

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, November 4, 2013, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Julie Baker, John O'Neill and Patricia O'Rourke; Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:31pm and opened the public comment period. Marian Hartill, Community Party Observer, has a concern with parking for tomorrow's election. Jodi explained that there is a large temporary light set up outside which will light up the whole area. The crusher run has been compacted and the area is ADA Compliant. It is handicap accessible. There is a parking lot behind the office and in front of the new building to provide for plenty of parking. Paving of the driveway will take place later this week. There will be men working on the new building tomorrow but there will be no site work going on.

Motion-To Close the Public Comment Period

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

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes of September 12th, October 7th and 21st.

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from September 12, 2013

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

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

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from October 7, 2013

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

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

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from October 21, 2013

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

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The Survey Research Institute (SRI) results have been received by the Village. Julie Baker stated that on Sept 23rd an electronic copy was emailed to the Trustees and there is also a hard copy in the office. The Trustees confirmed that they all have had a chance to look through the results. Julie asked Yasamin Miller of SRI if she would like to comment on the survey. Baker asked Yasamin if there is a concern regarding the validity of the survey due to the sample size. Yasamin stated that there was not a concern because this study was done on a probability basis. She wanted to draw the Board's attention to the fact that just because a survey includes a large number of participants, it doesn't necessarily mean it was a "good" number. The key is the value of the information provided by the participants. It was indicated that 308 participants were randomly generated. Our refusal rate was very low. We have a high number of rental residents and only 27% of them responded. Renters tend to be very different. They often don't line up with the general population. Yasamin suggested that the Village may want to add weight to the renters' responses as part of its evaluation and decision making.

Julie asked Yasamin to guide us through the survey results. Yasamin explained that there is a break down in percentages and letters that tell you if there are significant differences. Julie asked Yasamin if there was something she thought was surprising with the survey. Yasamin quickly went through the survey with the Board and made the following comments.

- Renters are younger, have a lower income and are more transient.
- Renters encourage moderate housing.
- Renters encourage retail more than twice as much as owners.
- Age Group had different responses on the "town center" item.
- Housing Development renters want heavy industry, but are also the most likely to leave.
- Both fracking and sidewalks are non-issues.
- People are in support of traffic calming
- People are in support of ambulance and fire police services, all were rated well.
- No agreement on using tax dollars for arts -- 50-50 split.
- A little more for biking trails.
- Protection of historical sites- We don't have many to protect in the Village.
- New housing developments -- there is a lot of support for that.
- Ag lands -- 85% support protecting.
- Renewable energy -- 70% of those surveyed say yes, important for growth.
- Preferred communication method is first by email, and then post mail.
Website preferred by younger population.
- Feel format good for newsletter.

- Village Officials -- good
- Big difference between owners and renters on how Village Officials communicate. Good with owners but not with renters. Renters are not hearing from us.

Julie stated that the survey generally confirms what we already thought they would say. Julie asked if there is a question as to whether we need to go back and ask. She feels the results are pretty straight forward.

Hartill stated since it took a lot of effort to get to 300 people to response, and the information received was generally what was being looked for, further survey efforts are not necessary. Yasamin stated that a random digit dial sample was used. Many people use their cell phone as their primary number. This is not a problem because Verizon can now tell us from their information where cell towers are located in the area and where calls are originating. Verizon sells this information to SRI. They found that it is easier to get owners and older people to participate in the survey, but harder to get renters and young people. Hartill stated that we still end up with a bias. Yasamin stated that that is why she suggested the Board may want to weight the renters' responses. Hartill didn't think that was necessary because in 2-3 years you'll have another set of renters.

The next item was the business survey that the Board is developing to give to all of the local businesses in the Village. A draft was previously circulated to the Trustees. Baker explained that the survey is much like the residential surveys, but there are additional questions, one of which is the shopping carts issue.

Mario stated that the main concern with shopping carts is how to get the involved parties to work together to address the problem. If businesses made people get permission to take their shopping carts off their property, which makes people aware that they are breaking the law, then they may feel obligated to take the cart back. It was questioned whether or not the businesses are really interested in getting their carts back. The carts are very expensive. Do we tell business they have so much time to pick them up or do we pick them up and recycle them? There are still carts in the stream behind Cayuga Mall. Yasamin suggested that it may be that the businesses don't know that their carts are out there. Yasamin suggested putting a pole or other barrier in the sidewalk that goes out behind the Cayuga Mall to stop carts from going through. It was responded that this cannot be done because it would then also not allow baby carts and wheelchairs through. This would also interfere with the snowplowing of the sidewalk. O'Rourke stated that in England they solved this problem by having to place a coin in the cart to unlock it as is currently done at Aldi's in downtown Ithaca. It was also suggested that we talk to apartment owners. Dan Veavor asked if there are any statistics on how many carts businesses lose every year. Hartill stated that there is also an electronic means to retain carts. Target has a system that does not allow carts to go out of their store area and into the rest of the mall. However, people can take carts out to the parking lot and in another mall entrance.

Dubow stated that it appears that the location of most of the problems is the multi-housing and apartment areas where the landlords seem to have chosen not to solve the problems. In enforcement is not provided, the carts end up on the street.

Dubow circulated a memorandum from Douglas Foster who did a report on the residential and commercial surveys that were done back in 1989 so that the Board could, if they thought it would be helpful, compare and evaluate the previous findings and the new survey findings. Jodi will look to see if the 1989 survey itself is located in the office. Some of the things that Baker thought were good questions involved park spaces.

Hartill asked the Board how they thought we should deliver the commercial/business survey. It was decided that the Board members will hand deliver the surveys to the owners or managers. This will give them a chance to talk to each business and make a personal connection. Jodi suggested that we add a specific deadline for the return of the survey and provide an envelope to mail the survey back. Julie will try to find more information on the old survey of 1989 and incorporate that into our current commercial survey. She will present this revision to the Board at the Thursday noon meeting.

Yasamin asked how we knew where the businesses are in the Village. It was indicated that that we can get the businesses off the tax roll. Each mall also has a list of their tenants. Hartill added that most of our businesses are in the malls along Triphammer Road or in the Business and Technology Park.

As we continue to look at updating the Comprehensive Plan, Mayor Hartill thinks what would be very useful would be for each Trustee to look at the designated section that they were previously assigned together with a designated Planning Board member, and resume and continue their respective efforts.

Hartill instructed the board members to start to draft changes to their previously assigned sections. Hartill stated that the most recent survey, the census data, emergency planning of Tompkins County has already done most of the census data. The Mayor would like to begin to put information together and get started on revising the Comprehensive Plan at the December 2nd meeting.

Julie commented that Lynn mentioned a presentation on census would be very helpful. Jodi will get ahold of Jon Kanter to see if the Cornell Grad student would be willing to come to the Village to do the census presentation that was done for the Town of Lansing. Hartill suggested that we also ask the Planning Board to be here for that presentation. Hartill would like to do a joint meeting the 1st meeting of December. Julie stated that she is interested in the visualization and graphs on how to present data.

Nick Vaczek feels that renters are missing a sense of identity with the Village. He suggested adding a profile of what the Village is about to our website. It would be nice to tell people what you are a part of as a Village resident. Jodi thought this would be a great addition to the website under the new resident information section. Mayor Hartill agreed

to do a synopsis of what the Village actually is. Jodi has an old version she will email to the Mayor.

During Mayor's comments, Hartill stated that the new administration building under construction is moving along with a number of hiccups. The problem with heating in half of the office has been resolved. Nov 22nd is still the anticipated CO date. The interior work is going well. Half of the spackling is done. They are starting to do painting.

As part of construction, we had to move some pipes. The present conference room in the existing building will have to have the sewer main dug up from under the building by jack hammering out the floor. This will not take place until after the staff has moved into the new building. We had hoped to do it from the outside, but it is not possible.

Tomorrow the polling place will be here in the conference room. We are ADA compliant and the lighting concern has been resolved. Paving will happen in the next few days after the election.

A change order was presented to the Board to move the entrance door out 8 inches to make it ADA compliant. It will have a two inch recess.

Resolution #6012-To Approve Change Order GC-003 to Revise Exterior Storefront Entrance Configuration for Time and Material Costs

Trustee Baker moved to set a public hearing. Trustee O'Neill 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

The Mayor signed that change order. The Mayor stated that he would like to have a short executive Session to discuss property acquisition matters.

Motion- To Go Into Executive Session Regarding Property Acquisition

Trustee O'Neill moved to go into executive session. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke -Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The Board went into executive session at 8:26 pm.

Motion- To Come Out of Executive Session Regarding Property Acquisition

Trustee O'Rourke moved to come out of executive session. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke -Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The Board came out of executive session at 8:46pm

Motion- To Adjourn

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

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke -Aye
Trustee Julie Baker-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer