

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, September 21, 2009, in the Village Office.

Present: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Lynn Leopold, John O'Neill and Julie Baker; Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and opened the public comment period. Richard Durst of 1040 Cayuga Heights Road stated his concern over the recently paved Cayuga Heights Road. He didn't feel that it needed to be done. He indicated that there used to be a 4" drop off on the side of the road and now there is a 6" drop off, and that this condition might pose a danger. Mayor Hartill stated that the road may have appeared to be in good shape, but in fact the road was never finished. It was originally thought that a sewer line would be installed under Cayuga Heights Road as part of the Intermunicipal Sewer Project so the road was never fully finished pending that anticipated road work being done. The sewer line is no longer being proposed, the unfinished work was therefore just completed. The Mayor also explained the Village's program of planned road work and improvements and its intent, unlike many other municipalities, to be proactive as opposed to reactive. He indicated further that the shoulder will be addressed. Richard also stated that he preferred it when the road was not in good shape because it works as a traffic calming device. Richard asked if we could have the Village of Cayuga Heights Police patrol that area. Don stated that the VCH Police have no authority in our village. Don stated that if the Village of Lansing had a police force it would essentially triple our taxes. We currently have protection from the Sheriff and State Police. Don will make a call to them to remind them of our speeding problem. Lynn asked if we could put our radar speed sign there for awhile. It was also suggested that we add additional signage to that area such as "Children at Play", "Deer Crossing" or a speed limit sign.

### Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Leopold moved to close the public comment period. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Don stated that Lynn Leopold has agreed to serve on the Water Resource Council. The meetings are the third Monday of each month. Lynn stated that she attended the meeting today. Due to Tompkins County Budget cuts, they will be reducing the number of committees within the council. Don is impressed with what this group is doing.

Resolution #5564- To Nominate and Appoint Lynn Leopold as the Village of Lansing Municipal Representative to the Water Resource Council

Trustee O'Neill moved this resolution. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Jodi distributed Brent Cross' second recommendation to reduce the Bolton Point Estate Letter of Credit based upon the work completed since that last reduction. Brent has recommended that the Letter of Credit, originally \$1,000,000.00, be reduced from \$666,409.00 to \$441,050.00

Resolution #5565- To Authorize a Decrease in the Bolton Estates Irrevocable Letter of Credit to \$441,050.00

Trustee O'Neill moved this resolution. Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from August 13<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. All were present for all meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> but Don was not present at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from August 13<sup>th</sup>

Trustee Baker 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 John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from August 17<sup>th</sup>

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 Baker seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the Cornell Integrated Deer Research & Management Program. The Village received a letter from Joy Boulanger, Cornell's Extension Associate & Deer Program Coordinator, requesting limited bowhunting on two

Cornell parcels that fall within the Village. The properties are located south of Route 13 and east of Brentwood Drive. These lands are a refugia for a large number of deer and Jay feels it would be beneficial if opened to their Integrated Deer Research & Management Program. This program is a 5-year controlled research experiment which uses both sterilization in the core campus area and hunting in surrounding areas to reduce the deer numbers and associated impacts. There would be no more than four bow hunters on these lands at any given time. There will be no exclusive rights to a “select few” hunters. All hunters are screened through a Cornell Police background check before access is granted. There is also a mandatory sign-in, sign-out system at a deer check station. The goal of this deer management strategy is to mitigate deer damage. It is the first experiment that integrates hunting and fertility control to maximize the potential effectiveness of both techniques.

Don stated that this program was very successful last year. Harvesting happens in a few ways, starvation, disease and cars. About 40-50 deer are hit by vehicles in the Village each year. When we don't have a controlled bow hunt we see the population increasing. Deer travel about 1 mile so the whole area will be helped with a controlled hunt. There is no easy solution. Lynn stated that archery doesn't push deer like gun hunting does.

Dubow stated that our Village Code states several conditions that need to be met to have a hunt in the Village of Lansing. He advised the Board of the specific provisions and procedures that govern this process. The Board was in favor of permitting Cornell to hunt on the identified parcels in the Village if they agree to abide by all of our laws and regulations. Jodi will send Jay a letter stating that the Board is supportive of Cornell hunting in the Village as long as we have a written agreement with them as required by our local law. Jodi will also include a copy of Chapter 67 of our Codification so that Cornell will be aware of the requirements and procedures to be provided for in the agreement with the Village. It was asked if we could add them to our DMAP Program, but it was pointed out that it is too late to do so for this year.

During the Mayor's comments he stated that Jodi will be leaving tomorrow for the NYCOM Fall Training School. He confirmed once again that the Village will be doing its own snowplowing this winter, and informed the Board that the salt has been ordered and the Highway Department has been cleaning out the salt storage shed. The first delivery of salt will be 700 tons. The International truck and the one ton truck are each getting a wing installed. He further advised that at the recent auction in Lansing the Village sold its backhoe and bought a used 2004 Sterling Dump Truck. The purchased truck was previously owned by the Town of Dryden. Don feels we are in good shape for snowplowing this winter because John was in charge of plowing a much larger area when he worked for the Town of Lapeer. Don explained that the Town of Lansing had budget problems this past year. There was a 17% increase and as a result they looked at what it cost to plow the Village and came up with approximately \$75,000. When the Village did a similar calculation we came up with a figure that was \$20,000 less. Salt was a major part of the costs because the Town pays what appears to be a higher amount per ton with trucking. The Village presented a counter-offer in an effort to reach a compromise, but the Town Board didn't accept it. Don expressed that we are hoping for a mild winter so

that we can ease into this venture, however, we are fully prepared.

Don reported on the recent Bolton Point Water Commission meeting. He stated that they are still negotiating with the City of Ithaca about joining Bolton Point, and that the Commission, by a majority vote, has extended a preliminary proposal to the City with the understanding that the specific terms will still need to be finalized. He indicated that if the City would join Bolton Point the participating current rate payers would save an estimated \$800,000 over an extended period of time. Don hopes that the City of Ithaca will ultimately decide to join the Commission. It is his opinion that it makes good economic sense for everyone involved.

Don advised the Board that we have received a letter from the Tompkins County Health Department regarding the condition of the water tank behind the Village office. The demolition of the tank was supposed to happen this past year as part of the proposed Burdick Hill tank project under consideration by the Commission. The existing Burdick Hill Tank was identified as needing to be repainted and it was then determined that the cost to do so would be 80% of a new tank. The Commission has therefore been evaluating whether to repaint or replace that existing tank, and also the possible construction of a second new tank at that site if the existing tank needs to be taken off line. The Commission is still looking at installing two new tanks on Burdick Hill Road, and is comparing costs of two different types of tanks. The decisions that will need to be made will affect what is done with the tank behind the Village office.

It was reported that budget wise the Village is in good shape. Other municipalities didn't plan for the reduction in sales tax, but the Village did. The Mayor also indicated that the Village operates on the basis that its roads last about 15-20 years and we have therefore planned to take care of about a mile a year.

Lynn asked when the North Triphammer Road Bridge would be completed. Don will have John Courtney call the NYSDOT office in Cortland to find out. It originally was supposed to be opened by the time school started but they were waiting on parts.

John O'Neill stated that the Lansing Fire Department addition was approved by a vote of 99-69. John also recognized Mrs. Kim for all of the landscaping that she has done around the Village office property and her adjoining property, as well as her volunteering to paint the sign and mailbox posts. Don will send her a letter of appreciation. John asked why there is no sidewalk from North Triphammer Road along the Mobil Station to Friendly's. Don stated that he doesn't recall if there was ever an agreement approved by Mobil to do the sidewalk. Lastly, John has been working on retirement health insurance. The Town of Lansing has a new employee manual coming out which he will get.

Lynn had brochures prepared by the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Districts on creating your own backyard Rain Gardens. These brochures are available in the office.

Julie Baker reported that she met with the staff and they have indicated their preference not to have the Village join the Tompkins County Council of Governments Health

Consortium. The Village's current health insurance is with New York Group Administrators which has a history of providing the Village with good rates. It was the general feeling of the employees that joining the Health Consortium at this time would present too many questions that are unanswered.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye  
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer