

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, March 18, 2013, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Lynn Leopold (arrived late), Julie Baker, Patricia O'Rourke and John O'Neill; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow; Planning Board Member Jonathan Kanter.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm and opened the public comment period.

Marjorie Pryse was present as the Community Party observer. Nick Vaczek stated that there is a conference coming up called Climate Smart & Climate Ready. He has sent the Board an email with all the details. Nick stated that on April 18-21, Sustainable Tompkins will be coordinating a major regional conference on making our communities more climate friendly and climate resilient. Under the leadership of Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, a coalition of Cortland and Tompkins County nonprofits, colleges, businesses, youth groups, and local governments has formed to support ongoing planning and action on climate mitigation and adaptation. The Climate Smart & Climate Ready conference will focus on how our local governments, institutions, residents and businesses can both lower fossil carbon emissions and prepare for multiple impacts of a turbulent climate regime. Nick feels that there may be some relevance to the Comprehensive Plan update currently underway. Jodi will place this information in the Spring Newsletter. To find out more one can go to <http://climatesmartclimateready.org>

Nick asked if there is a time that the local mayors get together to discuss issues. Hartill stated that there is a lunch at Cornell once a month for town supervisors and mayors in the local region. A Mayors' symposium used to be sponsored. There is also a network that distributes communications, and NYCOM also provides information. NYCOM issues a useful quarterly publication.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from March 4, 2013

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from March 4, 2013

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

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

The next item on the agenda was to continue the budget process. The Mayor stated that before the Board is a proposed budget. A summary sheet of the incorporated changes that were discussed at the last meeting was given to the Board. Salaries were increased by 4% except for the Code & Zoning Officer who was given a 5% raise. The following items were changed:

Board of Trustees

A1010.4 \$ 1,750-Contractual expense-added \$1,000 to send a Trustee to NYCOM

Clerk

A1410.1 \$60,736-4% increase

A1410.4 \$10,000 –added \$2,500 for copier lease

Special Items

A1910.4 \$61,500-Total Unallocated Ins. Added \$1,500 which is the additional insurance will be for the loader

Code

A3620.11 \$26,996-5% increase-1/2 Marty Salary

A3620.12 \$10,816-4% increased Electrical Inspector-Floyd

A3620.13 \$10,000- 4% increase Fire Inspector wage-Brian

Street Maintenance

A5010.1 \$64,615-4% increase-John salary

A5110.12 \$52,000-4% increase-Adam salary

A5110.13 \$47,238-4% increase Nolan salary

Sidewalks

A5410.2 \$63,500 Added \$10,000 for Sidewalk by Exxon Mobil

Cultural & Recreation

A7550.4 \$600- Increase for Town of Lansing Activities
\$300 to Harborfest
\$300 for Art Festival

Zoning

A8010.1 \$26,995-5% increase ½ of Marty's salary

Planning

A8020.44 \$12,500
\$4,000-Contractual, sends 2 Board members to training
\$8,500 was added for Comprehensive Plan to carry out a survey

Employee Benefits

A9010.8 \$77,230-20.8% of salaries plus \$16,578 deficiency payment

A9030.8 \$21,489-Social Security .062 of Salary

A9030.81 \$5,026-Medicare .0145 of salary

General Revenue

A1001 \$463,198-this is at a \$1.01/ \$1,000 of assessed value. The Mayor stated that this is a 2% increase in the tax rate which is within the tax cap.

- The adjusted taxable value is \$458,612,224
- A1081 \$15,864-Jodi has received the In Lieu information from Tompkins County Finance and has figured the total using \$1.01/1,000 of assessed value
- A2850 \$156,047- This number represents a transfer from reserve to balance the budget and pay for new office building.

This makes the total appropriations \$2,211,586

Mayor Hartill stated that the large equipment expense is for a new loader. The Highway Department had a demo. Courtney stated that the loader will be useful for more than just salt. It will cut gravel loading time. It will be used 80% in the summer time and 20% for salt. It will cut down on the amount of time we spend waiting for gravel on a job. Courtney stated that it will allow us to pick up manholes and catch basins that they lift quite often. Mayor Hartill stated that this will be the last major equipment purchase we will have in the next few years.

O'Neill asked why there were no repairs listed in the budget for N. Triphammer Road. Courtney stated that a temporary mill and fill to N. Triphammer is in this year's budget and is scheduled for the 3rd week of May along with paving Dart Drive and a cap on Cayuga Heights Road. N. Triphammer Road is scheduled to be paved in the 2014 - 2015 budget year. By doing a mill and fill this year we will be able to find stressed spots. Then again do another mill & fill.

A resident wanted to talk about snow removal at the top of Pembroke Lane. When the Village changed to salt we lost a redbud tree and the grasses were also killed. Courtney stated that we have cut our salt by half of what Town has done. Jodi informed the resident that we have a tree planting program that could be used to replace that tree. Courtney invited residents to come talk to him more about the situation.

The Mayor stated that the water surcharge pays our water system maintenance expenses. The biggest chunk of the proposed budget is the next two projects. We will try to coordinate with Bolton Point to get them done for less.

Water

- F8340.2 \$328,500- Equipment/Capital Outlay submitted by TG Miller
 Water System Planning and Maintenance Capital Projects:
 Airport Tank Grid NYS Route 13 Crossing – **Total Budget \$227,500.**
1. Highway crossing by boring for the full width of right-of-way, water main with connections to existing mains on the north and south side of NYS Route 13, stream crossing, hydrants, and restoration. Construction Budget \$203,000.
 2. Survey, Design, Permitting and Construction Phase Services Budget \$24,500.
- Water Main Replacement South of NYS Route 13 – **Total Budget \$101,000.**
3. Replace approximately 550 lf of existing 1968-era water main together with hydrants, valves and surface restoration. Construction Budget \$89,500.
 4. Survey, Design, Permitting and Construction Phase Services Budget \$11,500.

The following changes were done on the revenue side of the budget:

Water Revenue

- F2401 \$100 Bank interest earnings lowered from \$800

F5031 \$198,200-Transfer from Reserve Fund increased from \$97,000 to add additional water project above.

Total water appropriations are \$1,096,699

We still haven't received from the Village of Cayuga Heights what our sewer charge will be. They don't have all the residences under control yet. It is a pass through so we are ok. We are the largest user of the Village of Cayuga Heights sewer plant. The sewer area has been expanded a little. There is a new larger line behind Pyramid Mall. All our infrastructure is in good shape and we continue to maintain it. The Mayor expects to increase the tax rate by inflation every year.

We are in fantastic financial shape. We have been careful. The Village out sources as much as we can to keep expenses down.

The following adjustments were made to the sewer fund:

Sewer Expenses

G8120.2 \$0- was \$6,000 but no new equipment being purchased

G8120.4 \$66,700- Increased from \$55,700-to add \$11,000 for every day I&I expenses

Sewer Revenues

G2401 \$300 Interest lowered from \$700

Total sewer appropriations are \$746,010.

Lynn arrived at 7:51pm.

O'Neill asked if the sidewalk by TOPS is included in sidewalk expense. Don will be meeting with Eric Goetzmann to discuss this.

The General Budget will be balanced by extracting monies from the General Reserve. To use money from the reserve, we will have to pass a permissive referendum.

The bid opening for the new office will be April 10th.

The Mayor proposed that two resolutions be presented for this budget to be the proposed tentative budget and to set a public hearing for April 1, 2013.

Resolution#5939-Accept this Proposed Tentative as the Tentative Budget for the Public Hearing on April 1, 2013

Trustee O'Neill moved this resolution. 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

Resolution#5940-To Set the 2013-14 Budget Public Hearing for April 1, 2013 at 7:35pm

Trustee O'Rourke moved to set the public hearing. Trustee Leopold 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 next item is the Comprehensive Plan. Hartill stated that he was cleaning his office and found the list of topics that John O'Neill had gave him. Mayor Hartill stated that when it comes to the Comprehensive Plan, the business community is hard to address and get feedback from. The question is how to go forward. The Board wants meaningful results and to satisfy other criteria. Don feels that one way to move forward is to each sit down and create questions. O'Neill handed out a sample of survey questions from the Town of Lansing. There was a lot of discussion of school money. People are still mad about school district lines. The Mayor stated that we have no control over what school our residents go to. Dubow stated that 1/3 of the center Dart property and all of the easterly Dart parcel are in the Lansing School District. Lynn suggested that we include Commercial Districts the ongoing review.

Dubow stated that the Planning Board may have changes to present to the Trustees on the Low Traffic Commercial district. The Mayor stated that we need to get together with the Planning Board again to help develop the Comprehensive Plan. An issue was raised regarding the maintenance of an apartment complex. It was indicated that this is a code enforcement issue so we don't have much influence on that. We can't change zoning; we can pursue Code Enforcement.

Mayor Hartill stated that we have a park on the south side of Route 13. A useful question could be: Do we want to develop a park on the North side? Jodi has put the Greenway Trail Plan up on our website.

Hartill asked Kanter if he had any comments. Kanter stated that the Town is also interested in Greenway issues. Regarding a survey as part of the Comprehensive Plan review, open-ended questions are often difficult but we could get some good input. The Town is similarly developing questions. O'Neill suggested the Village's survey be done by mail. Hartill thinks we want to do a telephone process and also contact businesses through mail. The Mayor expects no more than a 25% response based on past experience. Jon Kanter stated that the Town checked with SRI on the phone process and they would identify a sound sample number which is 5%, which would equal 300 people for the town. They may also do a supplemental survey through a website. A survey is the only one way to get public input.

Baker feels that many municipalities have the same concerns and we should consider this as we are developing questions. She questioned whether there is a repertory of questions. The Town of Ithaca website may still have survey questions up. She thinks we should get ideas and look for

commonalities. Mayor Hartill suggested having an exchange before the next meeting. Baker thinks that getting indications of priorities would be good.

Mayor stated that the budget is the most important task this time of year. He will be getting together with Bolton Point in the next week to understand their plans for going under Route 13. Don hopes we will have reasonable responses from bids for the new Village office. The Mayor may not be here for the April 15th meeting. Don will talk to Cathy about having their legal counsel being present at the joint meeting on April 29th. The Board needs to generate questions for that meeting.

Lynn stated that Graham Road and Dart Drive have lots of trash in the ditches that needs to be cleaned up. She asked if we get some volunteers to clean up that area. In the next newsletter we will place an article asking for volunteers to clean ditches.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill moved for adjournment. Trustee Leopold 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 9:23 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer