

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, August 17, 2015, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Ronny Hardaway, Gerry Monaghan, John O’Neill, Patricia O’Rourke, Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; John Gillott, Planning Board Member.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:33pm and opened the public comment period. Carol Klepack was the Community Party observer.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to close the public comment period. Trustee O’Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O’Neill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye	

Motion- To Approve the Minutes of August 3rd

Trustee O’Rourke moved to approve the minutes. Trustee O’Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain	Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill –Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye	

Hartill stated that as a commissioner of SCLIWC (i.e., Bolton Point – “BP”), there has been a fair amount of discussion as to the way BP has in the past billed water to its customers. The minimum charge is bankrolling the big users by 15%. Approximately half of the Village of Lansing accounts are minimum bills. The people that can not afford it are subsidizing the big users. The Mayor has been trying to rectify this situation for 4 years. Hartill explained that if a minimum \$5 fee per quarter was added to each account that would recover the amount that is subsidizing the large users. This would be a little over \$300,000. He then translated what needs to be charged per 1,000 by taking average expenses and consumption averaged over the last 3 years. That number is then reduced by 15%. If you are using over 10,000 gallons you are being subsidized each quarter. With this proposed rate increase, we did not move to this more sensible way of billing. If we changed the way we bill, it would force conservation.

Hartill explained that approximately \$4.2 million dollars are needed to operate BP on an annual basis. BP produces 829 million gallons. For many years the Commission was

spending down the fund balance. Therefore, there is currently an \$800K reserve type fund which is included in the annual operating budget. The Commission figures out what it needs to operate, divides by the number of gallons and comes up with a rate.

There are three water plants in this area -- Cornell University, City of Ithaca and BP all have separate water systems. Ithaca College is BP's biggest user. BP produces 3 million gallons a day, but is currently capable of producing 6 million gallons per day. This amount could easily increase to 9 million gallons per day with some slight improvements.

The Commission pushed very hard to have the City join BP. Bad blood from prior years prevented this from happening. The City could have easily saved money by joining the Commission. The engineering firm that the City hired for its new water project, made it look cheaper to build their own plant when in actuality it will apparently cost them much more than estimated. BP will supply water to the City for over a year as they build their own plant. To provide water to the City, a grades/extension increase in size to the current interconnect will be necessary. The City will pay for that and also be paying for water usage during the building of their new plant.

Hartill explained that Villages do not have water districts. Towns have water districts. Costs may be very different for each district. Monaghan is concerned with senior citizens and low income residents. The proposal to have a minimum charge with no minimum bill would be a way to control that. Basically, there would be a fixed fee and then you would pay for each additional 1,000 gallons of consumption. The break-even point is 8,000 gallons. If your usage is below that you save. BP would get the same revenue; it's just how you collect it. There was a concern with what this would mean to businesses. Hardaway asked the Mayor if he sees a shift in the future. Hartill looks at this as fairness.

What we have before us is a resolution to accept an increase of 2% from \$4.35 to \$4.44 per 1,000 gallons. Each of the five municipal members of the Commission have to approve this rate increase or the Commission members have to go back to renegotiate. If the Village stays at its current surcharge of 25% for both water and sewer, the minimum water and sewer bill would increase from \$97.40 to \$98.80

Resolution #6191-To Accept the Proposed Amendment to the SCLIWC Agreement Setting the Increased Rate of \$4.44 per Thousand Gallons of Water

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing entered into an agreement of intermunicipal cooperation with several other municipalities creating the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission ("SCLIWC") and authorizing the construction by such Commission of the Bolton Point water treatment plant and related transmission and other facilities, which agreement was restated as of June 5, 1979, and which agreement has been subsequently amended from time to time (such agreement as so amended being hereinafter referred to as the "SCLIWC Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the SCLIWC Agreement included a schedule of the water rates to be charged, which schedule has been amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the parties to the SCLIWC Agreement wish to amend the Agreement to increase the water rates, and a copy of the proposed amendment has been submitted to this Board for its approval; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees finds it is in the best interests of the Village of Lansing and its citizens to accomplish the proposed water rate increases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees, in accordance with Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law - the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQR”) and 6 NYCRR Section 617.5, hereby determines that adoption of said proposed amendment and the establishment of water rates constitute a Type II action, constituting “routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment,” and thus may be processed without further regard to SEQR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees hereby authorizes on its behalf the execution of the proposed amendment to the SCLIWC Agreement submitted to this meeting, approving thereby the amendment to the rate schedule so as to increase the water rates to be charged under the SCLIWC Agreement generally from \$4.35 per thousand gallons of water to \$4.44 per thousand gallons of water; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the approval by all required parties of the proposed amendment to the SCLIWC Agreement setting the increased rate of \$4.44 per thousand gallons of water, and concurrently with the effective date of such amended rate as provided for in the approved amendment to the SCLIWC Agreement, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees hereby establishes the foregoing increased rate as the base rate chargeable to each owner of property that is provided with water service by connecting to the Village of Lansing Water System, all such water service charges being subject to the additional water rate surcharge (currently 25%) imposed by the Village from time to time by resolution of the Village Board of Trustees.

Trustee Hardaway moved this resolution. Trustee O’Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill –Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Mayor Hartill stated that he had a meeting with Courtney and our two engineers regarding Sheraton Dr. They have decided to go forward with cut rock in the ditch along Sheraton Drive. A waterline and 728 pair copper cable are all in the way of putting new piping in. Adding large rock will be the easiest way to line the ditch.

The Pyramid Dr. Sidewalk on the south side will be extended and become ADA compliant at the west end. A crossing lane will be installed. We will get rid of the sidewalk by the Ramada hotel and move it into our right of way. It is anticipated that this project will be completed this construction season.

Hartill stated that we were going to have a discussion of Village deer management issues, but because the matter was not included on the meeting agenda and no formal public announcement, the Board will therefore defer that discussion and any possible action to the upcoming regularly scheduled Sept. 21st Board meeting which will be included in the published agenda for that meeting. It was pointed out that the first Monday of September is Labor Day, so there will not be a Board meeting on that date. The Mayor wants a read as to where to proceed for this upcoming year and what sanctioned NYSDEC deer management programs will be utilized. The Mayor's personal opinion is that the conventional approach has begun to taper off. He questioned whether we want a control hunt, a nuisance approach, or both. Having just a nuisance approach has more education associated with it. It limited the number of people willing to carry out program and is more effective. We will discuss all of this more in public at the meeting on September 21st.

Bernd Blossy stated that he emailed his 2014-15 Deer Report to the Board for their review in anticipation of the Village's decision-making process for the coming season. Together with information available from the DEC, Cornell and other parties, nuisance permit options will need to be considered and evaluated. We may consider the entire Village in a nuisance hunt from September until the end of March. Further discussions will take place on Sept. 21st. Blossy will submit a plan.

Hartill stated that we need to decide who will attend the NYCOM Conference September 28 thru October 2nd. Hardaway, O'Rourke and Monaghan all expressed interest in going, however we only budgeted for one Trustee to attend. Hartill feels it is important to participate. Dake and O'Rourke have agreed to room together. Hartill stated that if Monaghan and Hardaway would also be willing to share a room, then he would be willing to endorse sending all three Trustees. Dake stated that it would be a great learning experience for all of the Trustees. The Mayor endorses sending three Trustees to NYCOM along with the Clerk/Treasurer. A future budget transfer will be necessary, but that is why we have a contingency fund.

Dake stated that she has incorporated all of the changes to the Comprehensive Plan that were suggested at the joint Planning Board/Board of Trustees meeting on August 10th. She would like the Board of Trustees to consider having another joint meeting on Sept. 21st. Hartill stated that he is about half done with his executive summary. Dake plans to

send the revised and corrected document along with the Mayor's summary to everyone by August 26th. This will give the Boards plenty of time to review and submit additional comments to the Clerk/Treasurer before the meeting.

Gerry Monaghan stated that his art project in the park has evolved and he is now working with the Ithaca School District on applying for a red and gold grant. He would still like to use Dankert Park. More of the project will be done at the school and then displayed along the fence in Dankert Park. It will be a celebration of our linguistic diversity. It has evolved to be more school based instead of Village based. The Board was supportive of this event.

Hardaway stated that, as previously directed by the Mayor, he is getting a Green Space Committee organized. It was suggested that Hardaway speak with Carol Klepack after the meeting since she was a member of the original Greenway Committee that created the Greenway Plan.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill made a motion for adjournment. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer