

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, March 21, 2011, in the Village Office.

Present: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees John O'Neill, Lynn Leopold, Julie Baker and Patricia O'Rourke; Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Planning Board Chairman, Maria Stycos.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm and opened the public comment period. Dan Veanor stated that he attended the Tompkins county IDA meeting this morning. The Lansing Meadows PDA/BJ's Project PILOT-PIF got passed 4-2. Dan stated that it was an interesting meeting. It appears that the Ithaca City School District (ICSD), as one of the taxing authorities affected by the now approved IDA funding, hasn't committed to participating in the PILOT/PIF. It was indicated that ICSD is somewhat unhappy because they believe they were not approached and included in this process in a timely fashion. They also are concerned about the manner in which the tax abatement is to be allocated among all of the affected taxing authorities involved. Dan was surprised by the animosity of some of the IDA members and the various County parties involved. They seem to be angry that the Village didn't change the residential/senior housing component of the PDA. The developers were very happy with the outcome. As to the ICSD concerns, Don stated that anything that relieves the tax burden at the County level also benefits the ICSD.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill -Aye

Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The next item on the agenda was the continuation of budget discussions. Don stated that the corrections from last meeting had been done and asked Jodi to explain. Jodi stated that she had updated the budget program with the recommended changes and had highlighted all the changes on the copies distributed to the Board. The changes included updating the full time staff salaries by 3% increases and the related social security and Medicare, adding \$30,000 income for the sale of equipment and adjusting the anticipated cost of the new Village office building to be constructed. The recommended tax rate is \$1.21/\$1,000.

After reviewing the Budget again, Jodi had a couple of questions for the Board. A3620.12 is our Electrical Inspector's salary. This amount was lowered from \$10,400 to \$8,000 in the original budget submitted by the Mayor. Floyd had stated that he did not want a raise this year. The Mayor stated that we should restore it back to \$10,400. Jodi also got a final number for A7310.4, Youth Programs. The two items that make this up are our projected payment to the Joint Youth

Commission for \$13,500 and our payment to the Recreation Partnership for \$14,097. Therefore, the proposed budget can be lowered from \$30,000 to \$27,597. Don stated that A1620.2 will also need to be adjusted by the \$3 reduction. Jodi stated that she heard from Jeff Silber, Village of Cayuga Heights Treasurer, and he stated that the Village of Cayuga Heights proposed budget calls for a decrease in the sewer unit charge from \$189 to \$165. Therefore, G2374, Sewer Charge Income and G8189.4, Intergovernmental Charges can both be lowered to \$407,550. These changes result in the Total Appropriations for the General Fund being \$1,831,737 and Total Appropriations for the Sewer Fund of \$653,405. Total Appropriations for the Water Fund will remain at 1,361,562.

Resolution #5702-To Set a Budget Public Hearing With the
Recommended Changes for Monday April 4, 2011 at
7:35pm

Trustee Baker moved to set the budget public hearing. Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O'Neill -Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye	

Dan Veanor asked if the new office building was being built with general or reserve funds. Don stated that instead of transferring funds to the reserve fund this year they are instead using that money as a budget item to fund the construction of the new office. Don went on to explain that we have built up our reserve over the years as we plan for big projects. Some projects don't get done as originally scheduled, and therefore there is a large appropriated cash surplus which in turn ends up going to Capital Reserves. Our reserves are very healthy and currently we do not need to increase them. Don stated that due to good financial management, the Village is in excellent shape.

Lynn asked if we knew when the new Cayuga Heights Road water line would be done. Don informed her that the engineers are currently working on the design and it should go out to bid this spring. He thinks it will be mid to late summer, but we will inform the residents in the area as soon as we know. With all the proposed projects, this will be a busy summer in the Village.

During the Mayor's comments he stated that the Lansing Meadows PDA /PILOT-PIF has been recommended to the ICSD and he hopes they will approve it. Originally the Tompkins County IDA voted against the project in late December, but since then the cost of construction of the senior housing has been lowered and the senior housing will be taxed at full assessment. BJ's has a must start date of April 1st. Martha Robinson was the swing vote. Don indicated that if this was not approved the County stood to lose a significant amount of potential sales tax revenue and the 70 jobs the project will create, not to mention the construction jobs to build it. Don feels it is sad that it took this long.

Don stated that we are just about ready to occupy our new garage. It was acknowledged that roads in New York have taken a beating this winter season, however our Village roads are in pretty good shape. There are complaints about the potholes at the Route 13 south ramp which is not under the Village's control. Don will have John Courtney call NYSDOT in an effort to have the State repair the ramp.

In response to an inquiry from Dan Veanor, Don indicated that the Village owns and maintains 18 miles of road. He also indicated that the Village has offered to take over the seasonal road in the Bolton Estate Subdivision that goes down to Poison Ivy Point on the lake. The Village and Bolton Point are in the process of finalizing those road transfer arrangements which will include pedestrian access to the area near Poison Ivy Point. David Dubow indicated that the Village now owns Poison Ivy Point and the parking area above. Those conveyances were closed about a month ago in accordance with the original subdivision final plat approval and related approval conditions. The Commission needs 40-50 feet of additional lake frontage to install a storage shed and for the dive team to be able to go in and inspect the water intake pipe and efforts are ongoing to obtain an easement for that purpose from the developers/owners.

John O'Neill stated that he attended the Town of Lansing meeting. He handed out maps of the new trail across from the Town ball fields. The Town is still dealing with the Orear water line issue. Don stated that originally the Village was involved in the ongoing litigation commenced by the property owners that are affected, but the Village has now been released.

Trustee O'Neill stated that Tompkins County got a surprise from the State. In July there will be significant financial cuts. Don stated that this is one of the reasons why sales tax revenues have become very important to the County. Don feels Tompkins County is not careful at watching their personnel count, although he also acknowledged that the County does have mandates which it much comply with. The biggest mandate that the Village of Lansing has is stormwater management requirements imposed upon local municipalities.

Trustee Leopold reported that she attended the Water Resource meeting. She informed the Board of a Medication Disposal Event that will be taking place on April 9th. Jodi will post this information in the upcoming newsletter. Some WRC members attended the scoping session on the EIS for dredging spoils out of the main channel at the south end of the lake and the western end by Cascadilla Creek. This project will create about 70,000 cubic yards of spoils. Dredging in this area has not been done for over 30 years. It is still unclear who will be dredging. Barbara Lifton has gotten some money to help with this project. It won't happen for at least another year. It turns out that the bottom materials are pretty clean.

David Dubow has passed the draft IDDE local law back to Lynn after his review and his recommended revisions. Lynn hopes to present it to the Board at the April 4th meeting.

Trustee O'Rourke has attended the last two youth services meetings. They are worried that they will lose their funding, and are also worried about loss of jobs. There was a lot

of brainstorming at this meeting. Amy Hendericks is Director of the Tompkins County Youth Board. Don stated that TCAT is also facing funding issues. They will be reassessing their bus routes.

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 Julie Baker-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer