

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, February 16, 2017, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Gerry Monaghan, Patricia O'Rourke and John O'Neill; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer, Marty Moseley; Supt. of Public Works John Courtney; MEO, Nolan Hatfield.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:16pm.

Monica Moll, who is on the Greenway Committee, gave a Power Point presentation on the proposed new playground equipment for Northwood Park. Moll has two children and is excited about having the playground on this side of Route 13. Her presentation was based on information provided by a RE Woodson representative who visited from Rochester and walked the Park site with Moll and Hardaway several weeks ago. She stated that there will be a pathway to the Park from Dart Drive by Phil Dankert's house or people can drive in from Northwood Road. The proposal incorporates two separate play areas: one for children ages 2-5, and another for children ages 5-12. It includes a separate, smaller swing set for the younger children. A picnic pavilion will be located between Northwood Road and the play area for younger children. This design prevents younger children from running from the playground out into the road. One of the goals is to have a place for parents to feel safe and relaxed. RE Woodson met with members of the Greenway Committee and came up with a proposal. It is well thought out for safety. The design shown in the PowerPoint presentation is flexible. Things can be moved around as needed to preserve the trees that Committee members marked to be saved. The design incorporates equipment designed to help children develop age-appropriate motor skills. It also includes play equipment designed for children with special physical and psychological needs.

O'Neill asked how much the zip line would cost. Monica explained that it was \$16,000 but was part of Phase II. O'Neill didn't want that expense. Phase I would be the two play areas which will cost approximately \$64,534. This doesn't include installation, benches, and pavilion or picnic tables. Installation would cost around \$22,000. Monaghan wants to do benches in Shannon Park and other places in the Village at the same time we do them for Northwood Park. Hartill would prefer to do it all at once. The cost will probably end up being around \$150,000.

The Village will need to make decision on how the site prep will happen. For safety, we need to have 10-12 inches of mulch. We can either dig down or have a border and build the play area up. Digging down could create a water issue. There is Duradrain mats which could go down before mulch to keep water off which costs approximately \$22,000. Courtney feels that stone, weed barrier and filter are cheaper and would work better. French drains would also need to be installed above that. Courtney added that some of the trees that are marked to keep will not be able to stay. Courtney asked that with the final design the Village look at maintenance issues. He would rather not have two separated

areas because he sees the center strip between them as a maintenance issue. Another suggestion was to build up the playground area by placing large rocks around the play areas border. This would also create another play structure for kids and the rocks could also be used as benches. Monaghan stated that Taughannock State Park uses rocks for their border and his kids used to love to climb the rocks. Courtney sees snakes and head injuries. It would also be a good barrier between the playground and the parking lot. The rocks become another feature for the kids to play on. O'Neill feels we should be aware of any liability. It was suggested that we contact that park to see if they have had any legal problems. Courtney will also call Selective and see if it is an issue. Monaghan will contact Taughannock State Park. Courtney asked if the Spin cups could be removed to empty them. Moll stated that they have drainage holes. Monica stated that the Greenway Committee also looked at doing a community build. You need a lot of people to do that and there was no real savings. Monaghan stated that he has worked with nonprofits and it's really hard to get volunteers. Hartill thanked Moll for doing the presentation and all the work she has put into it.

Mayor Hartill asked Monica if she would like to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. She had previously talked to Moseley about it and would like to be part of that Board.

Resolution #6346-To Appoint Monica Moll to the Board of Zoning Appeals to Replace Donald Eckrich and complete his term which expires May 2019.

Trustee Monaghan moved this resolution. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Courtney reported that they put up two speed signs on Dart Drive that are working well. The new LED's are good and they haven't had to change the batteries yet. Hartill asked if the speed signs collect data. Courtney stated that they do keep a record but it is a challenge to get in to retrieve the data. Courtney stated that they can get the data every three weeks. McDonalds has been tracking snow onto N. Triphammer Road which Courtney has talked to the Mayor about. McDonalds doesn't do maintenance on their parking lot if there is under 3 inches of snow which results in the snow ending up on our road. Courtney told them that he will send them a bill for the Village having to do their snow removal on N. Triphammer Road. Courtney has spoken with both the owner and the plow guy. Courtney stated that he has everything well documented.

Courtney and Moseley met with Squeaky Clean regarding the LED lights on the outside of their building that are very bright. These lights have been this way for four years. They are trying to tone it down.

The highway crew has been plowing. The new salt spreader is doing a great job on our sidewalks. We are now plowing the trail from Highgate to Sevanna Park.

Courtney spoke with Ted Palmer of NYSEG. He will be meeting with NYSEG marketing to convert all of our streetlights to LED. Courtney feels this should save a lot on our NYSEG bills. Currently we contract with NYSEG. We are basically going to take the contract away by converting and eliminating the service class. This doesn't include the 30 foot poles. It was asked if we maintain the lighting in the medical complex. We only pay for the 11-12 streetlights on Arrowwood Drive. He would like to see if we can convert those to LED also. Courtney has started working on his budget. He plans to finish Northwood and Graham Road once we acquire that road. Monaghan would like to have him include doing something with the boulevard area on Becket Way. Courtney suggested stamped concrete. He feels it would be easy and cheap. Courtney will look into the cost per square foot to do that. Courtney would also like to buy a road sign message board. Last year we borrowed one when they worked on Northwoods Road and it was helpful in alerting people to what was going on. Hartill stated that we also need to talk about sewer and water.

Nolan had nothing further to report.

Marty printed off an email from Mario Tomei that stated that John Gillott would like to be on the Lighting Commission. Courtney wasn't sure if that would be a good idea because he was upset with his lighting and how it was handled. The Board thought he would be a good asset.

Resolution #6347-To Appoint John Gillott to the Lighting Commission

Trustee O'Neill moved this resolution. Trustee Monaghan seconded the motion.  
A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Dake reminded Courtney that meeting minutes from the Lighting Commission need to be on file in her office. Courtney stated that Lisa Schleelein was taking minutes from the last meeting and will get them to the Clerk's office.

Mosley stated that at last Monday's Planning Board meeting they discussed two commercial projects, the proposed Mosque on Graham Road and an office next to Arleo Eye Institute. The Mosque is looking at a creative way to have afterschool programs which will benefit the whole neighborhood. Potentially in March the Board of Zoning Appeals will have a meeting to discuss the Islamic Mosque and the Planning Board will have a public hearing on the proposed Warren Road office building.

The number of building permits issued this year is a little ahead of last year. Currently, 2 Ascot Place has a building permit and Agway has a permit to add a dog grooming area. Stormwater changes continue to come down. NYSDEC is working with a Cornell model dealing with phosphorous in the lake. It will directly affect municipalities with outfalls.

Moseley is just about finished with his budget. He plans to leave the Village as clean as possible. Moseley's last day of work is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Moseley thanked the Village for the opportunities that it provided him. Hartill added that we will have a consulting arrangement or other arrangement with Marty to help us transition into a new Code & Zoning Officer. Moseley stated that he would be more than happy to come back and help through the transitional period.

The Village has received a FOIL request from Lowell Garner relating to deer. Bernd Blossey was present to discuss this issue with the Board. Blossey stated that he would have to check the database to see exactly where we are but he thinks that we have taken over 30 deer this season, and only 2 in 2017. There are still many deer out there; we see them on the trail cameras. Hartill stated that the Highway Department has picked up only one deer on Cayuga Heights Road that was hit by a car. Blossey stated that they shot a doe that had an earring tag which was done 10 plus years ago. Currently, the deer are really hard to get because they are changing their patterns. The hunters are trying different strategies. There is a diminishing take because of what we have been doing. We can't monitor movement because the deer aren't marked. We know from the trail cameras that they are traveling in groups. We feel we are seeing an affect in that we won't reach the usual numbers so it means we've made a difference. We haven't had any issues with the program. There hasn't been a change in the hunted properties since 2015. We don't need to go to other places.

Blossey commented on some of the items that were in the FOIL request. He stated that the Village does not run a science program and has never paid for anything, and therefore are not really an entity in this endeavor. The oak seedlings are a scientific experiment he is doing on Leopold's property. Garner has requested the locations of the tree stand but the locations change through the season. He is unsure if the tree stand locations should be shared. The code of conduct for the hunters, which is really a document Blossey developed, is not part of the Village's Codification. We have no problem sharing any of this information. Lynn Leopold chairs the deer committee which has only had one meeting so far, Bernd is a member of that committee. The outcome of that meeting was part of the Board of Trustees minutes. Blossey does the science on the side and would be happy to supply Garner with scientific literature. It was suggested that the information be given to the Village electronically so that the Clerk has a record of everything being sent to Garner as part of the FOIL request. Blossey will also write a letter of support. Blossey's final annual report will be done once the season is over.

It is difficult to count and have a formal program. This means that population is estimated with science supported programs. Hartill asked if there were any municipalities that had a fly over planned. Blossey stated that he doesn't know anyone that has one planned; it is too expensive. There is new methodology, but it is difficult to get an estimate. The NYSDEC is more interested in assessing the damage deer cause. We know we are making a difference because residents report that they are not having the deer damage they had previously, and we are not removing as many dead deer from the road. Ten years ago we took 80 deer and now it is down to a couple of dozen. That would indicate progress.

O'Neill reported on last night's Town of Lansing meeting. He also pointed out an article in the Tompkins Weekly on Tompkins County. Legislator Anna Kelles, D-Ithaca, is planning to introduce a resolution to make Tompkins County a sanctuary municipality. A sanctuary municipality is one that adopts a policy of protecting unauthorized immigrants by not prosecuting them for violating federal immigration laws and by ensuring that all residents have access to services, regardless of immigration status. The City of Ithaca has already become a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants. There is a TCCOG meeting Thursday. O'Neill will try and find out more on this. Many municipalities are not in support of this.

As part of the next budget, O'Neill would like to convert the old office building into a usable meeting space. He and Moseley have looked at the space and we would have to have a fire wall to separate the meeting area from the record retention area. It could cost \$20,000 or more. Moseley suggested the Village hire an architect and talk to contractors to get estimate. For life safety purpose you need architectural drawings. Moseley will call George Brauhouse to have him look at the space and get his recommendations. Hartill agreed to put this in the budget.

Monaghan stated that he has been using the new sidewalk on Pyramid and it is a pleasure to get through there. He reminded Courtney that he still needs to take down the "Sidewalk Closed" signs. He would like the signs saved for the Village museum at the Town of Lansing. Courtney will take it down soon. O'Neill reminded him that they also need to remove the "Dead End" sign in his neighborhood. There have been union protesters standing at the Shops at Ithaca Mall corner protesting Destiny USA Mall. Monaghan would like to talk about the path from the Shops of Ithaca Mall to Shannon Park. Hartill would like to get Graham Road West done first and then talk about the path. The holdup is the fact that the Mall attorney is dealing with the bank which is painfully slow.

Monaghan would like the Village to contribute to the Town of Lansing archive. We cannot contribute monetarily to them, but we can contribute items to them. Monaghan thinks that John Reese has some great pictures that would be a great contribution.

Lastly, Monaghan reported that he received a letter from the Department of Transportation regarding expressed safety concerns at the intersection of East Shore Drive and North Cayuga Heights Road. They completed a study, and based on the accident analysis, reconstruction of the intersection is not warranted. Four of the seven collisions at that intersection involved deer. The letter was given to Dake to keep on file in the office.

Mayor Hartill stated that he had a meeting with NYSEG and all of the Village is getting new smart meters between May and June. These are similar to the smart water meters that Bolton Point recently installed. The difference is the meters update every 15 minutes where the water meters update twice a day. Last Saturday NYSEG lost a crossbar coming into East Hill which resulted in all of campus going dark along with part of City of

Ithaca. It happened 9 months ago also. Ed Marx claimed that our grid is very reliable, but it is actually quite fragile. It took four hours to restore power.

The Mayor's goal this year is to address our sewer infrastructure. There are three separate main lines. We need to look into whether we need to replace the line behind Sirios's house. Hartill will discuss this with Dave Herrick next Wednesday. There is also one down behind the Shops at Ithaca Mall and another line on the south side of Route 13. These are older than the Village. There is also a short bypass. These are probably the most problematic areas. The Town of Lansing also wants to expand their sewer system. It is not sure how that will all play out. The capacity is not really know by the Village of Cayuga Heights. There may be 1400 units available. We won't know until a study is complete. Hartill stated that we see a significant increase in flow during rain events. Courtney feels there are a lot of illegal connections. The Village may want to look at offering an incentive to have residents convert illegal connections back over to surface and not connect them into the sewer.

Dake reported that Sweazey's Heating & Air Condition fixed the heat in both the old office and the new building. A damper was stuck open on the administration building and a part needed to be replaced on the old office building. Courtney suggested that we turn off the water in that building. Dake stated that Bolton Point charges a fee to turn the water on and off. We use the water for gardening in the spring and summer, so we may consider this next year.

As everyone is aware, Marty will be leaving the Village on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and taking a position in the Town of Ithaca. Unfortunately, we couldn't advertise for the position until the three people that had already passed the civil service test for this position had been contacted. Heather from Tompkins County Personnel sent out the canvass for the Zoning/Code/Fire Enforcement Officer for the Village of Lansing. If one person declines then we are free to advertise, interview and hire any qualified applicant we want. If all three are still interested, then we have to choose one of them. We will know tomorrow if anyone declined. Another option is hiring a provisional for up to 90 days. Hartill, O'Rourke, Dake and Monaghan will be on the interviewing committee. Courtney feels that we do not have to follow Civil Service. The Mayor stated that it is not a good idea to make waves.

Dake has sent out budget requests. Sections of the budget still need to be assigned to the Board members. Mayor Hartill assigned O'Neill and O'Rourke to meet with staff. The Mayor will meet with Courtney and TG Miller regarding infrastructure needs next Wednesday. Since Hardaway is out of town, the Mayor asked Monaghan to do parks. Once all this information is collected, the Mayor and Dake will put together a tentative budget for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Dake stated that there continues to be an issue with Courtney charging meals on the Village credit card. Despite writing unallowable expenses on the vouchers, the Board continues to not question this expense during the meeting. Previously, the Board stopped buying lunches because after attending the NYCOM Conference the Trustees realized

that it really wasn't an allowable expenditure of Village funds. Courtney argued that other municipalities do it. Dake handed out a publication from NYCOM's attorney John Mancini on this issue. The publication stated the following:

*Some Village officials have argued that staff lunches and dinners serve a public purpose by "promoting good relations between employer and employees, promoting inter-employee relations, fostering a sense of communion and in general, improving the conditions of employment". Although these events may promote good-will, the OSC has opined that "the public benefit which might be derived from such activities would be too indirect and incidental to warrant expenditure of municipal funds". There is one narrow exception to this general rule, which in an instance where a municipality negotiates this type of event as part of a collective bargaining agreement.*

We forget that the Board has already granted the staff paid time off for their lunch break. What may be done in the private sector cannot be done with public funds. Mayor Hartill informed Courtney that this is not an allowable expense and meals should not be purchased with Village funds.

Hartill entertained a motion to approve the vouchers. Dake stated that the Board first needed to do budget transfer in the amount of \$4,000 to A5142.2, for a sidewalk salt spreader that wasn't budgeted for. It was suggested that it come from A5110.4. Courtney would rather have it transferred from A5112.2 since they won't be doing the Graham Road project this year and he still has crack sealing to do out of A5110.4.

Resolution #6348-Budget Transfer of \$4,000 from Transportation, Permanent Improvements, Capital Outlay, A5112.2 to Transportation, Snow Removal, Equipment, A5142.2 for the Sidewalk Salt Spreader

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

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

Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to approve the vouchers.

Resolution #6349- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 9 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$61,644.86, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 9 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$126,438.30, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 9 for the Trust & Agency Fund, in the amount of \$4,482.90, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 9 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$4,371.15, is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee O'Rourke moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted and Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Rourke 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

The meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

February 20<sup>th</sup> is Presidents Day so there will not be a Board of Trustees meeting. We will start the budget process at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the plan is to set the Budget Public Hearing for April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The budget needs to be approved each year by April 15<sup>th</sup>.