

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 4, 2016, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Gerry Monaghan, Patricia O'Rourke, and John O'Neill; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow; Planning Board Member, Mike Baker.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:32pm and opened the public comment period. Robert Schleelein was present representing the Community Party. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to close the public comment period. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

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

Since it wasn't quite time for the public hearing, the Mayor gave a brief overview of the proposed budget. Hartill stated that the proposed tax increase is from \$.99 to \$1.10/\$1,000 of assessed value. For the last few years we have been spending down our fund balance. This year we will be lowering it significantly with redoing N. Triphammer Road. Because of our storm system, Suit-Kote will have to mill down N. Triphammer Road and then pave it. The estimated cost for this project is around a million dollars. The original cost for the N. Triphammer Rd. project was \$5 million. The other large project for this construction season is Bush Lane. There is a bid opening for this project at 2pm on April 26, 2016. We will be replacing the water line and widening the road to accommodate for pedestrian and a bike lane. There has already been some concern voiced by a business owner on Bush Lane regarding customer access during construction.

Hartill explained that three years ago we were adding to our capital reserve. It was a period when we weren't doing heavy maintenance. However, the next year the Governor put the tax cap into effect. We've managed to sustain that, but this year it is clear that if we continue on this path we would be negative in ten years. After some discussion, it was decided that raising the tax rate to \$1.10 per thousand would be the first step in getting back to the tax rate of \$1.20, which is where the Mayor feels we should currently be. In the days when raising taxes were "anti whatever" you also have to be responsible for your fiscal responsibility. The Village doesn't want to decrease services.

The proposed budget has increases in salaries. Health care costs are up significantly due to the adding of employee health coverage which was previously provided by an employee's spouse. An additional hourly increase from 3% to 7% was given to the MEO's so that they will be more in line with what other municipalities are paying. The increases for the Boards are the first in 5-6 years. It is proportional to inflation over this time period. The rate for New York State Retirement actually went down this year from 18% to 15%.

The Mayor entertained a motion to open the Public hearing.

Motion- To Open the Public Hearing for the 2016-17 Proposed Budget

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

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

Veanor asked if the Village was part of the Health Consortium. Hartill stated that we are not in the Health Consortium. The Village is part of the Community Rated Pool, which is good for small businesses. The premium we pay for our insurance is more attractive than the consortium.

A concern that the Mayor has this year is that we have 2-3 large construction projects so he will be more involved.

Robert Schleelein asked if there were copies of budget for people to look at. There are copies of the 2016-17 Budget available in the office and on our website if anyone is interested in looking at the budget in detail.

The proposed appropriations are as follows:

Water Fund - \$1,362,318
Sewer Fund - \$1,323,304
General Fund- \$3,112,368

This brings the total budget to \$5,797,990. The Water and Sewer Funds are basically just pass thru funds. A 25% surcharge is added to both water and sewer bills to pay for the expenses the Village encounters for maintaining the Village infrastructure.

Monaghan asked how the decrease in fuel costs has affected the budget. Hartill explained that with the decrease in the price of fuel we have also seen a sales tax decrease. In round numbers, the majority of our General Fund revenue comes from \$650,000 in Sales tax, \$500,000 from property tax, franchise fees and gross receipts tax. What has happened with the marketing of electric power is the power suppliers claim they are not subject to

tax since they are not located within the boundaries of the municipality and we have lost that revenue. New York State says this is not so. Once we get this worked out it should go back to the original figure. NYCOM is working very hard on this. We use to make money on interest but as we all know with the low interest rates that is no longer the case. Hartill added that a large cost in the upcoming N. Triphammer Project is the plastic striping that will be done. Plastic striping has a long life expectancy. In Cortland this product was used 12 years ago and is still in good shape. That is where the Mayor got the idea.

Motion- To Close the Public Hearing

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

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

Resolution #6245- To Adopt the Proposed Budget as the 2016-17 Budget

Trustee Hardaway moved this resolution. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from March 17th & 21st.

Motion- To Approve the Minutes of March 17, 2016

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

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

Motion- To Approve the Minutes of March 21, 2016

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

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

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

During the Mayor's comments, Hartill recognized the Lansing Star April Fools article. Village elections are April 26th. Brush pick is May 2nd. The Town of Lansing is storing excess salt for the Village. We can store about 450 tons here in our salt barn. The Town will store another 150 tons for the Village. This will start us out with a good amount of salt for next year. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Town for its willingness to accommodate the storage.

Monaghan attended TCCOG meeting last week. There was a youth services presentation. Tompkins County is banning any questioning about the box convictions and legal problems until after the first round of interviews. Monaghan did a presentation on the Transit Services Committee at the TCCOG meeting.

Monaghan explained that Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) is having a problem with getting drivers. They have 68 drivers but need 82 to service all of their routes. They spend over \$30K a week for temporary contract drivers they bring in from around the country. This summer we will see significant cuts to services. It seems that everyone is struggling with finding bus drivers. Rochester is the only area that is not having this type of issues. TCAT will be looking for support from local municipalities to get in touch with politicians regarding this issue. Monaghan had a copy of the press release from TCAT. Jodi will scan the release and send it to the Trustees. Monaghan added that there will be a public hearing and information session tomorrow at noon and 5:00 PM at the Tompkins County Borg Warner room. Hartill stated that one reason they are having difficulty is because NYSDOT has cracked down on rules and requiring more training to maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL).

O'Rourke stated that the Planning Board canceled their last meeting so she had nothing to report.

Hardaway reported that the Greenway Committee met last week. Minutes of the meeting can be found on the Village webpage. The field trip to walk the Dart parcel which was planned for tomorrow has been postponed. Lynn Leopold told the committee that part of this park area is swampy and suggested we don't build on that section. Hartill also suggested that the committee keep in mind that there is a 30 ft. access to the parcel from Dart Drive. Hardaway thinks this would make a good footpath in. The committee is also discussing the installation of pedestrian striping there on Dart Dr., which may help to slow down the traffic on that road. Trees and powerlines are also a concern in that area.

Monaghan stated that he is still doing the art installation at Dankert Park. He stated that that area needs brush cleaned out and dead trees removed. Dake suggested that he let the Highway Department know since they maintain the parks. Another suggestion was trying to see if we could get citizens to come help on June 3rd before the installation. Monaghan noticed that the fence is being pulled apart by the vines. Hartill will talk to Courtney about this.

Motion to Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill moved to adjourn. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Don Hartill – Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan – Aye
Trustee John O'Neill – Aye

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer