

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, October 5, 2015, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Gerry Monaghan, John O'Neill, Patricia O'Rourke, Planning Board members Deborah Dawson and Lisa Schleelein, Attorney David Dubow; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:35pm and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to close the public comment period.  
Trustee Hardaway 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 Ronny Hardaway- Aye

**Deer Management**

The following is a copy of the email previously sent to the Board of Trustees by Bernd Blossey for tonight's deer management discussion:

Leopold will be helping with the management of the hunt. The hunters will still report to Bernd. A nuisance permit is more effective. It reduces the time spent hunting to 2-3 hours. It has been extremely successful in Trumansburg and on Cornell University properties. There is a map of proposed locations and strategic places where our hunters can get to herds. Bernd has started to ask property owner if they are interested and approving each location. The big change is ownership model where a group has access to a property to prevent running to areas where deer have been seen. Until this year, our costs have been neutral except for the FOIL Request. This season there may be some cost to the Village for automated feeders and bait. The rest of cost will be bore by participants. We may get some surplus corn and apples which will reduce the cost to the Village. Processing of the deer is done at a place on Peruville Road and is paid for and used by the Food Bank.

At the last meeting the Board of Trustees were in favor of having a Nuisance Hunt Program and agreed to contribute up to \$6,000 for feeders, supplies and population assessment.

They also authorized Mayor Hartill to sign the permit application that was sent to NYSDEC. Mayor Hartill had asked Leopold to chair a Deer Advisory Committee.

Leopold stated that she has gotten volunteers for the proposed deer management committee. John O'Neill and Patricia O'Rourke have volunteered to be the Trustee representatives. Matt Sacco, Bernd Blossey, Larry Bieri and Sheff Baker have agreed to volunteer for this committee with Lynn Leopold being the chair. The committee would meet as soon as the permit is approved by the NYSDEC.

O'Neill stated that previously we did not allow hunting behind the DPW garage because of its proximity to the Montessori School. He would like to see this done again. The Board agreed to have that parcel removed from the approved hunting areas. Mayor Hartill entertained the following motion:

Resolution #6200–Permit Mayor Hartill to sign the New York State DEC Document With the Amendment of Removing the Area Behind the Village of Lansing Highway Garage as a Hunting Area.

Trustee O'Neill made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	

The Mayor also entertained a motion to form the Deer Management Committee.

Res. #6201–To Form a Deer Management Advisory Committee Chaired by Lynn Leopold Consisting of John O'Neill, Patricia O'Rourke, Matt Sacco, Bernd Blossey, Larry Bieri and Sheff Baker.

Trustee Hardaway made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye	

Bernd stated that since the Village is now only doing deer damage permits, Cornell, which had previously withdrawn because they are only doing nuisance procedures, is now requesting to have hunting approved on the Cornell land between Arrowwood Drive and the Lab of Ornithology in the Village. Bernd added that he has also looked at a Village location for storage of corn and miscellaneous items.

Resolution #6202- To Authorize the Nuisance Hunt to Take Place on the Cornell Land Between Arrowwood Drive and the Lab of Ornithology Using Deer Depredation Permits

Trustee O'Neill made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Hardaway 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 Ronny Hardaway- Aye

### **Comprehensive Plan**

The next item on the agenda was to finalize the Comprehensive Plan (CP) update. Hartill wrote a new introduction. The historical part repeats so the first paragraph was removed. The introduction softens the concern that Mario Tomei had regarding the relationship between the Town and Village.

The Board reviewed all the changes and agreed that this updated draft was now ready to be sent to Tompkins County for the required General Municipal Law 239 Review. The County has 30 days to review the document and submit comments back to the Village. The Draft Comprehensive Plan will also be placed on our webpage for the residents to review and comment on.

Resolution#6203-To Authorize Sending the Official Draft with changes to  
Tompkins County Planning Department for General Municipal  
Law 239 Review

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Hardaway 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 Ronny Hardaway- Aye

Dubow suggested that we may want to tell the County that you are going to put the draft document on the website and give them a couple of days to respond before putting it up. It was explained that we are not bound by the County's recommendations. However, if we do not agree with their recommendations the Board would have to have a majority plus one for final action.

Mayor Hartill thanked everyone for their help in preparing the Comprehensive Plan. It's been a long haul and well worth the effort.

While writing the newsletter the Mayor realized how much we have managed to get done. There has been a lot of construction on Sheraton Dr. with reinforcing the ditch for storm sewer management and replacing the water main. Mayor Hartill stated that in the future we may have to pass a resolution to move monies from reserve for this unexpected project, but so far he doesn't see it happening. Binghamton Electric should complete the new Craft Road traffic light by the end of October. The signal is supposed to be

synchronized with the other traffic light at Graham Road. Another major construction project was the rebuild of the bridge across Cayuga Heights Road by NYSDOT.

Hartill stated that John Dennis is our representative on the Environmental Management Council. Trustees may have seen that there is activity regarding coal ash disposal area. There is a series of monitoring wells and there is a push to install twice as many wells. Lastly, the Mayor reported that there is still discussion at SCLIWC on minimum billing for water usage.

Monaghan reported on the September 29<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting which he attended. Monaghan also attended the TCOG meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Village is apparently being offered a seat on TCAT Board in exchange for additional funding. Hartill stated that the original deal was a three-way split between Cornell University, the City and the Town of Ithaca. TCAT is looking for an additional \$50-100,000. Hartill stated that we are already paying for TCAT through our Tompkins County tax dollars. This needs to be viewed carefully.

Hardaway reported that he attended the Youth Services meeting. They are running in a deficit.

Hardaway reported that the Greenway Committee met and went over the old greenway plan and determined what sections were worth saving. They will be meeting again at the end of the month. There was a variety of perspectives with very positive comments.

Hardaway reported on the NYCOM Conference that he, Patricia, Deborah and Jodi just returned from. Dake was instrumental in leading us to the right classes. Hardaway thanked Dake for everything she did to get them there. He felt they all came away with some good positive feedback.

Ronny Hardaway had two proposals for the Board of Trustees. His first proposal is that the Board authorizes a review of the Village's Employee Handbook by designated Trustees and the Village Clerk. We should verify that the Handbook's underlying processes and procedures accurately reflect our current departmental practices. Hardaway indicated that he did this for a long time through his previous career.

A majority of the classes that he attended at last week's NYCOM conference emphasized the importance of documenting, evaluating, and adapting departmental practices so that those practices can be verified, tracked, and managed by the Village officials. The Board of Trustees has a responsibility to ensure that our departmental practices offer good guidance for the Village employees, support oversight by the Village government, and provide for the general welfare and safety of the Village residents. He feels we should talk with departments and find out what they do different. We should get started asap.

The Board of Trustees' monthly administrative meetings provide the Trustees with information about the current state of the Village finances and departmental goals and

tasks, but, as a new Trustee, I don't always understand the broad implications of the financial and departmental information or decisions. Hardaway indicated that this leads him to his second proposal. He would like the Board of Trustees to authorize training by our Village Clerk to better understand our financial reports and budgets and how they impact, or are impacted by, the Board of Trustees' short-term and long-term decisions. The financial health of the Village of Lansing has been managed successfully for many years, and I feel that Jodi's training on finances would help the Board of Trustees continue our history of success.

O'Rourke added that we should know what the reports are and question them. Jodi has volunteered to train the Board on financials.

O'Rourke also asked that each Board member get a Village email to use for Village business instead of their personal email. At the NYCOM conference they couldn't stress enough how important it is for each staff/board member to have their own Village email account. Hardaway has agreed to set up emails for all of the Village Boards. Dubow stated that this has been an issue of NYCOM and others for years. One concern is that people don't want duplication. Dubow has said in the past that there has been a recent push on this, and more and more emphasis is being imposed for FOIL related matters and other potential considerations. There is a 5 year record retention requirement for email. Hartill is concerned with the cost and time needed to set up the new accounts and the additional spam. He doesn't want to filter through another account. Hardaway suggested getting a server on our account to clean out junk mail. (Server side filter.?? For RH) Hardaway stated that it doesn't cost anything additional and only would take him about 30 minutes to set up. Hartill will think about it. Hardaway will set it up so it will be ready if we chose to do. With the server we are on we can set a limit.

Motion-To Adjourn

Trustee Monaghan moved to adjourn. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye  
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Monaghan and O'Neill had left the meeting. It was found that there will not be a quorum for the Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> noon meeting so the remaining members reopened the meeting.

Motion-To Reopen the Meeting

Hartill moved to reopen the meeting. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting was reopened at 8:37.

Resolution #6204 -To Cancel the October 15, 2015 Noon Meeting Due to Lack of a Quorum

O'Rourke moved to cancel the meeting. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Motion-To Close the Meeting

O'Rourke moved to close the meeting. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer