

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 17, 2017, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O’Neill and Patricia O’Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney David Dubow; Planning Board Member, Debra Dawson.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:38pm. Before opening the public comment period, the Mayor stated that individuals wishing to speak would be limited to 3 minutes. The Mayor opened the public comment period.

Joe Harrell, a Newfield resident, came to state that he thinks the Village is doing right by doing duplexes and small doctor’s offices. He thinks that it would be nice if development could go all the way to Cortland. Joe stated that he has been to the City Common Council meetings and other municipal meetings to express his opinion. He would like to bypass Cornell University land and get affordable housing. He feels a good example is Maplewood which will be a nice apartment complex. He likes apartments with little stores underneath. He wants higher buildings, a community like Silicon Valley. He indicated that with development we could be getting more money for Tompkins County. He feels we should plan ahead another 20 years for development. County Board member Barbara Lifton wants all green. Hartill stated that we already have a Business & Technology Park. Joe stated that he is talking about something more like Silicon Valley and big corporations. This area wants to grow, but the people behind it don’t want it to grow. Hartill stated that there is a number of people that want it to grow and I am one of them. At this time, the Mayor advised Mr. Harrell that his time was up.

Carol Klepack stated that she was representing the Community Party as an observer.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee O’Neill made a motion to close the public comment period.

Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Next item was to consider setting a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law 2 (2017) -- Amendment to Village of Lansing Code-Zoning Law-Lansing Meadows PDA. Mayor Hartill stated that he sat in on the Planning Board meeting a week ago when they discussed this issue. After the discussion, there appeared to be a consensus of how we can move forward. It was clarified that the Planning Board has reviewed this.

At the last Planning Board meeting, the Planning Board recommended amending the Lansing Meadows PDA and create a new and additional commercial district (District A-1). The Planning Board also recommended that a 30 foot wide piece of residential area be maintained in between Oakcrest Road and the new commercial component A-1. There is a map of the recommended area to be designated the new commercial area A-1, which provides for approximate boundaries. Mr. Goetzmann has provided a new overlay map that can be adopted by the Village. David has prepared a local law to include these district regulations and an addition to subsection Q to 145-60.

Dubow stated that Moseley and Robbs worked on a proposed list of conditions and it is consistent with what the Planning Board is comfortable with. In the proposed Local Law, a proposed map was incorporated. The small plan that Marty created shows the meets and bounds stating the setbacks for the area. Dawson asked if it included the revised map from Eric. It does. The map will be incorporated into the code as well. Dubow stated that this is for the purpose of putting it forward for a public hearing. Changes can be done at the Public Hearing.

Hardaway stated that he agreed that the document is acceptable. It reflects all the setback concerns that the Planning Board had. He feels it is fine.

Hartill entertained a motion to set a public hearing for Monday May 1, 2017.

Motion- To Set a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law 2, 2017- For May 1, 2017 at 7:35pm.

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

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

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

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from April 3rd.

Motion- To Approve the Minutes of April 3, 2017

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

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

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

Mayor Hartill stated that he has been amazed at what is going on. He has spent a fair amount of time talking to people in the Village. In response to comments coming from the Preservation Party candidates, Hartill made the following comments. We built this new administration building because the old office building was in the same building as

the Bolton Points big pump. We had an arrangement with Bolton Point to shut down pumps during meetings and during work hours which was not an ideal situation for either party. Hartill stated that he doesn't like to spend money, but we had no choice. There was a comment that we have a 300% increase in spending on parks this budget year. We actually have Capital Reserve Funds for that purpose. It is using funds we have saved over previous years. It is called responsible government. He is surprised by publications that have come out that have no knowledge of the Village. He finds this disappointing. We have a cooperative arrangement with the Town of Lansing. It is a good relationship. For the N. Triphammer Road reconstruction, we spent years putting that together. We had to buy the land for our right of way due to the fact that one property owner would not give it to us. It is a benefit because we are currently working with the Town of Lansing to get them sewer service and we won't have an issue because we already own that right-of-way where the pipes would go in. The Town will have to get easements to do this. It is important for both the Town and Village. We are also working with the Village of Cayuga Heights to solve issues south of Route 13. Village of Cayuga Heights has a similar desire to have this happen. We are installing real time monitors on sewer flow. Why? It rains, and the flow goes up by a factor of 2 or 3. We try to find where this comes from. Flow monitors allow us to pinpoint the problem and fix it. We are trying to make the whole system work, not just pieces of the system. He is looking forward to continuing as Mayor. Another thing we are doing is writing a job description for a part-time laborer for the summer. This person would help around the office with gardening and mowing. This would be a perfect job for a College student. We are about to doubling our lawn mowing enterprise.

Hardaway stated that he has a few issues that he has heard while out campaigning, but would like to wait until Courtney is present to discuss them. They are in regards to minor problems or requests. Hartill stated that solar power LED are getting more popular. Cheaper, but not for the eyes. There is concern that the spectrum may be a problem with your health. Earlier versions of the lights were high in short wave lengths. Like any new technology, it takes a while to get it right.

Carol Klepack had questions on our snowplowing. She recalls that it was a saving to do it ourself. Hartill stated that it depends on the contract. It use to be that the Town did our plowing and we basically paid for our salt. Village residents pay Town taxes and used to get plowing as part of that. Then there was a time when a new supervisor came in and wanted to increase what the Village paid to the Town by \$50-75,000, so we did our own. We have to use salt because sand gets into our drainage system and then you have to clean out sand. So, it is more cost effective to use salt only. O'Neill pointed out that the sand also gets on houses. In the end, there is no free lunch for that level of service. Dawson finds it humorous that the Mayor is being characterized as a tax and spend politician. This is not true, and it is just the opposite. It is an interesting observation.

O'Rourke would also like to wait to the next staff meeting to have Courtney present some information to see if he can do a few things that were asked. More services are wanted, not less. We've been getting great feedback so it is disappointing to get bad information

out there from people that have never been to a meeting except for one issue. She finds this a little disappointing.

Dawson finds it disconcerting when you submit to any media and they tell you there is not enough interest value for the rest of the County. The last time an Ithaca Journal person attended a Village meeting was 5-6 years ago. We do have the Lansing Star which does a great job covering Village news. Hartill stated that in the end, all politics are local.

Dawson stated that she was out canvassing Coventry Walk & Yardley Green area and there were a couple of residents that don't like the park, and they liked their privacy. You can't please everyone. By and large, everyone is in support. Hartill stated that the Northwood folks are very positive about it, and will be adding it to their publications.

Dake stated that with the approved 2017-18 Budget the Board agreed that they would increase the water surcharge from 25% to 40%. Bolton Point needs a resolution stating this. Dake went on to explain that during the budget process it was decided that instead of depleting most of our Water Capital Reserve, we would increase our user fee instead. We are still transferring in \$122,635 from our Water Capital Reserve to meet our budget expenses.

Hartill stated that our water system is getting older and we have had many breaks this winter. Hartill mentioned the hospital facility situation that was discussed at the last meeting. We need to continuously upgrade. Our water reserve fund is getting low so we need to rectify this. Our water costs are still much lower than the Town of Ithaca whose surcharge is 80%.

Resolution #6370- To Increase the Water Surcharge from 25% to 40%
Starting With the July 1st Billing.

Trustee Hardaway moved to increase the water surcharge. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

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

Nick Vaczek got a mailer today and asked the following: If one was uninformed about the Village, is there any way a general person could determine if there should be a debate?. Dawson stated that the Lansing Star has interviewed all candidates. He feels debates are part of the political process. Someone has to host it and organize it. There is a mixed message. It can provide publicity. It's not a clear cut plus or minus. We've been very active talking individually with people and explaining our point of view. On Friday, the Lansing Star will post their interviews with the two Mayor candidates. Veanor stated that they are very generous with their words.

Hardaway stated that the elections are on Tuesday, April 25th from noon to 9pm.

Motion to Adjourn

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer