

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, November 16, 2020, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Simon Moll, Patricia O'Rourke, and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Supt. Of Public Works, John Courtney; Mike Powell, BZA; Lisa Schleelein and Jim McCauley, Planning Board; Judy Drake, Town of Ithaca; Dan Veaner, Lansing Star; Andrew Sullivan, Eric Goetzman, Jeremy Thones and Kristin Gutenberg.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:33pm and opened the public comment period. Veaner stated that this will be one of his last meetings because he will be retiring in December after 15 ½ years. Veaner is trying to sell the Lansing Star. The Board all feels that he will be greatly missed because he does such a great job of levelheaded reporting.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from October 19th.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of October 19, 2020

Smith made a motion to approve minutes. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Appoint BZA Member

Hartill stated that the next item on the agenda was to appoint Michael Powell to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Trustees had previously been sent Michael Powell's impressive resume. Hartill stated that it is nice to have another physicist in Village politics.

Resolution #6690- To Appoint Michael Powell as a Board of Zoning Appeals Member Replacing Simon Moll for a Term Expiring May 1, 2024.

Smith made a motion to appoint to the BZA. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Powell thanked everyone for appointing him. He is excited to contribute to the Village.

Collective Bargaining Agreement for UAW

Judy Drake was present to answer any questions regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the United Auto Workers for Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission's Employees for 2021-2023.

Resolution #6691- Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the United Auto Workers for Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission's Employees for 2021-2023

Whereas, the Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission, in good faith, entered into contract negotiations with the United Auto Workers union for a renewed collective bargaining agreement for the contract that expired on December 31, 2020: and

Whereas, on October 28, 2020, the Commission's negotiating team reached tentative agreement with the union's negotiating team; and

Whereas, on November 2, 2020, the employees in the union bargaining unit ratified the tentative contract; and

Whereas, the Commission reviewed and approved the tentative contract at the November 5, 2020, Commission meeting; and

Whereas, the Village of Lansing has reviewed the tentative agreement and determined it to be acceptable as required by the contract and the Public Employees Relation Board; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Village of Lansing does hereby approve the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Commission and UAW unit; and, be it further

Resolved, the Village of Lansing authorizes the Commission's negotiating team to sign said contract as presented.

Smith made a motion to approve this resolution. Hardaway seconded the motion.

Moll asked Judy Drake what percentage of the employees are on the PPO Health Insurance Plan verses the Platinum Plan. Drake stated that new hires only have the option of getting the Platinum Plan, so the PPO is really only available for those that were hired before 2018. Currently, half of the staff is on PPO and half are on the Platinum Plan.

A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Proposed Local Law 3-Sewer Rents

Proposed Local Law 3 is to increase the January 2021 sewer rates is being presented. Village of Cayuga Heights is increasing their rate from \$4.35 to \$5.05 per 1000 gal. and the Village of Lansing rate will increase from \$1.35 to \$1.40 based on an increase of the Water Rate being charged by Bolton point from \$5.41 to \$5.60 per 1,000 gal. (We bill 25% of the water rate for sewer charge)

Hartill stated that the increase in cost has to do with Cayuga Heights upgrading their plant and Borg Warner learning how to recycle their water. As one of our biggest producers for wastewater, this will cut down our flow significantly. Duke stated that any time a change is made to the Village of Lansing Codification it has to be done by Local Law unless it is in the Administration Section and then it would be by resolution.

Resolution #6692 - To Set a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law 3-Sewer Rents (2020) on December 7, 2020 at 7:40pm.

O'Rourke made a motion to set a public hearing. Moll seconded the motion.

Smith was confused because saying Borg Warner is recycling more, it makes it sound like it is increasing the use of the treatment plant. Hartill explained that it is just the opposite. Borg Warner uses a cooling system for their machine tools. In the future they will be recycling that water and using it more than just once. They will most likely have a closed loop cooling system. Borg Warner is one of Bolton Points largest customers. The part of Borg Warner that is in the Town gets billed for water through the Town of Lansing and we bill Borg Warner for the sewer that is based on water consumption. The upgrade to the facility is the biggest chunk of it.

Hartill added that the Village is also installing electronic readout of our flow meters so we will have a readout about every 4 minutes. Currently, Courtney goes there once a month and downloads the data. This is important because we have Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) into the system and if we have instrumentation we can isolate where it is coming from and fix it. The new flow meters will feed into the central collection system at the Ithaca Area Plant and we will have access to that system. Hartill stated that he is still debating about a laser-based flow meter system that we could take around to various locations but that has doubled in price.

Veener asked if this would mean more capacity for the Village and Town of Lansing. At some level it will. We are expanding our sewer system to the Town which still requires two more easements. Hartill is afraid we are going to have to do eminent domain on one property because the owner passed away and has no known relatives. Hartill hopes the project can go out to bid in January.

O'Rourke made a motion to set a public hearing. Hardaway seconded the motion.

A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Proposed Local Law 4-Zoning Change

Hartill stated that this proposed local law is to up zone the parcel at the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 13 and Warren Road that is owned by Cornell from medium density residential to high density residential.

Hardaway was concerned that this local law was subsuming our Dankert Park and the Ithaca Swim Club. Hartill stated that he thinks that entire medium density area is being changed to avoid spot zoning. Hardaway was concerned that the property tax on the Swim Club would go up. Gutenberg stated that the Swim Club is run by a Board of Directors, not an individual owner. Kristin Gutenberg added that Cornell did not include the other additional parcels in their request. The Board decided to wait on this proposal until next meeting so that they can first speak with Mike Scott, Code & Zoning Officer.

Lansing Meadows PDA

Resolution #6693- To Set a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law 5-Change to Lansing Meadows PDA (2020) for 7:45 on December 7, 2020

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

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

Computer, iPad, Cell Phone Use Policy

Hartill stated that there is a draft policy that has been circulated. Hartill stated that Courtney had some concerns with it. Moll stated that there is a section on security and that all Village computers and tablets are required to have an antivirus software. He wondered if cell phones should be added to that. Dake was not aware of an antivirus program for cell phones. Moll will need to provide more information on that. Hartill suggested that we get this worked out before we go any further. Hartill was very suspicious of just a single provider for something like that. This will be put on the December 7th agenda.

Moll asked if we make them carry two cell phones, one personal and one from the Village. Hartill stated that the Village cell phone is not used heavily for personal use so he doesn't see a reason to carry two phones in this modern world. There is a flat usage charge.

Mayor's Comments

Hartill gave a Covid-19 update. He feels the rise in Covid-19 cases is due to Halloween. The encouraging news is that there are currently two vaccines that are quite effective. The hospitalization rate in Tompkins County has been reasonable, we had a peak of 10 cases. Hartill thinks we will get back to some normalcy in late spring or summer.

Hartill stated that John O'Neill will be honored for his 16 years of service as a Trustee at the Town Gown event on Saturday. Dake previously sent the zoom meeting information to the Trustees for that event.

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway motioned to adjourn. Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer