48 pm.

Motion- To Come out of Executive Session

Trustee Fresinski moved to come out of executive session and Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold -Aye	

The Board came out of executive session at 9:20 pm.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Fresinski moved for adjournment. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold –Aye

Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye  
Trustee Frank Moore-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer