

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, October 20, 2014, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Lynn Leopold, Patricia O'Rourke, John O'Neill, and Gerald Monaghan; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow; Lisa Schleelein, Planning Board member.

Mayor Hartill called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and opened the public comment period. Greg Eells of 11 Ayla Way was present to ask the Board to remove his late fees on his April water/sewer bill in the amount of \$20.03. This is the only time they have been late in the last three years.

Resolution #6104- To Waive the Water/Sewer Late Fees for Account N6327 in the amount of \$20.03

Trustee O'Neill moved to waive the late fee. Trustee Leopold seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	

The Village has also received a letter from Cynthia Buchanan of 88 Burdick Hill Rd. requesting that their late fee of \$12.09 be waived. They pay \$200 in advance each year since they leave town and this year it was not enough to cover the costs.

Resolution #6105- To Waive the Water/Sewer Late Fees for Account N6125 in the amount of \$12.09

Trustee Leopold moved to waive the late fee. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	

Nick Vaczek stated that the Ithaca Times does well at reporting on Village and Town events and activities. It speaks to a number of issues. Nick would like to see the Village comment on Town activities. He would like to see more discussion on how comments can go to the Town on various channels and other topics that should be discussed between the two municipalities. Hartill agreed, and indicated that the Town budget is one such topic.

Motion- To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

Bernd Blosssey was present to report on deer management in the Village and discuss some proposals to consider the way we utilize the Village's deer program. So far this season there have been 15 deer taken in the Village. The numbers are down across the board. They are still seeing large groups of deer in areas we don't have access to. The newest addition to our hunting program is Bolton Point property.

One thing that has been implemented is the counting of ticks on the deer. This information is to give an assessment of the health issue. All of our deer taken this year in the Village had ticks; by contrast, in Trumansburg there have been none. Hunters are the ones that are counting ticks. It is not totally accurate because they are only looking in the obvious places on the ears, groin and arm pit areas of the deer. Hartill added that our Superintendent of Public Works has stated that the number of deer taken by car accidents is also way down.

Bernd stated that now with the new NYSDEC and Village 150 feet distance requirement as opposed to the previous 500 feet, we can go into places we couldn't go before. If there are other areas that residents would like to consider for the hunt, Bernd is happy to come and talk to them.

Bernd would like the Board to consider which properties would be possible for us to access that are Village owned. The area behind the Village garage is an area that he would like us to consider. He knows that there is a concern with the Montessori School being close by but there could be a restriction that no hunting would take place on school days or at times when they have special events at the school. We could also control who hunts there. O'Neill will contact Montessori School to get their event schedule. It was suggested that they also talk to TCTC Insurance and Triad to get their permission.

O'Neill stated that Courtney is worried about hunting on the Dart Property we just purchased because it will be a park eventually. The 17 acres to the north is a walking path. Hunting in that area would be restricted when a park goes in.

There are two people that live along Dart that have given permission to hunt on their land. The hunters would like to put a tree stand right over the property line on Village land to hunt those properties. Mayor Hartill doesn't have a problem as long as it is 150 away from Woodthrush Hollow Lane. It was confirmed that parking for this area is off street at a residence. The Board agreed that more notice should be given to neighbors. Land owners that are having a hunt on their property need to talk to their neighbors.

Leopold asked if we would need to post the land. It would need to be posted in such a manner to provide notification that there is hunting occurring. Leopold stated that she has posted her property and has added a piece of tape to the posted sign that states that a bow hunt is in progress with specific dates. Bernd will draft a sign to post. Everyone is aware of requirements and they know the perimeters of the program. Leopold will go look at the area tomorrow. It was confirmed that there will only be two tree stands on Village property.

The next thing Bernd would like the Board to consider is adding a nuisance season to the regular DEC season. This could be over Christmas break or in the February and March time frame. This would involve bow hunting with bait at night time. This would be intended to make a significant impact on the deer population. Bernd was trying to find out how the Board felt about this before asking permission from the NYSDEC to allow a nuisance permit program. Cornell University is considering the same thing. It could be a combined approach. You would have to ask NYSDEC for permission each year.

Bernd has been in touch with an organization called White Buffalo. They are interested in doing a fly over and using infrared to count deer. There would be no cost to the Village. Board thinks that it would be great to know the actual number of deer in the area. Mayor Hartill would like to cooperate with Cornell University on this. The recommended number of deer is 5 to 8 deer per square kilometer. The Village of Lansing is 10 square kilometers so having 50 to 80 deer in the Village would be ideal.

The last issue that Bernd would like the Board to consider is the use of crossbows. The two main reasons for this are that some people are no longer able to pull a compound bow anymore and a crossbow has better accuracy. The Board was not really interested in allowing crossbows at this time. They would however be interested in knowing how many of the hunters would like to use a crossbow.

New studies show that Lyme disease is specifically related to the number of deer. There is a direct link. The numbers are clearly down. Mayor Hartill asked the public if they had any comments on deer.

Lowell Garner was concerned with the public land issue. He has forever wild land behind his house and feels that he has no protection against hunting happening there. He wondered what input does he have. Mayor Hartill assured Garner that the common lands in Twin Glens are off limit. Garner feels the point is in the general conversation of public land and nuisance hunting. He feels that this may have unintended consequences because of illegal hunting. Garner pointed out the 2012 Levy Study that showed the correlation of Lyme disease in deer density and predator density. As coyotes moved in, Lyme disease increased. Garner discredited the study Bernd mentioned from a public health stand point. Nick Vaczek commented that he has never seen coyotes behind the highway garage. Bernd stated that the trail cameras show coyote presence. Gerry thought that previous studies showed that small rodents carried ticks. There was a debate between Bernd and Garner regarding the two different studies. Bernd stated that the study he mentioned was

an experimental study verses the Levy modeling study that makes all kinds of assumptions. It all comes down to which studies and information you trust.

Leopold stated that we have to remember that we are seeing at a lot of ecological damage also. Lyme disease is another side effect. There is a solid reason to get deer back into a reasonable balance.

Dubow reminded the Board that the implementation of a nuisance program outside of the DEC season would require an amendment by local law of the Village's current provisions in Chapter 67 of the Village Code which procedure could require one to two months based upon meeting schedules.

The next item on the agenda was to approve minutes from September 11<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Hartill was not present for either meeting so they can be approved in one resolution.

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from September 11<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain  
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye  
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on where everyone is with updating the Comprehensive Plan. Dake has received Chapters 5 & 6 from the Stycos and O'Neill's group and also from Gerry Monaghan's group. Leopold thought she had split her goals and forwarded them to each group but if anyone did not receive them she will be happy to send them again. She also thought that the Board had decided to get rid of Chapter 8-Village Plan. O'Rourke stated that she and Schleelein have Chapter 7, pages 58-82. O'Rourke stated that they made their section way more general. She and Schleelein will meet one more time before turning in their section. Hartill stated that he and Tomei are working on the commercial and housing section. The goal is to have everyone get their information to Dake by the end of November.

During the Mayor's comments he stated that the Water Project that involves putting pipe under Route 13 for water has had legal issues and other matters and complications related to the member municipalities involved with Bolton Point. The deadline to award the bid was Friday. Not signing the bid award could result in a significant increase in cost if a new bid process is required, so the Mayor, after consulting with Dubow and TG Miller, went ahead and signed the award.

The traffic light at North Triphammer and Craft Roads will be going out to bid. Hartill hopes to get all infrastructure done by the end of the year. Construction and small property easements are in place. All roadwork to be done in the Village is now complete. We paved one and a half miles of road this season. The ownership and utilization by the

Village of Graham Road West is still not settled. Hartill hopes to normalize that during the next construction season. The Dart Drive storm sewer is complete. The Village plans to do a similar project on Uptown Road. Generally, this was a good construction season.

Hartill welcomed Dooley Kiefer, Tompkins County representative. She was just present to observe and was not prepared to report because it is budget season.

Leopold reported that she attended the Water Resource Council meeting today. They discussed the Draft Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan as it relates to water issues. They looked at natural resources, and she made a copy of the hydro-fracturing page. Tompkins County is not taking a stand on opposing hydro-fracturing, however it is listing reasons why it is not recommended. Leopold wants to have a ban in the Village and support neighboring municipalities that may be affected. The Town of Lansing has a moratorium on hydro-fracturing, and it was asked if since we are part of the Town if we are also covered by that. Dubow stated that a ban would presumably be a Village Code/ Zoning Law issue and matter.

Dake stated that she has spoken to Beth Harrington at the Emergency Response Center (ERC) at 92 Brown Road regarding the questions the Board had at its Thursday meeting about what the Village's responsibility is in an emergency situation. One concern was should we have a generator and a place for the public to gather if power goes out for an extended period of time. Harrington informed her that NYSEG maintains a list of people in the County that require electrical medical needs. If there is anyone that has electrical medical needs, they need to contact NYSEG. Cherie Nedrow is the customer service representative for NYSEG. If there is a loss of power NYSEG sends people out to check on these individuals. This is also how they prioritize who gets their electric restored first. If food and shelter is needed, that is coordinated by the Red Cross whose office is located on Ascot Place here in the Village. Basically, what the Village is responsible for is keeping the Village infrastructure in working order, clearing the roads and keeping in contact with the Emergency Response Center. Good communication among all entities is key. We are to report any problems that we have identified in our Village to the ERC. The only precautions we as a Village need to take are that we can continue to do our jobs. A generator to power our equipment is necessary.

O'Neill suggested that we post this importation on the Village webpage.

Leopold stated that she had an extra copy of a Bolton Point Biological Study that was done before the start of the Crossmore Subdivision. Dake will make sure that we have a copy on file in the office.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

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

Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer