

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, July 21, 2003, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Trustees Larry Fresinski, Lynn Leopold, Janet Beebe and Frank Moore; David Dubow, Village Attorney

Deputy Mayor Fresinski called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. He opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Beebe moved to close the public comment period. Trustee Moore seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Lynn Leopold- Aye                      Trustee Janet Beebe-Aye                      Trustee  
Frank Moore- Aye                      Trustee Larry Fresinski- Aye

Next on the agenda was the engineers report. Dave Putnam reported that 2 sewer lines have been fixed. He will be getting the information to David Dubow so that the Village can attempt to collect the \$6,013.55 paid to Grant Street Construction to repair the sewer at 22 Thornwood Drive. It is believed that Fibertech was the cause of the necessary repair.

Putnam is working on finishing Brook Drive and will include Votapka. Larry commented on the water run off down Brook Way that does not go down the pipe but creates it's own little canal. Dave will check this out next time it rains during the day.

The next item on the agenda was to appoint John Piscopo to another one year term as Planning Board Alternate and activate him for the July 29<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting. David Dubow gave the following explanation: Local Law 2 of 1990 allows for the Board of Trustees to appoint an alternate member to the Planning Board for a period of one year. Then the Board of Trustees must take separate action to activate that alternate as an acting member For the alternate to be able to vote he or she must also have participated or had reasonable opportunity to participate as a voting or non-voting member during the time the matter being considered has been heard before the Board. Ben Curtis and Ned Hickey have both indicated that John has met this criteria since he has been attending the meetings regularly and often stops in the office to speak with Ben. There was some confusion on who activated the alternate because the codification, once it is approved, will allow for the Planning Board Chair to activate the alternate appointed by the Board of Trustees. Until the codification is completed, it is the Board of Trustees that must activate the alternate member.

This brought up a concern that Larry didn't think the codification, once approved was changing any laws. He thought that it was just a document that was bringing all the Village's Laws together for an indexing purpose. Jodi pointed out that throughout the draft codification there are footnotes that state what sections are being changed at the time of adoption. Larry does not recall these footnotes being on the version of the draft codification on the Village's Web Page and will investigate it further.

Frank thought it odd to appoint John Piscopo for just one meeting and also thought it was very complicated. David Dubow explained that the Planning Board has a sensitive issue at the July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and feels it needs 5 members present. They will be discussing the Millcroft Subdivision, with respect to which the County Planning Department has notified the Planning Board that it may have some negative inter-community effects, thereby necessitating a majority plus one vote of the Planning Board to approve the preliminary subdivision plat.

Resolution #3986 -To Appoint John Piscopo as a Alternate Member to the  
Planning Board for a Period of One Year.

Trustee Leopold moved this resolution. Trustee Beebe seconded the motion.

Trustee Frank Moore- Aye      Trustee Larry Fresinski- Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye      Trustee Janet Beebe-Aye

Resolution #3987-To Activate John Piscopo as an Active Member to the Planning Board for the July 29, 2003 Planning Board Meeting.

Trustee Leopold moved this resolution. Trustee Beebe seconded the motion.

Trustee Frank Moore- Aye      Trustee Larry Fresinski- Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye      Trustee Janet Beebe-Aye

Frank asked for some specific information about John Piscopo and his qualifications to serve as an alternate/active member of the Planning Board. Jodi explained that he is a mature gentleman who lives in Lansing Trails Development. He himself was once a developer. He has been involved as an alternate to the Planning Board since he moved to the Village a couple of years ago. He also served on the Board in Newfield. He enjoys being involved with his community. Larry stated that often we have had to trust Ben or Ned's recommendations and they have always worked out well. He feels this is no different.

It was agreed that in the future the appointment of alternate Planning Board and BZA members will become part of our yearly organizational meeting in May. Frank repeated his feelings that this alternate/active member appointment procedure was ridiculous. David Dubow stated that New York State law allows for this to be done and it was instituted in the Village back when Ned Hickey would leave for three months in the winter to go to Florida. David suggested that Frank speak with Ben or Ned regarding this issue.

Next on the agenda was general discussion. Larry stated that this is an opportunity to bring up any issues that were not on the agenda. Lynn advised the Board that she had received a break down of the Northeast Seniors expenses and income and wondered why the Village gave \$2,000 to this group each year and the Village of Cayuga heights only gave \$1,000. Jodi stated that this issue was brought up at budget time because previously we were the only municipality contributing. This is the first year that the Village of Cayuga Heights has contributed when in fact most of the members live in the Village of Cayuga Heights. Larry explained that sometimes we just take the lead and do something because it is important to us.

Larry indicated that he has spoken with a resident who is concerned with cars not yielding to pedestrians as they cross at the Triphammer Rd./ Sevanna Park intersection. This same person was also concerned with the pothole at the edge by the sidewalk and pedestrians getting splashed by cars as they drove by. The Board was advised that N. Triphammer Rd. will be fixed to make it through the winter pending the start of the North Triphammer Road Project next Spring. Frank suggested zebra striping the crosswalk. The Board also discussed talking pedestrian signals and countdowns. Jodi informed the Board that there is already a countdown display at that crossing. Lynn doesn't think the talking displays work. Another option would be a no turn on red sign.

Janet asked for some clarification on the Fire Inspection report that Carol put in her folder. Some businesses have multiple dates after their name. It was explained that this indicates that Carol found items that needed to be fixed and she returned to re-inspect them again. The dates are all the times she had to return for one item or another.

Lynn questioned how long our Village could run with the current staff given the amount of development that will be taking place in the near future. Frank feels there should be a serious review of our Department of Public Works. He indicated that in the Village, it appears that Greenway maintenance doesn't happen automatically and that our DPW is a reactive organization. If there is no negative trigger then nothing gets done. Frank would like to see a system of scheduling because he believes that no one manages a work plan. Larry commented that our Village operates reasonably well. We identify top projects and the top project gets completed. Lynn feels there is a need for more direction. Larry suggested we ask for a monthly report from Dennis.

The Board discussed that one problem is that there is no yearly employee review, and that this should be done. Larry feels that, for the most part, our staff has been self-motivated so we haven't had to review. He also indicated that the present staff has been very cost effective and the residents seem to be happy with our tax rate. In this perspective, he indicated that we are doing really well. It was acknowledged that growth is happening which will increase our tax base but will also increase the amount of services we may need to sub out.

Lynn commented that Carol Klepack was involved with the Greenway issues and also got very frustrated. Frank stated that residents in Lansing Trails are eager to help with maintenance but this is something that needs to be planned out and coordinated. Frank does not see a system for how this can be done. The Board discussed the possibility of having someone who could perform the duties of a chief operating officer who would make the staff accountable, responsible and provide follow up. Hiring another person to do this could be expensive and the Board needs to look at the cost benefit verses the qualitative benefit. Lynn suggested that we have an "adopt a trail" program just like we have an "adopt a highway" program. The Board concluded that someone needs to take responsibility for the Greenway.

Lynn and Don indicated that they would not be at the meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a public hearing scheduled for that meeting on Proposed Local Law C. It was agreed that the Board would hold the public hearing but hold off acting on that matter and/or passing a resolution until the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Motion-To Adjourn

Trustee Leopold moved adjournment. Trustee Moore seconded the motion.

Trustee Frank Moore- Aye      Trustee Larry Fresinski- Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye      Trustee Janet Beebe-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Jodi Dake  
Village Clerk/Treasurer