

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, April 12, 2012, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Lynn Leopold, Patricia O'Rourke, John O'Neill and Julie Baker; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer, Marty Moseley; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; Laborers, Asst. Supt. of Public Works Adam LaLonde; MEO, Nolan Hatfield.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 12:27 pm.

Courtney stated that all of the salt we are required to take delivery of has been received. 500 ton is being stored in the salt barn and 105 ton is being stored at the Town of Lansing. With this stockpile, we will only order 4-500 ton next year. The Town had previously reported that they used to spread 1,000 to 1,100 tons of salt each winter on Village roads, but John has not spread more than 700 tons each year. In the past we have changed the blade on each plow 3 to 4 times, but this year we didn't have to change them at all.

The Highway Department has been cleaning the shop and getting ready to do some water main break repair work. Courtney has received some emails from Volker Vogt regarding maintaining Shannon Park Open Space. Volker is the self proclaimed steward to the park. Courtney stated that he has neglected this park in the past, but the Highway Department plans on going up and repairing the split rail fence, clearing and cutting trees. In the past residents were upset because the Village mowed over the daffodils that were randomly planted around the area. John suggested that a hub for a garden be designated. He also stated that we could provide topsoil and mulch for such an area.

Courtney stated that he, Moseley and Dake took a trip up to Lansing trails to look at the water issues that the Village has been receiving complaints about. John has spoken with Ed Baker, Ivar Jonson's contractor for excavation, and he will dig a ditch along the backside of the properties on Leif's Way to control runoff. This summer the Highway Department will work on cleaning out the pond behind the Swartout property. It is hard to get equipment in there and John is trying to come up with a solution. He has spoken with Dave Putnam about this and he may try to pull the silt out and tuck it along the bank and then reseed that area. John O'Neill stated that there are a lot of cattails in there. Courtney stated that he would only be opening up the channel. A lot of the pond is on Swarthout property so the Village won't be able to touch that. Lynn stated that people need to leave a buffer between their lawn and the cattails. They shouldn't mow right up to them.

Courtney stated that he would be out April 13-22<sup>nd</sup> and Adam would be in charge. Adam will then be gone the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. O'Neill asked the Highway Department to look at the greenway up in Lansing Trails and cut back some of the limbs along the path. John added that the Town of Lansing has just finished trimming along Cayuga Heights Road.

NYSEG then went through that area and cut big limbs and ran a loud chipper. John Dennis called complaining about this but John thinks he was mainly complaining about the work NYSEG was doing.

Julie Baker asked if it was ok for the Northeast Advisory Group to take more time to get feedback from the neighbors. Hartill stated that a week or two more wouldn't be a problem. The Mayor stated that the final decision will probably come down to cost. Lynn stated that the Planning Board looked at all the options at its last meeting.

Baker asked who was responsible for picking up the trash along the roadsides. Courtney stated that if it is in our right of way then it is the Village's responsibility. Courtney stated that John Reese is involved with the N. Triphammer Rd. adopt-a-highway program. The State and County Roads also have adopt-a-highway programs.

Mayor Hartill asked if we had any success with shopping carts. Courtney stated that it could be a full time job just collecting them. University Heights Apartment maintenance has designated an area for carts to be collected. They then call the stores to come pick them up. John will put up a sign to deter people from leaving carts around. Lynn stated that Ned and Ben have looked at this in the past and there has been no good solution to the problem. Pat O'Rourke stated that in England the way they solved this problem was to have all carts cost money to take, like they do down at Aldi's in Ithaca.

Lynn Leopold will be attending the meeting on Hydrilla this afternoon. Ithaca has gotten ~\$1 million commitment in grants to deal with this issue. They can't dredge the inlet because it could cause the plant to spread. They need to kill it before dredging. Lynn will also be attending the Water Resource Council meeting on Monday. The annual report will be coming up soon. There are education events that are done by Tompkins County that benefit all MS4's. Lynn will be meeting with John and Marty to get information from them on Controls 3-6. Then Lynn hopes to present the annual report at the last Board meeting in May.

Julie stated that she liked Jodi's idea of sending news releases to the newspaper and radio. Julie will send a Northeast Report to Jodi who will get it to the paper and radio stations. Lynn stated that the Ithaca Journal had announced that there are going to be big changes and she wondered what they were. Lynn had spoken with Tom Colbert who stated that Craig's List and EBay are hurting the papers classified ad revenue. Marty had heard that the online paper was no longer going to be available to those without a subscription to the paper.

Mayor Hartill stated that at the last Bolton Point water commission meeting the issue of the Lake Access Road conveyance came up. Mary Russell, legal counsel to the Commission E and O Committee, had raised issues that she thought might need to be addressed before the transfer of the road is completed and the agreement executed, so this conveyance will be held up for another month.

The Mayor asked Courtney if he was able to get the boulders to place next to the fence blocking off Bolton Point Access road. John had not. Lynn stated that he could go to the quarry and get large boulders. Mayor Hartill is willing to pay for rocks to keep trespassers out. Courtney asked if the Village planned on oil and stoning that road. The Mayor stated that we need to wait until we own it to do anything. Hartill would like to keep it natural looking.

Jodi stated that the Budget Public Hearing is Monday, the 16th. The newsletter has been published. Many people have been coming in to pay their quarterly water bill so she is asking people if they have seen the Spring Newsletter. There is a lot of good information in the newsletter. Julie asked how many people received a print copy of the newsletter. Jodi stated that she has 50 people currently on the mailing list. Most of the residents view the newsletter electronically. Julie asked about new residents receiving the newsletter. When new residents come into the Village office they are informed of the newsletter and other Village services. Some neighborhoods also distribute the information. Julie wondered how we could get our information out to the residents. Jodi suggested doing a news release to the paper and radio stations. Julie will prepare an article on the Northeast Study Group and forward it to Jodi to get out to the media. Jodi stated that she will be leaving Wednesday to go watch her son Kyle at the Olympic Trials. She will return Tuesday.

It was reported that the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH) is planning on changing the way they bill us for sewer system services. In the past they charged a flat rate to each household. The VCH will now charge on a water consumption basis. The rate which the VOL will have to pay VCH will be \$3.22/ 1,000 gallons of water consumption. Last year the flat rate charge of \$165 per unit was added to your tax bill. This year residents will not see that charge on their tax bill, but instead they will see it as part of their water/sewer bill. A minimum water/sewer bill will be \$41.00 for water and \$41.70 for sewer (\$32.20 for VCH and \$9.50 for current 30% surcharge to VOL). If a property owner has a minimum bill, party will actually pay \$36.20 less for sewer this year. Sewer customers who consume greater volumes of water will have higher sewer charges owing to VOL and VCH. This is a big change and Jodi wants to make sure the word gets out. Once VCH officially adopts this law, the VOL will have to pass a law to update the Sewer Law section of the VOL Code. You will see this on the May 7<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Julie stated that she thought the price of the new office building and related improvements was going to be ~\$500,000 and she wondered why the budget shows \$740,000 being transferred to Capital Projects for the new office. Mayor Hartill explained that the higher amount includes moving utilities, construction of the building and landscaping, and he has also added a contingency amount. Since the project is over \$500,000, it now is affected by Wicks Law which automatically adds approximately 10% to the cost. The Village now has to have a General Contractor and subcontractors for each subsystem. Unlike most municipalities, we have saved for this project and are not borrowing any monies. It was explained that by taking our saved money out of the General Reserve Fund such action will be subject to a permissive referendum if the required number of Village voters petition for such a referendum within 30 days.

Jodi stated that the Trustees also need to look at updating the Employee Manual. It was also asked if the Comprehensive Plan needs to be updated. Marty stated that when he attended the New York State Federation of Planning Conference they suggested that it be updated every 10 years. Our Comprehensive Plan is due to be updated in 2015. Jodi stated that she has not received any information from the 2010 Census. Julie stated that there have been a lot of comments from some of the members of the Northeast Advisory Group that our Comprehensive Plan is 12 years out of date. The Comprehensive Plan was last reviewed in 2005. Jodi stated that it would be very easy for the Trustees to split the Comprehensive Plan up into sections that each Trustee could review. The Trustees felt that the Comprehensive Plan was still a goal stable guide. The population of the Village has not changed by more than 200 people in the last ten years. This will be on the agenda for Monday's meeting. Mayor Hartill stated that the Village is 38 years old and he thinks maybe it is time to send an article to the Ithaca Journal talking about this.

Patricia O'Rourke gave an update on Youth Services. She received a report on the number of youths served and that she isn't sure that the amount we pay is justifiable. We currently pay ~\$14,000 for about 50 people to participate. When the contract comes up for renewal this year, the Trustees will look very carefully at the numbers. It was also suggested that we have Phil Dankert come in to talk to the Trustees about the Recreation Partnership. Jodi will contact the Town of Lansing to see if they can tell us how many Village of Lansing residents participate in the Town recreation programs.

Marty Moseley stated that permits have slowed down a little. The building at 777 Warren Road and the Triad building are doing additions. Marty met with Brent Cross and Larry Fraboni on the drainage issue up in Lansing Trails. We have a May commitment from Larry Fabbioni, Ivar's engineer, to fix the issue. Don stated that he would like to normalize the right of way and transfers. Marty stated that we first need as built drawings. Courtney added that snow plowing is an issue because there is no turn around. Don suggested getting a temporary easement until the roads are all built and dedicated to the Village.

Marty is making progress with the proposed sidewalk at Cayuga Mall along the Mobil gas station area abutting the exit driveway from the Mall and connecting to the Friendly's Restaurant sidewalk. The ExxonMobil Real Estate Department has contacted us for an easement document which Dubow will be preparing, so there is positive progress. Courtney stated that we will also need a temporary construction easement with that.

Moseley is putting pressure on the Ithaca Mall regarding the road/sidewalk. Now that the Triphammer Road Project is complete, we can move forward with this. Lynn brought up the issue with the lights at BJ's. Marty stated that their temporary Certificate of Compliance final runs out in July so they have until then to take care of that issue. BJ's fuel stations will also go in this year. Boris Simkin came in for a subdivision. Marty has spoken with Jeff Overstrom at the Town of Lansing and he stated that TG Miller has to sign off on the entire project first. This is the Sun Path area where they had an illegal water line. The Lighting Commission has presented their preliminary

recommendations for the proposed lighting code that has been under consideration. The BZA denied a pool variance due to its proposed proximity to the lot lines of two neighbors who attended the meeting. The Planning Board is continuing to look at the CLT permitted uses and possible changes, in part based upon the previous request from a developer in to add hotels as a permitted use.

Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to approve the vouchers.

Resolution #5838- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$80,925.83 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$937.63, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$133,320.01, is hereby approved for payment.

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

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

Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye  
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill moved for adjournment. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye  
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer