

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, November 18, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O’Neill and Patricia O’Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Planning Board Member Jim McCauley; Lansing Star Editor, Dan Veanor; Community Party Observer, Lynn Leopold; and one other public.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:34 pm and opened the public comment period. Lynn Leopold stated that she was attending as the community party observer. Hardaway stated that he wanted to record the meeting so he had a recording of the Climate Smart Community discussion to make sure he didn’t miss anything.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

O’Neill made a motion to close the public comment period. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from November 4, 2019.

O’Neill handed out a copy of the November 4th approved Resolution #6618 - Adoption of the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge as proposed by Hartill. He likes this resolution rather than the model resolution that was first presented.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of November 4, 2019

O’Rourke made a motion to approve the November 4th minutes. O’Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill-Aye	

Consider Climate Smart Community Resolution

Mayor Hartill read the resolution that Hardaway had previous emailed the Board asking them to establish a Climate Smart Community (CSC) Taskforce. Hardaway also volunteered to be the CSC Coordinator and Taskforce Chair. Hartill stated that it has

been proposed that tonight we carry out the next step of establishing a CSC Taskforce and appointing its Coordinator and Taskforce Chair. O'Rourke wondered if this person/committee would help guide us through this process. The CSC has defined the approved 10 pledge elements.

O'Neill thinks that the approved resolution from last week is enough. There are a lot of people from the top above the Village doing this.

Hartill stated that it is one of the items that everyone is in favor of doing but there is no clear path as to how to do it. In communication with his brother Mike who puts out battery fires, there are various stories on how to extinguish battery fires. These devices store a lot of energy. It turns out that the most effective way to put out a battery fire is with a lot of water which creates electricity. Basically, you need to get rid of the oxygen. Hartill sees no simple path forward for that. In the west there are 400 megawatt class installations. The wall plug for Tompkins County is 100 megawatts. It is a start of a process. It turns out that it is cheaper to install a big solar farm and a big battery system where the sun shines all the time. My problem is we have enough points with what we are already doing to be bronze at this point. Hartill wondered what we do after this that is affordable and goes in the right direction. Hartill needs to see a path forward. He doesn't see this mechanism as the best path forward. One issue is battery storage. The technology is not there yet. If we go down this path they will figure out a battery that works better. It will involve minerals or chemicals that are very hard to come by. There was a thing in the news about mica, which comes from Madagascar. Where families are living on \$3 a day mining this stuff. Most are kids. There is no free lunch and it will take a lot to get where we need to be. Hartill has a furnace that burns fuel oil in his basement. One of the things that he came across was a proposal to install a small cogen system in your basement. You get heat and electricity. It is those kinds of things that will allow us to make progress. It will take a lot of ingenuity to go where we need to go. We need to try and do as much as we can. The only way to get there is to have a wide range of discussion. We can set up a task force and manage that task force. Hartill would like Smith to also be on the task force. We need a balanced approach. O'Neill suggested that a Planning Board member should also be on the committee. Katherine Herleman the Village apartment resident who works for Schyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension administering Clean Energy Programs would also be a good member for the committee. Another possible candidate is Andrew Foster.

Smith feels this is a top down directive from the State and he thinks the needs of each community are also unique. Local government is the closest to the community so we need to understand our community needs and use as a guideline of where we are going in the future. Whatever we come up with has to come through the Board of Trustees for approval. It would be nice to have panels on the roof or install a battery charger system but what will it cost and who will pay for it? Anything going forward would have an impact on Beer development. We should also have something on the website.

Hartill stated that at the Community Leaders Breakfast they talked about Town of Ithaca's stringent building code. The low hanging fruit is insulation that could cut heating

bill by 30%. That is relatively straight forward. Foam also kills sound. You can encourage builders to build very tight buildings.

Troy asked Hardaway what the job duties of the taskforce chair are and time commitment. Hardaway stated that the Coordinator coordinates activities of the task force and submits Village artifacts to the State. The Coordinator owns the online CSC tracking account. The action items are evaluated by NYSERDA and then if done properly we get points. Or if not approved they would tell us how to improve the item. The chair sets meetings, makes announcements, sets the agenda, ensures the minutes are taken and works with the task force to come up with discussions just like a normal committee.

It was suggested that we may want to have one person as Coordinator and Chair. Once approved by the Board they would then be submitted. We could have 2 people. The Coordinator and Task Force members gather and submit artifacts online. Hardaway is very comfortable doing online portals because he did this in his profession. Hardaway stated that the goal is not to get points; it is to discuss this whole path and decide if we want to go forward with each step. It is not a process that we will ever complete. Even if we do complete, technology will change and the climate will change. There is no mandate in this yet but it is a matter of time. There is a good chance that NYS will say that governments must do this by a certain date.

O'Rourke asked if we had to do the steps in order. We can decide which ones to do, however, the first two steps are mandatory before you can proceed thru the others. Hardaway answered that some of the steps might need to be sequential, but others could be done out of their listed order.

O'Neill is afraid of the top down approach. Hardaway stated that we have no control over that. This is what the Village wants to do to change energy to clean sources. When it is time to replace equipment, should we look at a cleaner source. We need to assess our climate resilience and what we are doing, or going to do, to protect the Village from extreme weather.

Smith stated that New York State is putting together information as to what actions will be required in 3 years. Hopefully it will include grid infrastructure upgrades.

Hardaway referenced an article that was sent today about Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). By joining CSC, we will have a strong voice within the county to help Tompkins County have a stronger voice in Albany.

Hartill stated that we are not alone in infrastructure needs. It is the age.

Smith thinks the Village should combine the Chair and Coordinator into one position. Hardaway stated that the roles can be split later on if it gets too cumbersome.

O'Rourke stated that we have to move on and the task force that knows a little more. Smith stated that this is what NYSERDA is doing.

Hardaway stated that we have good, knowledgeable people in this area with the colleges. We have some good resources so we don't have to start from scratch.

O'Rourke questioned whether we would be locked in if we pass this resolution. Hardaway stated that we can just stop. Smith wanted to make sure that everything goes through the Board of Trustees before being approved. That will be the case.

Dan Veanor asked Hardaway some clarification questions.

Hartill stated that the member of the task force will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees. We will approve members at a future meeting. It will be a maximum of two members from the Trustees and two from the Planning Board. We may even want to include a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Plus other residents.

Hardaway stated that this would be an Advisory Board for the Village that also coordinates with NYSERDA.

Troy stated that we should have something that merges the two positions. Troy will draft a resolution for the next meeting. Hardaway stated that he is chomping at the bit to do this and is excited to get started.

Status of Cell Phone and Computer Use Policy

Hartill was supposed to propose language for the cell phone and computer usage but did not have a chance this weekend. The policy will be consistent with how we currently use the devices. It will be very simple and say cell phones are more complicated and our staff uses for photos, to gain information from the web and to make calls. We need to keep in mind that all these devices are subject to FOIL. We must retain all information on the devices for 5 years.

Hardaway asked if there are any benefits to treating both as the same type of device-no distinction between cell phones and computers. One needs to be realistic in how these devices are used. Hartill will have a proposed policy for the December 2nd meeting.

Leopold asked for clarification that the devices being discussed were for Village staff and not personal devices. Hartill explained that Village devices might be used for personal reasons and personal devices might be used for Village business. All of the devices could be subject to FOIL requests and the Village-related information on the devices must be retained for 5 years.

Mayor's Comments

Hartill stated that he will be meeting with Mike Baker Wednesday afternoon to further explore taking over the road around the Shops at Ithaca Mall. The lawyer for the Shops at Ithaca Mall has a family issue so he will set up a meeting with their engineer after Thanksgiving to take over Graham Road West as a village road and exchange a little triangle by TOPS that will be given to them as part of their stormwater management.

They want to subdivide a portion of their property to build an extended stay hotel. We are making progress. O'Neill thought the hotel had gone away. Hartill stated that they got financing for it.

All park benches have arrived and we will identify sites for the benches. O'Rourke volunteered to also go. The grant states that we must have a picture of four installed benches to get our grant money.

Hartill stated that the accident studies for Triphammer Road had been shared with the Trustees. There are limited accidents considering the traffic. The bridge by Lansing Schools no longer allows heavy truck traffic. As a result heavy truck traffic is routed around that bridge and now Triphammer Road is considered a road for trucks. There are a lot of 18 wheelers going by. This should be temporary for about a year.

Hardaway asked if the Village would be reimbursed for the damage being caused by the truck traffic. Dake stated that we got Federal funding when we rebuilt N. Triphammer Road. Hartill stated that when we were planning to rebuild N. Triphammer Road we found that if we combined north of Route 13 and south of Route 13 it then met all the criteria for some State and Federal funding. One hold up in the process was that we needed more right-of-way. One owner would not agree to that so went thru buying row for a year. NYSEG had their utilities that had to be moved in the right-of-way which delayed us in getting started.

Hartill stated that the 50-60,000lb. TCAT buses also tear up our roads more than an 18 wheeler. There is also all the truck traffic that is hauling material for the 2000 bed facility that Cornell University is constructing. One of the reasons why the trucks do not use East Shore Drive is because it is hard to navigate the corner at Route 13. N. Triphammer has been designated a major truck route.

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway motioned to adjourn. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer