

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 7, 2008, in the Village Office.

Present: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Larry Fresinski, Lynn Leopold, John O'Neill and Frank Moore; Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:41 P.M. and opened the public comment period. Julie Baker stated that she was representing the observers this evening. There were no other comments.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Motion-To Open the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2008-09 Budget

Trustee Lynn moved to open the public hearing. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill -Aye
Trustee Larry Fresinski Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee Frank Moore- Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Dan Veanor asked if the bottom line was that there is no change in the tax rate but because of the increase in assessment there is an increase in the amount of taxes collected. The Mayor stated that it is roughly a 2% increase, less than inflation. The Mayor further stated that we have the lowest tax increase in Tompkins County and probably in New York State. Dan questioned why the expenditures were about \$300,000 more than what was budgeted last year. The Mayor explained that it has to do with the projects that did not get completed this budget year and the funds for those projects being rolled over from the current year's budget into the 2008-09 budget by appropriated fund balance. The two projects that did not get completed were Northwood Road, which is scheduled to be completed in 2009, and Dart Drive. We will do the design for Dart Drive in 2008-09 but the actual work will not be done until the following year. Dan asked what the other revenue sources are for the Village. Don explained that it is roughly 1/3 from property taxes, 1/3 from sales tax and 1/3 from miscellaneous other sources such as permits, utility gross receipts tax, mortgage tax, cable franchise fees, interest, State and consolidated highway aid.

The Mayor gave an overview of the budget. In 2008-09 the Village will be doing a lot of overlay of existing streets. This will add life to the roads. We will be replacing some highway equipment and adding a full time position to the Highway Department. We have moneys for a half time position for consultants to replace Carol. It has not been finalized yet, but it looks like someone from the Fire Department will be contracted to do fire inspections. The employee salary increases are competitive as compared to the rest of the County. Don hopes to see a decrease in the tax rate for 2009-2010 due to the increase in assessments. He indicated that the goal of the Village is to keep budget increases at the inflation rate, that he takes very seriously how much this costs people in the Village, and that it takes good management to do what we do.

Motion-To Close the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2008-09 Budget

Trustee Fresinski moved to close the public hearing. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill -Aye	Trustee Frank Moore- Aye
Trustee Larry Fresinski Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

Resolution#5432- To Adopt the 2008-09 Proposed Budget as the Official Budget

Trustee Moore moved to adopt the budget. Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski-Aye
Trustee Frank Moore- Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

Resolution #5433- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$51,694.14 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$232.37, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$115.68, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Capital Projects Fund, in the amount of \$2,000.00, is hereby approved for payment,

Trustee Leopold moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolution be adopted and Trustee Fresinski seconded the motion.

	Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski-
Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	Trustee Frank Moore-
Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	

It was asked if there was any feed back on the electronic newsletters. Jodi stated that she received several postcards back. She didn't think that the business mailing list had been updated in quite some time. Many of the postcards she received back were from empty apartments. There have been about 30 people that have called the office to get copies of the newsletter mailed to them. Larry stated that many have signed up to receive email notices.

Mayor Hartill entertained the following motion:

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from March 24, 2008.

Trustee O'Neill moved that the draft meeting notes, as reviewed and revised by the Clerk/Treasurer and the Board, are hereby adopted as the official minutes. Trustee Moore seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
Trustee Frank Moore-Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was to consider a resolution prepared by the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) regarding health insurance benefits. Don explained that they have set up a consortium to evaluate a program for insurance coverage for the County and all local governments within the County. It is estimated that it might save municipalities 10%. To proceed, the TCCOG is asking all municipalities to pass a resolution authorizing the execution of an inter-municipal agreement with TCCOG members to participate in the review of the development of the health benefits consortium. Upon a complete review and plan design of a health benefits program, the Village will have the option of joining a health benefits consortium in which case the Village would be required to sign another inter-municipal agreement. Don feels there will be a lot of details to work out if we even decide to join. TCCOG's goal is to have something in a year. Frank stated that that they need a bigger participation to negotiate. Others will save in administration costs, but this doesn't affect the Village. Tompkins County has approximately 700 employees all with health benefits. The grant proposal to do this was accepted in 2007.

Resolution #5433-To Support the Council of Governments' Review of Health Benefits for New York State Shared Municipal Services Program

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing joined the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG), and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the County, on behalf of TCCOG, accepted an incentive grant award under the New York State Shared Municipal Services Program,

WHEREAS, the grant will assist the municipalities in Tompkins County to create a local health care consortium, and

WHEREAS, the health care consortium will seek to develop health benefits coverage for all municipalities with the intent to provide a net savings to the taxpayers of Tompkins County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Board of Trustees, That the Mayor is authorized to execute an inter-municipal agreement with TCCOG members to participate in the review of the development of the health benefits consortium, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Village of Lansing understands that upon a complete review and plan design of a health benefits program, the Village of Lansing will have the option of joining a health benefits consortium that would require the Village of Lansing to sign another inter-municipal agreement.

AGREEMENT by and between the County of Tompkins, with main offices at 125 East Court Street, Ithaca, New York 14850, hereinafter referred to as COUNTY, and

(MUNICIPALITY Name)

(Contact Person's Name)

(MUNICIPALITY Address)

(Contact Person's Title)

(MUNICIPALITY Address)

hereinafter referred to as MEMBER.

Whereas a partnership was formed by the following members for the provision of conducting a comprehensive review of municipal health benefits plans:

City of Ithaca

Town of Groton

Village of Dryden

County of Tompkins	Town of Ithaca	Village of Freeville
Town of Caroline	Town of Lansing	Village of Groton
Town of Danby	Town of Newfield	Village of Lansing
Town of Dryden	Town of Ulysses	Village of Trumansburg
Town of Enfield	Village of Cayuga Heights	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Through this agreement, the partnership agrees to collectively review the MEMBERS’ health benefits plans with a goal of achieving maximum efficiency at a lower cost for the partnership. The COUNTY has received a Shared Municipal Services Incentive grant from the State of New York to assist with the cost of consolidating the health benefits programs of the MEMBERS.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, covenants, and agreements contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. This agreement shall be in force from the date on which is signed through project completion.
2. The MEMBER agrees to provide the necessary information requested by the partnership’s Health Benefits consultants.
3. The COUNTY accepts responsibility as lead agency to enter into certain contracts to effectively complete this project.
4. There is no cost to any MEMBER for the provision of the terms of this agreement.
5. The MEMBER understands that upon a complete review and plan design of a health benefits program, the MEMBER will have the option of joining a health benefits consortium that would require the MEMBER to sign another inter-municipal agreement.

Trustee Fresinski moved this resolution and Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
Trustee Frank Moore-Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was to consider Proposed Local Law B, Amendment to Village of Lansing Code-Addition of Chapter 78 (Entitled “Village of Lansing Flood Damage Prevention Law”) that had been prepared by David Dubow and provided to the Mayor and Trustees for review. David explained that after further review of the Village Zoning Law provisions (Chapter 145 of the Village Code), his discussions with Ben Curtis and Ben’s further input, he has added to the Proposed Local Law amendments to several provisions of the Zoning Law regarding floods, flooding and the Flood Hazard Combining District so as to ensure consistency between those zoning provisions and the new Chapter 78 provisions that are being proposed for adoption. It was acknowledged that Jodi had emailed this new draft to the Board members so they would have an opportunity to review it before this meeting. This included a marked version of the new draft with the changes highlighted. Not

everyone had had a chance to review the changes.

David stated that Ben has indicated that as far as flood exposure, this Proposed Local Law and the new Chapter 78 will cover only a small area of the Village down by the lake. Ben thinks that there is maybe one project that may occur in this area. David explained that this Proposed Local Law will need to be submitted to DEC for their review since the format has been changed to make it Village Code friendly and consistent with our current flood related definitions in the Zoning Law portion of the Code. It was acknowledged that this new Chapter 78 will create the potential for a lot of administrative issues, but because our maps show only a small flood area, there should be minimal administrative effort needed by our Code Enforcement Officer. This adds another permit for which an application will need to be submitted. Dubow stated that the Village has been advised that with this new local law adopted Village residents will be entitled to purchase flood insurance.

It was decided that John O'Neill will forward Proposed Law B to Jaime Ethier at NYSDEC so that he can review the proposed law before anything further is done. It was suggested that the Board wait until April 21st to set a public hearing for the last meeting in May. This will give the County and surrounding municipalities a chance to review the proposed law. John stated that we are the only municipality around us that does not already have this law. Don feels this proposed law is completely irrelevant except for the insurance issue.

Mayor Hartill informed the Board that he had drafted a MOU for the Town of Lansing to use our infrastructure to carry their sewage to the Village of Cayuga Heights plant. The following is a copy of the MOU:

Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Lansing and the
Village of Lansing for the proposed Warren Road Sewer District

This memorandum of understanding covers the use of Village of Lansing sewer infrastructure to transport sewage from the proposed Warren Road Sewer District to be constructed in the Town of Lansing to the Cayuga Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant in the Village of Cayuga Heights.

Past Agreement

Currently, the residents in the Cherry Road Sewer District are billed through the Town of Lansing for the capital costs of sewer lines that are used in the Village of Lansing at a rate of 1.5 times that the Village residents pay. This is for payment of the bond used to construct those lines that is paid for half by units and half by assessed value and will be paid off in 2021. Last year the Village residents paid \$14.34 per unit and \$.07 per \$1,000 of assessed value. So the Town residents paid \$21.51 per unit and \$.11 per \$1,000. The Town residents pay the Village of Cayuga Heights directly through the Town of Lansing for their sewer units. There is at present no charge for the maintenance of Village of Lansing sewer lines that are being used to transport the sewage to the Cayuga Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Proposed New Agreement

The Cherry Road Sewer District would continue as before. For the new Warren Road Sewer District, the new users would pay the same as the present residents in the Cherry Road Sewer district for the capital costs of the Village infrastructure and the units cost to the Village of Cayuga Heights. In addition, a maintenance charge of \$15.00 per unit would be added for the users in the new district. This maintenance charge would also eventually be charged to the existing users in the Cherry Road Sewer District as the Village's system ages. By way of comparison, Village residents pay a 30% surcharge on the unit charge from Cayuga Heights for the maintenance of the Village Sewer System. This much lower charge to the new Town users reflects the fact that they would only be using part of the Village infrastructure. On reflection and discussion with the Board of Trustees, it was decided that the maintenance charge should be changed from the proposed \$15 per unit to a 15% surcharge per unit. This is 1/2 the surcharge that we charge our Village sewer users and more accurately reflects our likely costs as the system ages. If we change our surcharge rate we would also change the Town rate to remain at half our rate. The total projection is about 100 units. Initially it will be only 10 units.

Don stated that all Board members should have received a letter from Ben Curtis regarding the "hum" noise from Bolton Points' pumps next door. The letter on low frequency noise was forwarded to Paul Tunison at Bolton Point. The estimate to build a wall to isolate this noise came in at \$13,000. Since it is over \$10,000 it has to go out to bid.

Lynn stated that the annual Stormwater report is due by June 1st. She suggested we have the required public hearing on the report on May 19th. She has no idea what to expect for the next phase. We are still four years behind on getting the funding for the NYS grant that is intended to cover stormwater management matters, including the floating classroom. They say it has gone to contract and we should be seeing money soon. The floating classroom will very likely not operate unless the money to support that project is provided up front. Lynn explained that the Village has not yet adopted an illicit discharge local law and that she recognizes that this is something that she and the Village will have to undertake very soon. She expressed her belief that the Village will very likely base its illicit discharge local law on similar laws adopted by the Towns of Lansing and Dryden.

Larry stated that Richard P. Baggett, Sr. Contract Administrator for Time-Warner Cable Business Class, contacted Jodi today and emailed her a copy of the License Agreement being requested by Time-Warner Cable. It needs to be signed and returned in order to commence construction towards installation of Business Services for the Village. Richard needs two signed originals mailed back to him, and after Joella Wind, the division Vice President, counter-signs, Richard will send back one (1) counter-signed original for our records. Dubow quickly reviewed the proposed agreement and indicated that his only significant issue was with the lack of specificity as to where on the Village property Time Warner would be licensed to install the cable and related equipment. He explained that the proposed agreement is pretty standard, but it would be appropriate to attach a map as to where they will be placing the line. Larry also noticed that the zip code was incorrect in two places. Larry will

contact Richard to resolve these two issues.

John O'Neill stated that five years ago a pond was installed behind his house to resolve the water problems in that area. It has silted up and needs to be dredged. His questions were who is responsible for performing the necessary work and who pays for it. Dubow indicated that he will need to review the original agreement. It was acknowledged that the pond behind Swartout also needs to be dredged. Lynn stated that it will no longer function as a catch basin if it is silted up.

The Board and those present at the meeting acknowledged that is Frank Moore's last meeting as a Trustee. Don thanked him for all he had done for the Village especially on the Sewer Committee. Frank stated that it had been an interesting eight years, and that there have been interesting people to work with. He feels that the Village boards need to continue with philosophical work about what the Village of Lansing is going to be. It has been a great experience. John added that he has been seated next to Frank for the last four years and he has enjoyed it. Every one wished good luck to Frank!

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Leopold moved for adjournment. Trustee Moore seconded the motion to adjourn. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Frank Moore-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Larry Fresinski -Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer