

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 2, 2018, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O'Neill, and Gerry Monaghan; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Planning Board Member, Mike Baker. 11 additional people were also in attendance.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:30pm and opened the public comment period. Hartill stated that it was nice to see so many young public in attendance. He explained that tonight will be discussing the village budget. It takes money to keep roads pothole free. If you engage in deferred maintenance it is twice as expensive to fix it in the long run. It costs money to keep things working. Water & sewer pipes and all our infrastructure has a finite life and has to be maintained. We use taxes to do that. The students in attendance were from Lansing. There were no comments from the public.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

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

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing on Proposed Local Law 1 (2018)

Motion - To Open the Public Hearing on Local Law 1 (2018)

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to open the public hearing. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Hartill stated that this is to override the tax levy limit established by New York State. We do this each year before we pass the budget. We have a Public Hearing to see if the public agrees with the Boards decision. The Tax Cap is 2% and we are raising our tax rate from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of assessment. Our assessment went up a little. It's the levy that is controlled not the rate. A municipality may actually have to lower their rate. Dan Veanor asked how much the Village was over the tax cap. Dake did not have exact numbers with her but stated that she would email the information to him tomorrow. The following is the information that was emailed to Veanor:

The Tax Levy Limit for the Village is \$663,017.  
The 2018-19 Proposed Levy, net of reserves is \$700,042.  
So the difference between the Tax Levy Limit and Proposed Levy is \$37,025.  
The Tax Base Growth Factor is 1.0037.  
The Allowable Levy Growth Factor is 1.0200.  
Our increase is 1.09.

The 2018-19 Tax Rate is \$1.40 per \$1,000 assessed value.  
Real Property Taxes-\$666,809  
In Lieu of Taxes-\$22,319 (Some properties In Lieu expired and went back to full value so less than last year even with tax rate increase)  
Sewer Assessment on Taxes-\$10,914  
Totals: \$700,042

To Compare, Last Year was:  
2017-18 Tax Rate was \$1.30  
Real Property Taxes-\$602,128  
In Lieu of Taxes-\$28,060  
Sewer Assessment on Taxes-\$11,797  
Totals: \$641,985

Motion - To Close the Public Hearing

Trustee O'Neill made a motion to open 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 John O'Neill-Aye   |

The next item on the agenda was a budget public hearing.

Motion - To Open the 2018-19 Budget Public Hearing

Trustee Hardaway made a motion 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 John O'Neill-Aye   |

Dake stated that while reviewing the proposed budget, she found that A1081, In Lieu of Taxes was incorrect. She was able to verify with Tompkins County Finance that the 2019 payment from Arrowhead would be \$3,868.54.

The value of In Lieu of Tax is  $\$10,778,300 \times \$1.40 = \$15,089.62$  + Arrowhead  $\$3,868.54$ . This would mean that the amount budgeted for A1081 should be  $\$18,958.00$ . This is a difference of  $\$7,482.00$ . To offset that, Dake suggested that the amount we plan to transfer from the General Capital Reserve should be increased to  $\$338,412$

The next question was in regards to the  $\$235,000$  allocated for the purchase of a new truck. Currently, it is all under Street Maintenance, Equipment, A5110.2. Since it is used for snow plowing and other highway work, Dake had asked Courtney if the purchase should be split between snow and highway to better represent the actual cost of snow removal. Courtney suggested that 40% of the truck purchase be under Snow Removal, Equipment, A5142.2 and 60% of the truck purchase remain under Street Maintenance, Equipment, A5110.2. When the 10-wheeler is purchased  $\$94,000$  will come from A5142.2 and  $\$141,000$  will come from A5110.2.

In the Sewer Fund the actual amount that will need to be raised by Special Assessment, G1030 is only  $\$10,914$  which is  $\$235$  less than what is in the Proposed Budget. This change came about after a final sewer reconciliation with the Town of Lansing was completed. As part of the Cherry/Warren Road Agreement, they also pay a portion of the sewer bond. Therefore, Intergovernmental Charges, G2374 will be increased by  $\$235$  to  $\$600,235$ . These two changes were incorporated when Dake submitted the Constitutional Tax Limit to the Office of the State Comptroller.

These three changes will not change the total budget for either fund. The total appropriations for the General Fund are  $\$2,700,881$ ; Water Fund are  $\$1,478,745$ ; Sewer Fund are  $\$4,068,510$ . The total decrease in the General Fund Appropriations is 2.4%. The Water Fund has an increase of 16.11% in appropriations. The 568% increase in the sewer appropriations is due to the joint project with the Town of Lansing to expand our sewer.

Jodi explained In Lieu of Tax to the audience. Dan Veanor asked what the increase was for employees. The staff was given a 3% raise. Board members did not receive an increase. Hartill explained that the Boards are given increases every few years. It was asked why there was a 2.4% decrease in the General Fund. Hartill explained that the change is usually related to the amount of highway work that is done. If we have big projects it will fluctuate the budget.

#### Motion - To Close the Budget Public Hearing

Trustee O'Neill made a motion 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 John O'Neill-Aye   |

Before the Budget could be adopted, the Board first needed to pass a resolution to override the Tax Levy Limit.

Resolution #6463-To Adopt Local Law 1 (2018) To Allow the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C

WHEREAS, a resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing directing that a public hearing to be held by said Village Board on April 2, 2018, at 7:35 PM, to hear all interested parties on a proposed local law entitled "**A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE OVERRIDE OF THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C;**" and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper for the Village; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on said date and time at the Village of Lansing Office and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed local law, or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing Board has determined under the Implementing Regulations pertaining to Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (the State Environmental Quality Review Act ["SEQRA"]) that the approval of the proposed action is not an "action" (because it will not affect the environment) or is a Type II action, and thus, in either case, may be processed without further regard to SEQRA;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees hereby adopts said local law entitled "**A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE OVERRIDE OF THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C;**" and designated Local Law No. 1 of the year 2018, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this resolution; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file said local law with the Secretary of State and any other governmental agencies as required by law.

Trustee Monaghan made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

The following is a copy of the law approved:

**VILLAGE OF LANSING  
LOCAL LAW 1 OF THE YEAR 2018**

**A LOCAL LAW TO ALLOW THE OVERRIDE OF THE TAX LEVY LIMIT  
ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-C**

Be it enacted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing as follows:

**SECTION I. PURPOSE & INTENT.**

It is the purpose and intent of this local law to allow, if determined necessary and/or appropriate, for the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing in 2018 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

**SECTION II. AUTHORITY.**

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c which expressly authorizes a local governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) or more of said governing body.

**SECTION III. TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE.**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing, County of Tompkins, is hereby authorized, if determined necessary and/or appropriate, to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing in 2018 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

**SECTION IV. SEVERABILITY.**

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm, or corporation or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court order or judgment shall not affect impair or invalidate the remainder of this local law but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm, corporation or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

**SECTION V. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to approve the 2018-19 Village of Lansing Budget.

Resolution #6464- To Adopt the Proposed Budget as the 2018-19 Budget with the Following Modification:

General Fund

Decrease A1081, In Lieu of Taxes to \$18,958.00 and Increasing A2850, Transfer From Reserve to \$338,412.00

Decrease Street Maintenance, Equipment, A5110.2 to \$221,000 and Increase Snow Removal, Equipment, A5142.2 to \$94,000

Sewer Fund

Decrease G1030, Special Assessments to \$10,914 and Increase G2374, Intergovernmental Charges to \$600,235.

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

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

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from March 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion-To Approve the Minutes of March 15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mayor Donald Hartill-Abstain | Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye |
| Trustee John O'Neill-Aye     | Trustee Gerry Monaghan-aye |

Mayor Hartill stated that his wife's funeral went well in California. There will be a Celebration of Life for Marian Hartill on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Ithaca Country Club.

Hartill stated that letters went out to the property owners that live along the proposed sewer project area. Residents that are affected by the placement of the sewer line have been notified that TG Miller will be out doing an active survey. Once we have the survey we can do a final design and will have a clearer picture of how much the project will cost. Hartill explained the two approaches that can be done. We are not yet sure which system will work best. The monthly sewer meeting between Cayuga Heights, Village of Lansing, Town of Lansing and TG Miller's is next week.

Mayor Hartill stated that the Senior Housing on Oakcrest Road is making good progress. It looks like it will go forward.

The owners of the Shops at Ithaca Mall have not come forward with a real proposal for a subdivision. Hartill stated that the Village would like to take over Graham Road West from the Mall so we can fix it. One other proposal that is being proposed to the Village is to have the Village take over the ring road that goes all the way around the Mall. That road is not in good shape. The biggest issue is stormwater. Monaghan feels the Mall doesn't have a clear picture of what their infrastructure is on the property. There are new owners of the Mall. It is unclear if Pyramid or Triax still own any part of the Mall.

Hartill stated that we have used around 1,000 tons of salt this year. (Actual 832.29 tons) He stated that the lifetime of a truck is a little over 10 yrs. The truck we are selling is a 2009.

Monaghan stated that there are a couple of new stores in the Shops at Ithaca Mall. There is a new Mexican Bar & Grill going into the old Friendly's space.

O'Neill handed out a report to the Board on the 2017 Year End Recreation Partnership Registration Summary. The report shows the number of youth served in each program and what municipality they live in. O'Neill would like to see the Youth information on the Village website. Hardaway stated that he can add a youth section to our website. He will also provide links to each youth program.

Hardaway gave a report on the last Planning Board meeting. See Planning Board minutes for details. Today he attended the Town Gown Conference on sustainability. There were people from Buffalo present to talk about their efforts on converting properties into sustainability projects. David K from Cornell University spoke on how to get the public involved in any type of planning decisions you might be making as a municipality. There was another session on difficult projects. Dryden talked about what they learned with their solar farm. The municipality of Pottsdam is using students & faculty from Clarkston University to plan their sustainability planning. It was suggested that to keep costs down, other municipalities should try to incorporate students & faculty to help with sustainability planning. Another key note speaker was Pete Lopez from Region 2 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

O'Neill asked Hardaway if anything was said about getting gas in Lansing. Hardaway stated that nothing was mentioned about the issue of not being able to get gas in Lansing. Hartill stated that the gas moratorium has cost us several hundred good jobs overall.

#### Motion-To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer