

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees John O'Neill, Patricia O'Rourke and Gerry Monaghan; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer Adam Robbs; Working Supervisor, John Courtney; MEO Nolan Hatfield and Chris Zavaski; Lisa Schleelein, Planning Board member.

Deputy Mayor Ronny Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:07pm.

Dake asked the Board to approve the Minutes from February 5, 2018.

Motion-To Approve the Minutes of March 5, 2018

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

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

Dake stated that as part of the budget process we are proposing a Local Law to override the tax levy limit. We have done this every year to protect the Village. Mayor Hartill has proposed an increase in the tax rate from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Resolution #6459-To Set a Public Hearing for April 2, 2018 at 7:35 on Proposed Local Law 1 (2018) To Allow the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke made a motion to set a public hearing. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Dake stated that she called down to Tompkins County Election Office and the rate for Poll Workers compensation has increased from \$100 to \$125 and Poll Managers have been increased to \$135. The Board then set the Village Elections.

Resolution #6460- To Set the 2018 Village Elections for April 24, 2018 From 12-9pm at the Village Office and Set the Poll Workers Compensation at \$125 and the Poll Manager Compensation at \$135.

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

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

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye  
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Hardaway stated that during the elections we will also be manning a table where people can vote to name our parks. The Board felt it was best that O'Neill and Monaghan don't man the table since they are running for election. Hardaway is working on an article for the newsletter and putting together the ballot. We will also post this on our website.

Monaghan stated that he attended the Planning Board meeting Monday night. He feels we will need to confer with our legal counsel. Monaghan has been out canvassing and two issues that he has heard about are getting lights on the path from Shannon Park to the Mall and greenway improvements.

O'Rourke stated that she also attended the Planning Board meeting. They held a public hearing on the proposed Lansing Meadows special permit. It was described as a contentious meeting between the Planning Board/public and Eric Goetzmann. O'Rourke feels the Village may have been misled several times throughout this project.

O'Rourke questioned the voucher for \$4,370.30 to Autoworks Body Shop. Courtney explained that this was for the repairs that were needed after he backed into a ballard at the garage with the 2016 pickup truck when plowing. An insurance claim was filed and paid by our insurance company. The rear quarter panel and box side were replaced. Hardaway asked what the \$620.44 invoice from Bartholomew Lubricants was for. Courtney stated that it was for diesel cleaner, motor oil and hydraulic oil for the trucks.

Monaghan stated that after going through this whole situation with Lansing Meadows he feels we have holes in our Planned Development Area. He feels we really need to proceed with more detail so we aren't in this position in the future. This experience will change our details we get into with PDA's.

Dake asked if Courtney had been able to speak with the Mayor about the questions that the Board had about the budget. Courtney stated that the Mayor was in to see him last Friday before he left for California, but Courtney was not in. One of the questions pertained to the \$235,000 to replace the 2009 International single axle truck. It was asked if the purchase of the truck should be moved from A5110.2, Street Maintenance Equipment, to A5142.2, Snow Removal Equipment. Dake stated that she feels we are misrepresenting the amount of money it takes to plow snow in the Village. There are no trucks or salaries listed under snow plowing so it seems that we only spend \$55,000 a year on snow plowing when in actuality we are spending closer to \$100,000.

The second question on this truck was why the Town of Lansing is also buying a plow truck, however, they have only budgeted \$180,000. Courtney explained that we are purchasing a 10 wheeler and they are purchasing a smaller 6 wheeler. It was asked if we

could utilize a smaller truck for what we do. Courtney explained that we use the truck for hauling stones where the Town doesn't use their single axel for hauling. A 10 wheeler can haul 16 tons where a 6 wheeler can haul 7 ½ to 8 tons, which results in less trips. Hardaway asked if a 10 wheeler higher capacity was enough to warrant another 10 wheeler. Courtney stated that many municipalities don't have roads that can sustain the weight of a 10 wheeler; however, the Village of Lansing has built our roads to handle the 10 wheeler weight. The only two roads in the Village that can't take the weight of the bigger truck are Twin Glens and Esty Drive. Dake recalls that we use to plow cul-de-sac's with a smaller truck. Courtney stated that they hate to plow cul-de-sac's, but they do plow them with the big trucks.

The other thing that the Mayor was going to talk to Courtney about was the reason for not selling the one ton truck in this year's budget and wanting a new pickup truck instead. The other issue they need to discuss is hiring summer help. Neither of these issues will affect the 2018-19 Budget.

Monaghan stated that he and O'Rourke had a positive meeting with the highway guys regarding salaries and benefits. They are concerned with the increase in health insurance that has taken place over the last few years. It has gone up every year and 12% again this year. Dake stated that the Village has looked into the Consortium and they offer the same coverage for less. Due to the lengthy process to join, we were unable to start in 2018. In July or August we will begin the process to join in 2019 which will save a significant amount of money to both the Village and the employees. Maybe that savings can be passed onto the employees.

Monaghan stated that they would also like the Board to consider adding some kind of disability insurance. Dake explained that the full time employees already have disability insurance and long term disability. Their concern was more about what if an employee gets injured and is out for 3 weeks. Dake explained that if it was a work related injury it would be covered under Workers Compensation. If it was something that happened outside of work then employees could use their PTBA time. Dake stated that this type of situation could be something that each individual could plan for in their own finances. Dake asked if they were interested in something like AFLAC. Courtney stated that that wasn't what they were really looking for but would like to have further discussions about possibilities.

Another area that the Board should reconsider is retirement health insurance. Currently, the Village offers up to \$2,400 to employees that retire after the age of 55 and have had 20 years of continuous full-time serve with the Village of Lansing. Courtney stated that one of the benefits of working for government in the past was the benefits and retirement. Typically, government positions use to be a lesser pay for benefits. We've come a long way with pay structure, however, if an employee has 30 years of service in and wants to retire at 55, it is an issue because you don't get insurance through Medicare until you are 65. With the current cost of insurance, most can't afford to go with ten years of gap on health insurance. The Board agreed to look into this in the near future. Hardaway asked if there is a state agency that can help us look at our current coverage and help us look at

ways that we may better serve our employees. It was suggested that we look to other municipalities to see what they offer. NYCOM may also be another good resource. Courtney feels that one way could be to let us save our sick time to buy health insurance. Dake stated that the only problem with that is we don't have sick time, only PTBA time. Robbs stated that when he worked for the hospital you could give someone else your PTO bank time to use to take time off for an unexpected injury or health condition. Hardaway asked the employees to make a list of their concerns on paper so the Board can research this and also so we don't forget anything.

Deputy Mayor Hardaway entertained a motion to approve the vouchers.

Resolution #6461- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 10 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$44,968.76, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 10 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$2,672.20 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 10 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$3,915.56 is hereby approved for payment.

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

O'Neill gave the Board a hand-out with information on the LED Lighting Conference he attended on March 12<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the City of Ithaca, TCCOG and Cornell. This is a County wide project that offers savings with LED Street Lighting.

Courtney stated that the problem is we have already converted our streetlights to LED. Courtney is frustrated because there is no help from NYSEG. It will be months until we are credited. We have replaced fifty-two 175-watt lightbulbs with 27-watt LED's. We should be seeing a savings. We own the poles, wire and ballast. Courtney went on to explain the different types of contracts that NYSEG offers. With LED's there is less maintenance. We will save money by doing our own maintenance.

O'Neill left the meeting 12:50

O'Rourke stated that the LED presentation was also done at a TCCOG meeting by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The process requires a survey that Cornell will do for

free. O'Rourke will email the contact name to Courtney. Courtney will call to see where we can go with this.

Monaghan stated that he has been working with Courtney to come up with a plan for the boulevard on Highgate.

O'Rourke also had to leave the meeting so the meeting was adjourned.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:52pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer