

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 16, 2012, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Lynn Leopold, Patricia O'Rourke, Julie Baker, and John O'Neill; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow; Planning Board member Maria Stycos.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was the Budget Public Hearing.

Motion-To Open the 2012-13 Budget Public Hearing

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

Mayor Hartill asked if there were any questions on the budget. Lynn stated that she wasn't at the last meeting when the budget was discussed and she had a couple of questions.

A1320.4-Auditor Contractual-Increased from \$4,000 to \$7,800 because the audit last year was not a full audit with opinion and next year we will have a full audit.

A8140.4 Storm Sewer Contract for \$45,000 is to finish up Dart Drive and other maintenance. This does not include legal or engineering fees.

A9950.9 Transfer to Capital Funds for \$740,000 is the amount that will go to Capital Projects fund for the new Village Office. Mayor Hartill stated that part of this is from General Fund monies and \$549,651 is from General Reserve.

A1081 Real Property Tax Items, Other Payments in Lieu of Taxes is the money we collect from those businesses that are part of the PILOT program who get an abatement.

Mayor Hartill stated that the budget includes new equipment and a new Village Office building. The building is more expensive than first anticipated because of WICKS Law, prevailing rates and contingency matters. Don indicated that the Village considered certain measures to reduce the cost, but concluded that this is a long term project and it was best to expend the additional funds for a building that will be around for a long time. Even with the increased cost of the new building, the Village is lowering the tax rate from \$1.21/\$1,000 of assessed value to \$0.99/\$1,000. The reason why our tax rate is one of the lowest in the State is because of our efficient small staff. We contract out services such as legal and engineering. The only debt that the Village has is an old sewer bond which will be up in 2020. We tried to pay it off but it was more expensive to do that with the buyout clause.

Yasamin Miller asked how the Mayor came up with the fact that some Town residents actually pay more than Village residents when Village residents pay the same tax rate as Town residents plus they pay Village taxes. Don stated that people in the Town pay extra for special districts for such things as water, sewer, lighting and drainage. The Village doesn't have special districts and Village residents are not charged for these things on their taxes. The only exception is repayment of the sewer bond at a rate of \$.05/\$1,000 of assessed value and \$12.92 per unit.

Nick V didn't think it was necessarily good to cut taxes. He asked the Board to consider the possibility of Village residents being willing to pay more in taxes to get more services or to have a civic space. Some people can afford to pay more taxes to get more. Mayor Hartill stated that we have listened to the public and what they want. An example is when North Triphammer Road was reconstructed. We listened to the public's request for walkability, bike traffic and traffic flow. The Mayor stated that one must look at cost effectiveness. Julie Baker asked what scale Nick was talking about; did he want to build a building? Nick suggested a community commons. Lynn stated that we are at a disadvantage because we inherited what we have. The Village was already part of the Town and developed along N. Triphammer Rd. Julie Baker feels the new office building which will be built close to the road in front of our current office will help with presence. The Board has already talked about using the current conference room for community space and the other half of the building for much needed storage. The Board will keep these suggestions in mind as we build the new building.

The Mayor stated that one problem with this current office is the noise from the pumps next door. This is a joint building with SCLIWC. We have negotiated with SCLIWC to have the pumps run off hours. There is also the issue of a gas smell coming from the pump room. A lot of these background issues haven't been discussed in large open meetings.

To keep costs down, the Village uses consultants for engineering, legal services and special consultants like the ones we are using for the Northeast Advisory Study. If the

Village was to have an engineer on staff it would cost approximately \$100,000 with benefits.

The Water & Sewer Funds are pass through funds. We also have reserves for a disaster. It was asked if anything was determined with regards to the Youth Programs. The Village is still trying to gather information. The amount that is currently in the proposed budget is a place holder. When the contract comes up for renewal the Trustees will look at it very carefully and decide if it is worth the money we pay now or if we want to try a different approach.

There as no further comments from the public regarding the budget.

Motion-To Close the Budget Public Hearing

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

Resolution #5839-To Adopt the 2012-13 Proposed Budget as the Official Budget for 2011-12

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye	

The amount of Real Property Tax that will be raised is \$431,227 plus approximately \$15,000 In Lieu of Taxes. \$600,000 in Sales Tax, \$65,000 in Utility Tax and \$28,000 in Time Warner Cable Franchise fees are the large sources of revenue for the Village. An amount of \$2,446,197 in appropriations is proposed for the General Fund. A special assessment of \$.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value and \$12.92 per unit is proposed for the Sewer Collector debt payment. Copies of the budget will be available in the Village Office.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from April 2, 2012

Motion- To Approve the Minutes for April 2, 2012

Trustee O'Rourke moved to approve the April 2, 2012 minutes. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Mayor Hartill stated that the Village is working on arranging a joint meeting with the Town of Lansing Board. He and Kathy Miller have a good working relationship.

The next item on the agenda was to review the Village of Lansing Comprehensive Plan. The last time it was updated was in 2005 and Don would like to get the ball rolling for the next scheduled update in 2015. Dubow stated that State Law provides enabling language for the creation of a Comprehensive Plan. Updating one's plan is largely a community decision as to when it needs to be updated. It was stated that planning professionals suggest every ten years. The last census was done in 2010 and there are some certain things that have changed. Mayor Hartill suggested that the Trustees split up the current document, and make recommendations for changes that reflect the current makeup of the Village. The following pages were assigned to each Trustee:

- Pages 1-20 Julie Baker
- Pages 21-39 Don Hartill
- Pages 40-53 John O'Neill
- Pages 54-70 Lynn Leopold
- Pages 71-82 Patricia O'Rourke

Jodi will send the word document to each Trustee so that they can make suggested corrections, updates and track the changes.

Yasamin Miller argued that because of significant changes between the 2000 and 2010 censuses a survey of villagers would better inform any changes Village officials should be considering. While the overall population total has not significantly changed since the 2000 census, she said the demographics of the Village have changed. Mayor Hartill asked what changes have been significant in the last ten years.

Yasamin stated that when you change age, ethnicity and rental status it changes desires and goals. Your comprehensive goals and recommendations need to be informed by what the people want, as opposed to what four trustees and the Mayor want. Miller stated that the Village is older and ethnically more diverse, and has fewer renters than in 2000 according to 2010 census data. She added that there is a divide in the Village between low income renters and high income homeowners. Miller stated that she is Director of the Cornell Research Institute, a self-sustaining business within Cornell that conducts research and data analysis for academic, non-profit, governmental, and corporate clients.

Yasamin suggested that the kinds of questions the Village might ask about is making it a more walkable Village, having more recreational opportunities, do we need a better transportation plan, do we need a new village office, etc.

Hartill asked Yasamin, if you back up a little bit from that and see what's currently in the Comprehensive Plan, what would you expect to come out of such a survey? Yasamin

stated that Comprehensive Plans have two objectives, one is to give you a snapshot of what your village looks like at this point in time with the data you have, and the other is to inform your goals and your recommendations. If you look at the current Village goals and recommendations they are very intangible and they read more like mission statements.

Hartill stated that a survey was done in 2000 and yielded a disappointing return. Jodi Dake stated that of the approximately 2,000 surveys that were sent out, only about 140 responses were received. These are available in the office.

Hartill stated that the Village pays a fair amount of attention to traffic counts. He agreed that residents should help dictate the Comprehensive Plan. There was a need for senior housing and when the opportunity arose to make it part of the Lansing Meadows PDA the Boards approved it. Lynn stated that we have talked about the older population that would like to have less land responsibility. Don stated that it is happening on Oakcrest Road. Maria Stycos added that we now have doctors' offices here for the aging.

Julie Baker asked how long it would take to develop a survey and collect data. Yasamin stated that it takes at least two or three months to develop the questionnaire, and at least two months for data collection. There was some discussion of using Cornell students to develop and administer the survey, which trustees estimated could be done for about \$15,000. Miller argued that you get what you pay for and a professionally administered survey, while it could cost up to \$30,000, would be worth the veracity and quality of the results. She said that surveys administered as a class project have different objectives, and less attention to detail. Julie stated that she has had good experiences with students. Lynn stated that she also had a good experience with students working on our Greenway Plan.

Yasamin Miller stated that her office can get between 70% to 90% resident survey responses. She said that the wording of the questions can have an impact on the number of responses, and cautioned the Village not to ask residents to suggest changes that are not viable. Yasamin stated that the Trustees are making significant decisions for the future of the Village for the next ten to fifteen years and she feels it would be prudent to spend money doing a comprehensive survey of your residents. Yasamin offered to help the Trustees develop an effective survey. Mayor Hartill would like to see how this first review effort goes. After the Trustees review it, the Planning Board will then look at it. The Village will certainly look into whether a survey makes sense or not.

Nick would like to see a farmers market in the Village. Farmers are looking for a place to sell their goods. It would be nice for Village residents to be able to walk to the market. Lynn stated that there was someone who wanted to have a market but it fell through by no fault of the Village.

Lynn stated that she and Nick have been talking about having community meetings. Nick suggested a presentation on "Get Your Green Back Tompkins". Jodi stated that the conference room is available. One just has to come in and get on the calendar. The

Village would be happy to send out a press release on an event that is held here at the Village Office.

Tompkins County Personnel has developed a new on-line application and examination administration system. They have rolled out an Agency Users portal which enables specific individuals from municipalities to remotely access applications, certifications, and eligible lists anywhere there is an internet connection. There are different levels of access and responsibility. Currently, Jodi does all this administrative work for the Village of Lansing. This level of access is only allowed by the Mayor unless a resolution is passed stating otherwise. The Mayor entertained the following resolution:

Resolution #5840 -To Authorize the Village of Lansing Clerk/Treasurer to Act as Appointing Authority

WHEREAS, the Village Mayor, as the official appointing authority is responsible for and authorized to hire and pay employees, file discipline and termination charges, file payroll certifications, and all other required filings by civil service; and

WHEREAS, in the Village of Lansing the Village Board of Trustees takes formal action on all permanent and provisional appointments of all regular staff for the Village, including any action that changes a rate of pay, hours or level benefit, unless the action was part of a disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk/Treasurer has been responsible for the signing and filing of civil service forms and actions as required follow up to all Village actions for many years; and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County Civil Service has developed an on-line application and administration system, which requires forms to be completed using an electronic authorization by the "Appointing Authority" which is the Village Mayor

WHEREAS, the County is requesting Board action by municipalities if they wish to authorize a Level 1 user that is not the official appointing authority (Village Mayor);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees does hereby authorize the Village Clerk/Treasurer to act as a Level 1 Appointing Authority for internet filing of actions for Civil Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, the action does not diminish the authority of the Village Mayor as the official Appointing Authority for the Village of Lansing.

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

During the Mayor's comments he stated that brush pick up is May 7th. John Courtney has gotten the Town of Lansing to clear the brush along the roadside of Cayuga Heights Road with their Gradal. Following this, NYSEG came through a little more aggressively with cutting back branches. NYSEG was very loud with their chipper and left a mess behind. There is a meeting at the end of the month to discuss completing the conveyance of the Bolton Point Access Road to the Village. The Mayor hopes the lawyers can come to an agreement. Dubow will be there.

Lynn stated that the Town of Ithaca is replacing the water line on East Shore Drive. Lynn is concerned with the three and a half foot drop off on the side of the road. Don stated that the sides should be built back up. There was also a concern with a deep ditch at Cherry Road off of N. Triphammer. Lynn asked if we can put rip rap in there. Don will ask John Courtney to look into that.

Saturday is Shred Day at East Hill Plaza. Tompkins Trust Company and the Reuse Center are sponsoring the event. They will also take old computers. Dan Veaner added that Best Buy will also take old computers. For more information you can go to their website.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill -Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer