

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 1, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees Ronny Hardaway, John O'Neill, Gerry Monaghan and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney William Troy; Code & Zoning Officer Mike Scott; Supt. of Public Works John Courtney, Planning Board Members Carolyn Greenwald and Lisa Schleelein. There were 9 additional people in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:31pm. The Mayor opened the public comment period. A large part of the audience was high school students attended as part of a class assignment. Hartill suggested that they seriously think about volunteering at the local level of government in the future.

Lynn Leopold stated that she was here as the community party observer. She would like to convene the Deer Committee. O'Rourke and O'Neill are also on that committee. They will plan to meet before the next trustee meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>. She thinks there was between 30-40 deer taken this year. The Village highway department only had to pick up one deer this season that was hit by a car.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Trustee O'Neill made a motion to close the public comment period. Trustee O'Rourke 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
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from March 18<sup>th</sup>

Motion- To Approve the Minutes from March 18, 2019

Trustee O'Rourke moved to approve the minutes. 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'Neil-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Abstain	

**Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 3(2019)**

Hartill explained that each year we pass a resolution to override the Tax Levy Limit.

Motion- To Open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 3(2019), to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C

Trustee Monaghan moved to open the public hearing. Trustee Hardaway 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
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	

Veanor asked if a super majority was needed to pass this law. Hartill stated that this was the case.

Hartill stated that reading through the news today, the tax cap has been made permanent. We still have to maintain the infrastructure. Hartill stated that this is distribution of tax resources. With the new State Budget some stuff made it through and others did not. Monaghan stated that our tax rate is less than what it was 20 years ago. Inflation has been more so it is less in 2019 monies. Hartill stated that if you don't maintain your infrastructure it is very expensive to repair/replace.

Motion- To Close the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 3(2019), to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C

Trustee Hardaway moved to close the public hearing. Trustee O'Rourke 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
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	

Resolution #6549- Approval of Proposed Local Law 3(2019), to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C

Trustee Monaghan moved to approve Local Law 3. Trustee Hardaway 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
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	

#### Squeaky Clean Lighting

Gary Sloan was present to discuss the lighting on the Squeaky Clean Car Wash. Sloan stated that he came in tonight to pass out a series of letters that have been going back and forth with the Code Officer, Mike Scott. The lighting issue was brought up years back

when Marty Moseley was the Code Officer. Moseley's interpretation was that the lights have been there for five years and he did not see an issue. It has been seven years now.

What Sloan thinks happened is they did renovations; they striped the building down, redid the exterior of the building and reinstalled the lights that were there. The only thing they added was the vacuum lights. Scott stated that the lights on the vacuums are not a problem. The concern is with the new LED stripe lighting. Sloan stated that the LED stripe lighting has been the same for seven years. Sloan stated that he has come to the Board because it came up two years ago and that was the interpreted by the code officer at the time. Sloan wondered why we are making an issue out of it two years later if there have not been any resident complaints. Sloan explained that he came in to see Adam (the code officer at the time) before they did the work over there and he didn't have an issue with it. Now we have a third code officer that now has an issue with it. Sloan stated that he was taken back by the fact that it has become an issue again. Sloan stated that since 1996 he has always come in when they have done improvements to the building and he has never been in a situation where we have had to write letters back and forth.

Hartill stated that the concern is that the new LEDS are very bright. It is that kind of change in intensity that has led to this concern. O'Neill stated that it became more noticeable when the vacuums got moved. Gary stated that these are the same lights that were on the building previously. He has receipts from when he purchased them seven years ago if the Board wanted to see them. Hartill did not think that LED lighting has been around that long. Gary stated that the lights are a water proof lighting fixture which were built so they would not be infiltrated by water. He knows because he designed them.

Hartill feels the lights would be very easy to shield. Sloan stated that the lights are round and in plastic and could be angled down. Gary would like to meet with the Scott at night to see if angling would be acceptable. The lights are turned off at 9pm. Hartill stated that it was worth a test.

Hardaway stated that the additional problem is if pavement is wet it may have a glare. It was requested that during the test they also wet the pavement. Monaghan feels that the new windows also contribute to brightness. Gary Sloan reiterated that there is a certain amount of light that is needed for safety and to monitor with his cameras. O'Rourke asked if a reflection on cars driving down N Triphammer was an issue. O'Neill stated that that was the concern.

Schleelein, Lighting Commission member, would like to just move forward and resolve the issue. We should only need to meet for a few minutes. Courtney thinks the whole Lighting Commission should be there. Scott stated that it has always been about safety and this is nothing personal.

It was decided that Sloan will meet with the Lighting Commission at night over at Squeaky Clean so they can observe the lighting and play with the angle of the lights to see if that would resolve the issue.

### Budget Discussions

The Board had previously received the Proposed Budget for 2019-20. Hartill stated that there was one thing he noted which was in the Street Maintenance, Personnel, A5110.12. All employees were to get a 3% raise but this line item shows that it is 2.999% so he wants to increase it to make it 3%. Dake explained that the individual would be getting a 3% increase in their hourly wage and that the line item has money built in for overtime. It was later decided that it was unnecessary to make an adjustment because it was only \$.24 and we basically deal in round numbers.

Monaghan questioned A5410.2 –Wakefield Wooden Bridge. It was explained that each year the line item is renamed for the projects that are being done. The A5410.2 should say Northwood Sidewalk-\$70,150 and A5410.21 should say Dart Sidewalk for \$517,000 which is the total of \$587,150. On the AUD .2 and .21 are reported together. We do the breakdown to be more transparent in our budget. Some of the confusion was because the proposed budget amount and the percentage line all ran together since it was a 6,807.64% increase from last year's budget of \$8,500. In 2019-20 we plan to spend a lot more on sidewalk improvements in the Village. The titles will be updated.

Monaghan asked if A9060.8-Hospital & Medical Insurance was actually going down by 25%. It is going down because the Village joined the Health Consortium. Hartill stated that we tried to join last year but it was too late so we just joined in January 2019. Hartill went on to explain that in the past we were part of a NYS consortium and now with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium the rate is much better. When the GTCMHIC was first formed it was cheaper for the Village to stay with the policy they had at the time. Now with the large expansion of the GTCMHIC it is now more cost effective. The employees have the same coverage on this plan as they did on their previous Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan.

Hardaway noted that there was a question as to whether we would need to replace the heating system in the old office building. Courtney stated that the furnace has been inspected and we don't need to replace it. Hardaway also questioned the replacement of the truck with a plow under Street Maintenance, Equipment, A5110.2. Courtney stated that he plans to sell our pick-up truck and purchase a new one. In 2016 a mini excavator was purchased for \$67,790 and he expects to get a trade in of \$50,000. It cost us \$17,790 to use for three years. Resale is high with newer machines and we will have a new warranty. It was asked if we are having issues with that machine. Courtney stated that there were no problems now; however, filters are expensive to return.

Hardaway is concerned that the radar signs are not always working on Dart Drive. When Hardaway is out getting mail he watches to see if the sign will tell the speed. Courtney stated that the signs may not appear to be working but they are still gathering information. He has the speed set higher up to 75 this past week. He feels if it was kept low it will entice people to go fast. Hartill stated that we are actually trying to get the distribution. We know there are some high speeds on Dart Drive. We want to see what

the distribution looks like. Courtney stated that our radar signs do not do that. We set the speed to 30 and our average was around 29-30 mph which is a normal speed for the road. We are playing around with the settings to get additional data.

Hartill stated that there has been some question about what extent we have to go to on Dart Drive to make it safe for pedestrians. We are still thinking about whether we should do a full blown sidewalk or something else. Hartill wants to analyze the information to see what the distribution looks like before we spend a half million dollars on a sidewalk when other solutions may turn out to be more cost effective.

Hardaway was concerned because with this data he thought the project was being postponed. Courtney stated that we just wanted a placeholder in the budget. This allows us to have time to discuss and design it right rather than take a quick approach and say we need to do something now. It buys us time and we can see what the needs really are. Hardaway stated that the residents on Dart Drive are adamant about wanting something because of safety concerns. Hardaway stated that he saw some things in France that he would like to discuss.

Courtney knows there was a petition that went around the neighborhood asking if the residents want sidewalks. He would also like to canvas the neighborhood. Easements are tough to get these days and we need mortgages releases. Courtney thinks we are looking at one to two years to get all the easements that would be necessary on Dart Drive to install a sidewalk. Hartill stated that an example of this is that it has taken over a year to get easements for the water lines. Courtney stated that we had to redesign waterlines because of this issue.

Troy stated that when people see a sidewalk they may cooperate more than they would if you wanted to put in underground infrastructure. When giving an easement, the homeowner also has to get a release from their bank. Mortgages are null and void if an easement is given without a bank's consent.

Hardaway asked what Sidewalks, Greenway Contractual, A5410.41 was for. Courtney stated that it was for general sidewalk/trail maintenance.

Resolution #6550- To Set the Budget Public Hearing for April 15, 2019 at 7:35pm

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

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

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Lynn asked if there was money in the budget for maintaining gardens. Hartill stated that we are starting to get ready for summer. He plans to send a letter to TC3 to see if we can get a student to do this task. Leopold stated that the big issue is keeping up with the weeding. The gardens are the front view of the Village. People leave trash and cigarette butts lying in these areas. They need to be maintained. Courtney stated that last year when Bon Ton was going out of business they had individuals standing out by the road holding signs and they left lots of garbage laying around that area that they picked up..

Hardaway asked if the new Marian Hartill Park will need help with maintaining. Courtney stated that they can maintain it but may need something special in the future. There will be an article in the newsletter stating that the Village is looking for a seasonal worker to help keep our Village beautiful.

Courtney left the meeting at 8:20pm.

Leopold feels we should think about what we want the park to look like. Hartill stated that he has wildflower seed to spread. Leopold stated that those only last for one season. She feels we need to plant something that would come up every year and maybe some flower boxes.

Carolyn Greenwald asked about the Shannon Park entrance. Hartill stated that it is slated for spring. Greenwald questioned whether that was true because she had been told that before. Hartill explained that the fall tree supplier failed us and assured her that it would be done in the summer.

Hartill stated that we are making progress on the sewer expansion. He hopes we don't run into serious problems with easements. The plans are detailed now. We are also trying to incorporate into our plan a turn that is larger than 30 degrees.at the intersection of Cayuga Heights Road and East Shore Drive. Fortunately we haven't had any accidents there. We are about to start construction season. We have a fair amount of road work to do. There are other construction projects such as finishing the park on Northwood Road. There will be a pile of dirt. Hartill thanked everyone for their help with the budget process. Hartill stated that he attended the consortium meeting and will share that information with Hardaway.

Williamson Law Book will be here Wednesday to install the new code program. Scott stated that he will be able to take his iPad out into the field while inspecting and take photos and incorporate everything onto the property file. It will make his job much more efficient.

Monaghan stated that he is still worried about the fact that they plan to use the Brown Road area as a staging area for all the bricks that Cornell will be using on the new dorms on north campus. Hartill stated that it is a subject that is being discussed. Monaghan is worried about the weight on the N. Triphammer bridge even though it is owned by the State. It is not ideal to travel over.

O'Neill handed out an update from Tompkins County Legislator Michael Sigler.

O'Rourke reported that she attended the TCCOG meeting. Most municipalities are trying to do something with Spectrum Broadband because they don't have service. The new Sheriff Osbourne is trying to change the perception of the sheriff's department to be a friendlier appearance. They are currently focusing on the elementary school.

Dake asked if anyone had a newsletter article that they wanted to submit. She plans to finalize it tomorrow. O'Neill would like to see something in there about the new Drug & Alcohol Center on N. Triphammer Road. Hartill stated that he has made it known that as long as it is a medical office it is fine but if it becomes a care facility it will require a special permit and that will be very difficult to attain. O'Neill asked about Deborah Dawson's report on the facility. Hardaway stated that community relations has been asked to provide information to the Village and its residents. He doesn't think Dawson has heard back from her. Last he heard was that there was a fact sheet. Hardaway will ask Dawson to report on this. Hartill stated that he was surprised that the BIGGS building didn't take over this center since it is located by the hospital.

#### Motion-To Adjourn

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

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

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer