

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, June 14, 2018, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Ronny Hardaway and John O'Neill; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer Adam Robbs; Working Supervisor, John Courtney; MEO, Nolan Hatfield and Chris Zavaski.

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

Robbs will email the Millcroft Proposal to Hardaway to post on the website. We have had a lot of interest in this informal proposal that was done at the Planning Board meeting last Monday.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

Don Barber, Executive Director of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, was present to answer any questions the staff had about joining the Consortium.

There are structural changes with the Consortium model over the Excellus product. Under NYS law the Village can either purchase "community rated" insurance plans from the private sector or join an Article 47. Although there were 10 school consortiums grandfathered in as Article 47 when the State Statute was adopted in 1993. Greater Tompkins is the only Article 47 existing in NYS for towns, cities, villages, and counties.

With Article 47, the Village no longer purchases community rated products which are the most expensive because the insurer carries all of the risk. Larger employers like the County can, under state law, become all or partially self-funded which lowers premium as the municipality assumes a good share of the risk. Article 47's are self-funded and self-insured. They assume all of the risk. This takes a lot of the profit out of health insurance. Barber pointed out that you can see that when comparing Consortium premium rates to Excellus that our rates are lower. However, with the Article 47 model, there is no role for brokers. The Village becomes co-owner and works directly with our claims administrators (Excellus and ProAct). The Village also has a voting seat on the Board of Directors. So the change is that the Village takes on more responsibility with Article 47.

By joining a large risk pool (over 5100 covered lives), we are able to build economies by this volume and directly manage all of the costs associated with health insurance. Premiums will still be paid monthly. It's a known fact that 20% of the population has 80% of the cost. The Consortium uses excess monies to reduce premiums.

Hartill stated that there is a significant potential savings. The coverage is the same or better. Barber handed out a copy of a newsletter which comes out quarterly to updates

everyone on what is going on and different opportunities that are available.

Barber explained that member municipalities are from Tompkins, Cortland and Cayuga Counties. Smaller municipalities can now enjoy the same rates as larger municipalities were experiencing. To join, the Village Board of Trustees would have an agreement to sign and it must be approved by the Board.

Hardaway asked when the Consortium was created. Barber stated that it was created in 1993. To form the Consortium it was required to have a minimum of 2000 contracts. One county can't usually do that so they had to find others to join with. Another requirement is that you must start with \$2 million and 12% added to the first year. Once funded it doesn't take much to continue.

Administration fees are 2.78%. BOCES is higher than that. The Consortium pays up to \$600,000 of claims and then they buy insurance from a carrier that picks up everything after that. If the Village joined the Consortium the Village would pay less than what we are paying now. The Consortium only offers a single or family plan. Currently, the Village has an employee that is single plus children so they would need to go to a family plan.

Consortium claims have been less than budgeted every year except 2016 which was even. Annual reports are available on the Consortium website. Rate stabilization is used if we have a bad claims year.

Barber explained the Organizational chart. Collective bargaining unit have a seat on the Board. (5 seats for labor directors) The Village of Lansing will have a seat.

In their quarterly newsletter they have wellness activities. Telemedicine will be coming out next year. A Wellness Coordinator will be out doing that.

The Village would see no difference in the way the claims are processed. Proact Pharmacy is used for prescription drugs and they gives the Consortium a bill once a month for prescription purchases made by members.

Municipal Responsibilities

- Appoint a Director for the Village, can be staff or a municipal official. They will attend meetings at TC3 at 6pm on the 4th Thursday of month. An Alternate Direct should also be appointed.
- Open enrollment is in November.
- Responsible for paying premiums

Barber stated that he would send a comparison to Dake when the power comes back on at this office. Dake will send to staff/Board so they can compare. He will also send a sample resolution which the Village Board would need to accept by the end of September and tell which benefit plan by Nov 1st. The Village will have to go through a dependent verification process. The Village can commit to do this online or have the consortium do

it online.

For more information go to the website at <http://healthconsortium.net> The Board thanked Barber for attending the meeting, explaining the process and answering questions. Barber left the meeting.

Courtney stated that they have been mowing, ditching and easement mowing this year in areas where they couldn't do it in the past. They rented a brush hog to clear the railroad bed which was recommended by TG Miller. The residents at 1111 East Shore Drive allowed them to access that area thru their property.

Courtney got a final striping quote for the first round of \$16-17,000 for striping. They are starting to get moving on big project. The contract for hourly equipment rental with operator and laborer that was held by Bellisario the last couple of years will need to be rebid. Courtney will be soliciting quotes. He hopes to get approval from the Board at the July 2nd meeting. The DPW needs to get going with many projects. Courtney stated that his knee injury is holding the big projects back.

Hartill and Courtney briefly discussed a parallel water line that we want to install. The Village can't continue with the Northwood Road reconstruction until an easement is received for a parallel water line to go in across the Kensington property on the north side of Northwood Road. Kensington did a preliminary approval to the easement. Dondi has reached out to them. The Village needs an official signed notarized easement to go onto their property. They discussed betterments in lieu of the easement to inspire them to expedite the signatures. There has been no email response from Kensington.

It was asked what the crushed stone invoice was for. Courtney stated that it was for underneath the driveway at the new park. The trail to Dart Drive which goes between 34 Dart Drive and 32 Dart Drive was mowed in preparation to get the trails around the park going. The Marian Hartill Park is used a lot. Courtney stated that the sports field is at a standstill due to the rain. Hardaway asked if they could get dirt from the Bomax project. Courtney stated no, they are selling dirt. The large pile of dirt at Marian Hartill Park is the top soil for the end.

TG Miller has designed pavement striping that follows striping guidelines county wide. Once we have a striping plan we will have it forever. This is a one-time thing for each road.

It was asked where the Tompkins County highway garage would be located by the airport. Courtney stated that it would be on the west side of Warren Road and the north side of Cherry Road.

Hardaway asked Courtney about signage for the parks. Courtney hasn't found anyone to do sandblasted wood signs. Hardaway stated that he will continue to research. Courtney stated that he needs to talk to Adam Robbs about the new park pavilion. Robbs stated that anything over \$20,000 needs a permit and stamped drawings. If we contract it out we

need to have proof of insurance and liability. It was asked if we need to pay for a building permit. Robbs stated that it is all in how you write the contract. The pavilion will be 20x40 and have a blacktop floor with no walls. For the pavilion we will need to order trusses, which will also determine when we can get started on that. The Board requested that the roof of the pavilion be corrugated green tin. Courtney stated that he would order the trusses and stated that we would do the project ourselves.

Mayor Hartill asked Courtney when the playing field at the Marion Hartill Park will be done. Courtney stated that if the dedication is at the end of July it will be done by then. Hartill hopes to have the dedication in August. Courtney stated that he needs outside contractual help to do so if we get that it will be done.

Courtney is working with a contractor on Tracie Craig's culvert. Hartill stated that the ditch has been eroded for quite some time.

Nolan and Chris had nothing more to report.

O'Neill stated that the carpet for the Community Hall has been ordered. It will be installed by Home Depot in 4-5 weeks. Dake has ordered the chairs. The exterior door also needs to be replaced so O'Neill will look into that. He has a proposed rental agreement which he would like to discuss at Monday's meeting. O'Neill stated that the Community Hall needs to be painted. He feels that just the one new wall needs to be painted. The guys will paint it. The ceiling also will be painted before the carpet goes in.

O'Neill stated that his neighbors are upset with the Millcroft proposal. Adam will be emailing the information he received for the proposed project to Hardaway so it can be posted on the website.

Hartill is unsure where Dave Herrick is with the sewer design. He will try and meet with him.

Hartill stated that the paving done by Seneca Stone came out nice. Courtney stated that the Town of Lansing called to see how we got such a good price. The Town will look into using the same contractor. We will be using the millings for the trail at the park. We have been working with the Village of Cayuga Heights. We let them use our message Board and in return they will let us use their small paver to do our 8 ft. wide trails.

Hartill stated that kids are playing on the pile of dirt in the new park. Courtney stated that no one is complaining and he doesn't like it because it is a eyes sore. (There was one concerned resident that called because they saw a child take a tumble down the pile and they were concerned that this was a liability to the Village.) Courtney feels there is no risk. It's just kids playing in the dirt kids and having fun. Courtney explained that the dirt is in a pile because it is a stormwater issue. The new park is 20 acres and we only cleared 25%. O'Neill stated that we need to hire summer help which was allocated for in the budget. Courtney feels it's hard to find summer help because no one wants to do manual

labor. Hartill stated that he was going to try and talk to someone at TC3 or Cornell but hadn't.

Dake stated that while she was out walking the Village she noticed all the weeds that are growing up around the boulders that line the parking area at the new park. Dake asked if Courtney had considered putting fabric and small stones around the boulders so that the weeds don't come up between them. Hardaway thought that would be a good idea. Courtney stated that it is a time consuming process to weed around the rocks, it takes about two hours. Instead he will just use weed killer. He feels it would be an issue with strollers trying to get thru there if there were stones.

Courtney stated that they use to mow the Village property between Kensington and Northwood Apartments but it became a garbage area. He would like to mow it again. Hardaway would like to put a trail in there. Hartill stated that people use that as a dog walk. Hartill suggested that we put in a baggy stands which will provide dog waste bags for people that walk their dogs there. Courtney will order that and mow that area.

Hartill complimented Zavaski on the roadside mowing he did on Cayuga Heights Road. Keep up the good work!

Dake stated that there have been a lot of people coming into the office to pay their taxes. May has been closed out and once we have all of the expenses submitted and encumbrances she will be able to close out the year. Usually we wait to do this in July because something always seems to come in late.

Hardaway would like to launch the new Village of Lansing website he has designed using Wordpress. The main issue with our current website is the way it appears on mobile devices. All the same information will be there and he feels it is just as easy to find information. The greatest advantage is that now maintenance to the website can be done from anywhere.

Hardaway reported on the last Planning Board meeting. See Planning Board minutes for full details. Beer Properties, LLC would like to do an informal presentation on their proposed Millcroft Property Development. They are currently in negotiations to buy the property off of Craft Road from Robert Millcroft. They did their first informal presentation to the Planning Board. There are outstanding conditions from Eric Goetzmann that are still due. He has hard deadlines and he still hasn't done what is needed. Mario will be retiring after September and will be recommending Lisa Schleelein to take over as chair.

Resolution #6495- To Launch the New Village of Lansing Website

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

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to approve the vouchers.

Resolution #6496- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 13 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$290,216.31, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 1 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$71,825.86, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 13 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$1,419.02 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 13 for the Trust & Agency Fund, in the amount of \$19.17 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 13 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$364.79 is hereby approved for payment..

Trustee Hardaway 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 John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Adam stated that the proposed development for Millcroft has brought in a lot of comments and many residents are misinformed. Robbs will provide Hardaway with the electronic record to put up on the Village website. He would like to try to do this with all Planning Board projects that are coming thru to keep the public informed. The Ithaca Voice calls to get information and sometimes it isn't exactly accurate. In the future, electronic formats will be requested from developers. The Planning Board is making Lansing Meadows tow the line which is nothing more than what we would ask from any other developer. Bomax is starting to dig foundations. CU Suites should be starting final inspections in the next couple of weeks. We've had lots of calls regarding issues with water and drainage problems. This brings up the County and the airport. They did drainage a year ago that affected the B&T area and no one there is taking charge for that. Any building activity that happens at the airport is under Tompkins County not the Village Code therefore Robbs can't do anything. The Mayor will see what he can find

out. Robbs stated that here are several things that wouldn't have passed code. The County does things the way they want and he feels it is a transparency issue. Hartill will sit down with Martha to discuss this. The resident at 25 Cedar Lane has damage and he claims that everything uphill in the Village has caused it. Hartill would like to extend the ditch on the east side of Cayuga Heights Road to have it go into the gorge. Courtney stated that he has come up with an inexpensive idea to fix.

We are getting more major rain events not more rain. As we develop we have fewer areas for water to go. There is an issue with basements flooding at University and Uptown Apartments. There is an easement behind the property for the trail system and Village of Cayuga Heights. Courtney is researching to see who is responsible. Ultimately it comes back to the Village. One ditch is supposed to be a pond. Courtney knows the area and it needs cleaned out. Courtney stated that he and Moseley worked on it a couple of years ago. Courtney stated that we can't go in and clean it out. Adam will bring this issue up to the Stormwater Commission. Robbs stated that as he is driving around he has noticed that there are a lot of ditches that need cleaned out.

Robbs stated that he has inviting neighbors to things that are controversial. Robbs stated that we need people to fill seats on Planning Board and Board of Zoning Appeals.

Zoning amending options are being requested along North Triphammer Road. In August Lama Law will be requesting a zoning amendment to the Commercial Low Traffic (CLT) to allow for CLT food and beverage. There also are other owners that are concerned with vacancies in their properties and they are looking for more options. The business next door wants to expand. Tomei, Schleelein and Robbs met with the owners of that building to hear their proposal and find out when they want to come before the Planning Board.

Robbs is working on propane guidelines and storage with the Planning Board. This is a new issue that has risen due to the gas moratorium. Electric heat pumps and geothermal are too expensive for most people so they are going to propane. Hartill stated that he noticed that the smaller tanks are now located close to the house. Courtney stated that the end caps can blow off of the big torpedo tanks and that is why they have to be 10 feet from a house. Robbs stated that there was an issue with a lady on oxygen that couldn't get a backup gas generator hooked up to her house where she has gas already. NYSEG views it as a new connection so she was denied by NYSEG. The Town of Ithaca and the Village of Cayuga Heights both denied pump stations to NYSEG.

Robbs stated that he has been getting slammed with permits. He also has had to spend a lot of time trying to find historical data.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill moved for adjournment. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 2:14pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer