

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, February 3, 2020 in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees, John O'Neill and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Natalie French; and 3 additional public.

Deputy Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:31pm and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from January 6 & 16, 2020.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of January 6 & 16, 2020

Smith made a motion to approve minutes. O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Dake stated that the 14 easements for the new sewer line to the Town of Lansing went out. One person has returned their easement.

Public Hearing Local Law 1 (2020)

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing on Local Law 1(2020).

Motion - To Open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 (2020)-
Amendment to Village of Lansing Code-Sewer Rents

O'Neill made a motion to open the public hearing. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Since the sewer rate is part of our Codification, a local law is needed to increase the sewer rate. The current amount charged by the Village of Cayuga Heights is increasing from

\$4.14 to \$4.35. The Village surcharge of 25% comes out to \$1.3525 so the Local Law proposed rounds the surcharge to \$1.35 which is an increase of \$.06 per 1,000 gallons.

Dake stated that she contacted Brent Cross at the Village of Cayuga Heights and asked if there were any specific reasons that they increased the sewer rate. Cross stated that they are in the process of updating the plant and we may see another increase with the new fiscal year. Cross volunteered to put together an explanation of what was being done as part of the plant improvements. Once Dake receives this she will share it with the Board. Dan Veaner, Lansing Star, asked which other municipalities sent their sewage to the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH) sewer plant. VCH processes material from the Town and Village of Lansing, Village of Cayuga Heights, Town of Ithaca and Dryden.

Motion - To Close the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 (2020)-
Amendment to Village of Lansing Code-Sewer Rents

O'Neill made a motion to close the public hearing. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The following resolution was proposed:

Resolution #6633- To Adopt Local Law 1 (2020)-Amendment to Village of
Lansing Code-Sewer Rents

Smith made a motion to approve this resolution. O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The following is a copy of Adopted Local Law 1 (2020):

AMENDMENT TO VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE-SEWER RENTS

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing as follows:

SECTION I. PURPOSE AND INTENT.

As a follow-up to the prior adoption by the Board of Trustees of Local Law 1 of 2019 which relating to the amendment of Section 111-21 (entitled "Rents for property owners connected to the Village of Lansing water system") and Section 111-22 (entitled "Rents for property owners not connected to the Village of Lansing water system") of Article II (entitled "Sewer Rents") of Chapter 111 (entitled "Sewers") of the Village of Lansing Code, and which provided for the imposition and collection of sewer rents for the use of the Village of Lansing sewer system and the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system, it is

the purpose and intent of this Proposed Local Law 1 of 2020 to provide for further amendments intended to increase the current sewer rents payable to the Village of Lansing for the use of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system based upon the concurrent and like increase by the Village of Cayuga Heights Local Law 7 (2019) which increased the sewer rate from \$4.14 to \$4.35/1,000 gallons used for treatment of waste water originating from properties located outside of the Village of Cayuga Heights; and an increase in the Bolton Point water rate resulting in an increase in Village of Lansing charge; and more specifically, to amend accordingly (i) subsection A of Section 111-21 [entitled “Rents for property owners connected with Village of Lansing water system”] of Article II [entitled “Sewer Rents”] of Chapter 111 [entitled “Sewers”] of the Village of Lansing Code, and (ii) subsection A of Section 111-22 [entitled “Rents for property owners not connected with Village of Lansing water system”] of Article II [entitled “Sewer Rents”] of Chapter 111 [entitled “Sewers”] of the Village of Lansing Code.

SECTION II. AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE.

A. Subsection A of Section 111-21 [entitled “Rents for property owners connected with Village of Lansing water system”] of Article II [entitled “Sewer Rents”] of Chapter 111 [entitled “Sewers”] of the Village of Lansing Code is hereby amended so as to read in its entirety as follows:

A. Each owner of property that is provided with water service by connecting to the Village of Lansing Water System shall be charged for, and shall be obligated to pay, a total annual sewer rent amount comprised of the following:

- (1) A quarterly sewer rent charge for use of the Village of Lansing sewer system, such charge to be equal to one dollar and thirty-five cents (\$1.35) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons of water, or portion thereof, used by such property owner, with a minimum charge of six dollars and seventy-five cents (\$6.75) for each individual multiple dwelling unit for each quarterly billing (as provided in subsection “B” below); and**
- (2) A quarterly sewer rent charge for use of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system, such charge to be equal to four dollars and thirty-five cents (\$4.35) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons of water, or portion thereof, used by such property owner, with a minimum charge of twenty-one dollars and seventy cents (\$21.75) per each individual multiple dwelling unit for each quarterly billing (as provided in subsection “B” below).**

The amount charged for use of the Village of Lansing sewer system shall be individually calculated, and thereafter collected by the Village of Lansing for all quarterly billings commencing with the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission/Bolton Point quarterly billing after January 1, 2020. The amount charged for use of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system shall be individually calculated, and thereafter collected by the Village of Lansing (or such other party designated by the Village of Cayuga Heights), for all quarterly billings commencing with the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission/Bolton Point quarterly billing after January 1, 2020. Each such amount shall thereafter continue until otherwise modified from time to time by further local law adopted by the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees.

B. Subsection A of Section 111-22 [entitled “Rents for property owners not connected with Village of Lansing water system”] of Article II [entitled “Sewer Rents”] of Chapter 111 [entitled “Sewers”] of the Village of Lansing Code is hereby amended so as to read in its entirety as follows:

A. Each owner of property that is not provided with water service by connecting to the Village of Lansing Water System shall be charged for, and shall be obligated to pay, a total annual sewer rent amount comprised of the following:

- (1) A quarterly sewer rent charge for use of the Village of Lansing sewer system, such charge to be equal to one dollar and thirty-five cents (\$1.35) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons of water, or portion thereof, used by such property owner, with a minimum charge of six dollars and seventy-five cents (\$6.75) for each individual multiple dwelling unit for each quarterly billing (as provided in subsection “B” below); and**
- (2) A quarterly sewer rent charge for use of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system, such charge to be equal to four dollars and fourteen cents (\$4.35) for each one thousand (1,000) gallons of water, or portion thereof, used by such property owner, with a minimum charge of twenty-one dollars and seventy cents (\$21.75) for each individual multiple dwelling unit for each quarterly billing (as provided in subsection “C” below).**

The amount charged for use of the Village of Lansing sewer system shall be individually calculated, and thereafter collected by the Village of Lansing for all quarterly billings commencing with the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission/Bolton Point quarterly billing after January 1, 2020. The amount charged for use of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer system shall be individually calculated, and thereafter collected by the Village of Lansing (or such other party designated by the Village of Cayuga Heights) for all quarterly billings commencing with the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission/Bolton Point quarterly billing after January 1, 2020. Each such amount shall thereafter continue until such amount is otherwise modified from time to time by further local law adopted by the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees.

SECTION III. SUPERSEDING EFFECT.

All local laws, resolutions, rules, regulations and other enactments of the Village of Lansing in conflict with the provisions of this local law are hereby superseded to the extent necessary to give this local law full force and effect.

SECTION IV. VALIDITY.

The invalidity of any provision of this local law shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this local law that can be given effect without such invalid provision.

SECTION V. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall be effective upon its filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

Set Water Rate

Hardaway stated that recently our Department of Public Works (DPW) said that there have been more instances of water lines failing and our reserves are not as high as we would like them to be to be proactive. The proposal is to increase the Village of Lansing (VOL) surcharge from 40% to 50% of the water rate charged by Bolton Point. Hardaway feels we should follow the model that the Village has done in the past, plan and save for work and follow through. Our Water Reserve Fund is not as high as we would like it to be for potential repair work or potential projects to replace lines proactively before they fail. We are in the process of planning down the road. If we have a little cushion, rather than handing out higher bills to residents to cover costs that have already occurred, we will be able to cover those expenses with reserves. Hardaway stated that potentially, at some point, when we've got what we think is enough money to cover all of our projects and a cushion for emergencies, we could reduce that rate just as we have raised it. Temporarily, at least

probably for several years, we will be at a 50% surcharge. Hardaway stated that we could table this since we only have three Board members here.

Smith stated that at the last Thursday staff meeting, when Hartill and O'Rourke were both present, we discussed this increase and they were both in favor of the increase. DPW stated at that meeting that they have noticed that we are getting more line breaks in old lines. With this increase we can continue with these repairs and plan for our aging infrastructure. It is good planning.

The Bolton Point water rate has increased from \$5.16 to \$5.41 per 1,000 gallons. The Village is seeing increased maintenance costs with aging infrastructure and this is basically the only source of income for the Water Fund. An increase in the surcharge from 40% to 50% would mean that what the Village collects for maintenance and infrastructure expenses would increase from \$2.06 per 1,000 gallons used to \$2.70. The current total water rate is \$7.22 and would be increased to \$8.11 per 1,000 gallons.

O'Neill stated that since the whole Board and staff were present to discuss this issue at the Thursday staff meeting that he was comfortable going ahead and approving the increase.

Resolution #6634- To Authorize the Increase in the Village of Lansing Water Surcharge From 40% to 50% of Bolton Points Water Rate Set Annually

O'Neill made a motion to approve this resolution. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Continue Informal Discussion on Proposed Lansing Meadow Subdivision

At the January 6th meeting Bold & Goetzman requested that they be on tonight's agenda to bring documentation showing what their proposed setback changes are, the changes shown on a preliminary plat and a letter from the TCIDA stating that they are ok with the changes. They did not show up for tonight's meeting. Hardaway stated that they are not here probably because they are still collecting data.

General Discussion

Hardaway reminded everyone that the Village will be starting to discuss budget at the February 13th staff meeting.

The Climate Smart Committee kick off meeting will be here at the Village Office on Thursday from 6-8pm. At this meeting they plan to set future meetings and laying out the rules. There are currently three voting members. (Ronny Hardaway, Randy Smith and Simon Moll) There are also seven liaisons which include Mike Scott, Lynn Leopold, Darby Kirby, Terry Carol, representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension and two other Village residents Catherine ?? and Andrew Foster. This taskforce will determine what will go before the Board of Trustees to be approved.

Hardaway stated that he and Mayor Hartill attended the ribbon cutting last month at Planet Fitness. Hardaway is impressed with new location. It is an improvement over their previous location at the Shops at Ithaca Mall.

Hardaway stated that in January the Village paid off their sewer bond and is now debt free. Unlike most other municipalities, the Village tries to avoid debt.

The Planning Board is inviting people to attend an informational meeting on Monday, February 10th to discuss short term rentals. They are looking for input from people that do short term rentals or live by someone that does short term rentals. At that meeting the Planning Board will also have a public hearing on cluster subdivision preliminary plat presentation by Solar Home Factory.

O'Neill asked if the Board had seen the email from Ethan Gormley concerning the protection of drinking water. Hardaway stated that it is a countywide activity to get input. The Water Quality Council is looking at how to improve the water quality throughout the State and would like to meet with Village representatives. O'Neill thinks that Bolton Point should also be present. NYPIRG would like the Village to send a representative to speak to the Ithaca Common Council about the threat of chemicals and how we can help them protect our community from being exposed to them.

Smith gave a report, in addition to what has already been mentioned, on the Planning Board meeting he attended. The Planning Board has not heard from the Beers. There were discussions with the Mall to eventually turn Graham Road West and a portion of the ring road over to the Village. They want to try and revitalize the mall.

Hardaway feels we have a good Planning Board. Lisa Schleelein has announced that she will be retiring after May 1st. Mike Baker will become chair. The Village is looking for another resident that would like to serve on the Planning Board. The current alternate, Tony Ingraffea, would like to remain an alternate. Interested residents should contact the Village.

Motion- To Adjourn

O'Neill motioned to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer