

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, October 7, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O'Neill, and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Planning Board Member, Monica Moll; Lansing Star Editor, Dan Veanor; and five other public.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:31 pm and opened the public comment period. There were a couple of students from Cornell Urban Planning. Their assignment this year is to hypothetically redeveloping Shops at Ithaca Mall. Carla Marceau stated that she was the observer for the Community Party. Aleah Rivera stated that she was the Challenge Outreach Coordinator. With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to close the public comment period.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

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

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from September 16, 2019.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of September 16, 2019

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

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

The next item on the agenda is the public hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 (2019) - Change to Codification Chapter 67-Firearm and Bow Safety Crossbows.

Motion - To Open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 (2019)

Hardaway made a motion to open the public comment period. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

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

Hartill explained that this is a change in our local law to allow crossbows. We are part of a program that we feed the animals to bring them in to take care of them. Crossbows travel further than compound bows. The hunters are shooting down from a tree stand so the concerns of long travel are diminished. Crossbows are also more accurate than a compound bow. It is important that we continue to limit the deer population. We do not want to go back to killing 40-50 deer each year by car. This past year we only had one or two deer that had to be picked up after being hit by cars. In that sense we have made a lot of progress. Small maple & oak trees are starting to grow and the forest will be in much better shape because of that. As a responsible government we have to do this.

There were no comments. Troy made a few small revisions to the proposed law. He added that permission must be given by the Mayor. It was clarified that approval goes along with the property and only has to be done once, not annually, unless the home owner wants to change the hunting procedures used on his property.

Motion - To Close the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 5 (2019)

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

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

Resolution#6614 - To Adopt Proposed Local Law 5 (2019)

Hardaway made a motion to adopt Local Law 5. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

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

The following is a copy of Local Law 5 (2019)

**AMENDMENT TO VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE – FIREARM AND BOW SAFETY**

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 amend Chapter 67-6 (entitled "Exceptions.") of the Village of Lansing Code so as to allow the use of a crossbow to hunt deer as part of the Deer Management Program in the Village of Lansing Code- Firearms and Bow Safety.

SECTION II. AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF LANSING CODE.

Section 67-6-C. will be added as follows:

67-6-C. Notwithstanding any term or provision of this chapter to the contrary, a person who is an approved and active participant in the Deer Management Program, run by the Village of Lansing may use a crossbow to hunt deer as part of the Deer Management Program provided

(a) the participant who wishes to use a crossbow is fully permitted by law to do so, and

(b) the Village Mayor gives written approval to the participant to use said crossbow.

**[Added 10/7/19 by L.L. No. 5-2019]**

SECTION III. SUPERSEDING EFFECT.

All local laws, resolutions, rules, regulations and other enactments of the Village of Lansing in conflict with the provisions of this local law are hereby superseded to the extent necessary to give this local law full force and effect.

SECTION IV. VALIDITY.

The invalidity of any provision of this local law shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this local law that can be given effect without such invalid provision.

SECTION V. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Local Law shall be effective upon (i) its filing in the office of the Secretary of State and (ii) ten (10) days after publication and posting as required by law; provided, however that it shall be effective from the date of service as against a person served with a copy thereof, certified by the Village Clerk, and showing the date of its passage and entry in the Minutes of the Village Board of Trustees.

**Climate Smart Community Discussion**

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The program offers free technical assistance, grants and rebates for electric vehicles. The CSC Certification program can guide the Village through building a climate action program. The program comprises of 5 steps which Hardaway lists in his email below.

**The following was previously emailed to the Board by Ronny Hardaway**

*Recently, I was approached by Terry Carroll, the CCE Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, about the Village of Lansing applying for Climate Smart Community membership. I met with Terry and Osamu Tsuda, Outreach & Climate Smart Specialist, at CCE to discuss what comprises a CSC application and certification.*

*I have provided attachments to this email with more information about CSC and the application and certification process within the program. I asked Jodi to add it to our agenda for the Oct. 7 trustees meeting. Here is my quick summary of the information.*

*The following Tompkins County communities are participating in CSC:*

- *Town of Ulysses, Bronze*
- *Tompkins County, Silver*
- *Town of Ithaca, Bronze*
- *City of Ithaca, Bronze*
- *Town of Dryden, Bronze*
- *Town of Danby, applicant*
- *Village of Cayuga Heights, applicant*
- *Town of Caroline, Bronze.*

***5 Steps for CSC Application***

*There are five basic steps for CSC application:*

***Step 1: Pass a Resolution***

*Use the model CSC resolution as a template (see “ModelResolutionCSC-Oct2018.docx” attachment) for our Village resolution to join the program and become a Registered Climate Smart Community. The Village may amend the “whereas” statements in the preamble, but all ten points of the CSC Pledge must be adopted verbatim:*

- 1) *Build a climate-smart community.*
- 2) *Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.*
- 3) *Decrease energy use.*
- 4) *Shift to clean, renewable energy.*
- 5) *Use climate-smart materials management.*
- 6) *Implement climate-smart land use.*
- 7) *Enhance community resilience to climate change.*
- 8) *Support a green innovation economy.*
- 9) *Inform and inspire the public.*
- 10) *Engage in an evolving process of climate action.*

***Step 2: Register***

*We designate a contact person to sign up for an online portal account, to complete the online registration, and to upload our adopted resolution. After the registration and resolution are reviewed by NYS, our primary contact will receive information on how to access the Village account on the CSC certification portal.*

***Step 3: Review and Select Actions***

*We use our CSC online portal account to review and select our local actions. We implement our certification actions at our own pace; there is no time limit between adoption of the pledge and beginning the certification process. If we have questions, we can contact Terry and/or Osamu for assistance. (See “CSCC-ActionChecklist-6-24-2019.pdf” attachment.)*

**Step 4: Collect Documentation**

*Each selected certification action has requirements for documenting completion of the action. We collect, organize, and upload our documentation to the online portal. We set a timeline and track or progress toward achieving each action’s required documentation. There are online tools to help track our progress.*

**Step 5: Submit Application**

*When we complete a certification action, we use the online portal to apply for our documentation to be reviewed. While in review we are locked out of changing the documentation for that action. If the documentation is complete and satisfactory, we will be awarded the CSC points for that action. If we did not earn the full points, NYSERDA staff will provide details on what was missing and coach us on corrective steps.*

**CCE Assistance**

*Terry and Osamu have offered to assist us select and document our certification actions. They have worked with other municipalities in this process, and we will benefit substantially from their prior experience. Terry and Osamu plan to attend the Oct. 7 meeting to answer questions if needed.*

**Potential Benefits**

*Climate change is quickly becoming a severe threat to the stability and safety of communities and municipalities all over the world. By undertaking the CSC program, we address climate resiliency for our Village by identifying where we are now, where we want to be, how we want to get there, and track our continual progress. We can initiate a proactive plan for climate resiliency rather than reacting to severe climatic events.*

*Within the CSC program, we will have a county-wide network of communities that are working toward the same goals. We will speak a common, climate-resiliency language, and we will learn from shared knowledge and experiences. The Village will tailor the certification actions to our needs, and we will learn where we need to focus our plans and energies to inspire and protect our residents and businesses. As elected officers of the Village, we should become role models for clean-energy usage and climate-resiliency planning. Pursuing the CSC application and certification actions would help us prepare for long-term stability and safety for our community.*

**Ronny**

Hartill stated that a lot of people are interested in climate. As a scientist, he is concerned with just saying we are going to be role models for clean-energy usage and climate-resiliency planning without a plan as to how we are going to do it. He feels it doesn’t

have any real content. There needs to be some reasonable path forward. The lowest hanging fruit is insulation your house. You have to have electricity and today the sun was not shining so we did not get much from our solar panels. Sometimes wind blows but not always. Out west they have a large amount of solar and electricity is so cheap that they are giving it away. Nuclear is in trouble. There needs to be a careful approach. Currently we have three battery installations in the Village which is a small fraction of our electric so they provide for peak times of energy use. Pump storage-water movement storage areas where you pump water and it runs down thru turbines run at 95% efficiency. You get all but 5% back from that. There is no free lunch. When we sign off on Climate smart there needs to be a clean understanding of what we are talking about.

Hardaway stated that Terry Carroll, the CCE Clean Energy Communities Coordinator and Osamu Tsuda, Outreach & Climate Smart Specialist at CCE were present to answer questions. Hardaway compared this to software development in that we would be taking a baseline of what we have already done and we would be building a common language. The list CSC provided has suggestions as to what we can do now and in the future. We need to decide the recommended steps we can take to make it practical for us. Hardaway suggested stepping away from climate change and evaluate where we are and where we want to be. We should suggest the use of clean energy where you can. As we do the right thing we will be collecting points in this program. Joining CSC may help the Village get financial help from State or Federal grants

Hardaway feels that this is a win-win situation. Hardaway stated that the only thing we have to do is start tracking. We need to put together a committee to start building the information. He doesn't think there will be a lot of administrative records. It was asked how the points work. NYSERDA sets the standard and gives points. One of the ways to get points is to track the Village's energy usage. Dake pointed out that all municipalities already have to track gas and energy use as part of the Annual Update Document.

Carroll stated that joining CSC is voluntary. Carroll and Tsuda work for Cornell Cooperative Extension to assist municipalities. Adopting a Village resolution is the required first step in CSC membership. If and when we adopt the resolution, the local CSC outreach team can dedicate resources to help us with the rest of the CSC processes.

The Village would then need to create a CSC task force and appoint a coordinator for that task force. Some CSC tasks that are more complex or effort-intensive are eligible for New York State grants to offset our resource commitments. For more information you can go to New York State Climate Smart Communities ([climatesmart.ny.gov](http://climatesmart.ny.gov))

Carroll stated that one of the things CCE staff can do is help with creating energy action plans. They can also help the Village identify what plans are already in place. Carroll handed out examples of some of the work they did for other municipalities. Once the Village commits, the State allows CSC to help out. Funding is from NYSERDA.

Hardaway stated that the Village is also part of Tompkins County which already belongs to CSC. Carroll stated that sometimes they can help us get points for things the county has done by making it more specific to the Village of Lansing.

O'Rourke asked Carroll to explain points and the different certification levels. It was explained that different levels get grants. Hardaway thinks that the Village would be less interested in the "points" we receive and more concerned with working on implementing short- and long-range climate-resiliency benefits for the Village.

Troy questioned why all ten points of the CSC Pledge must be adopted verbatim. He wondered why the Village couldn't just sign off on only certain points. Carroll explained that you do not have to do all ten but the State wants you to adopt all ten points. Attorney Troy stated that he gets nervous when told you must do this verbatim. Carroll stated that you are also free to add additional points to the resolution if the Village feels something was left out. Hardaway stated that taking the pledge is a resolution not a local law and easy to withdraw.

Hartill feels we should focus on cost benefits.

Mayor Hartill would like Hardaway and Smith to start looking at pursuing membership as a Climate Smart Community. Hartill suggest they review the model CSC resolution provided by NYSEDA and create a short, tailored version of the resolution for presentation to the Trustees. Hartill would like Smith's opinion since he comes from a different point of view.

Mayor Hartill thanked Carroll and Tsuda for coming.

#### **Appoint Joint Youth Commission Representative**

Hartill stated that we have a vacancy on the Joint Youth Commission (JYC). Aleah Rivera resides on Cinema Drive and would like to volunteer to represent the Village of Lansing on the JYC. Hardaway stated that Aleah came to the last JYC meeting which was a budget meeting. Aleah is already involved with youth through Challenge Industries so she would be a good fit.

Resolution #6615- To Appoint Aleah Rivera to the Joint Youth Commission as a Village of Lansing Representative

Trustee Hardaway made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion.

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye  
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

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

O'Rourke left the meeting.

#### **Mayor's Comments**

Hartill stated that the new sidewalk on Northwood Road has been completed. There is still a new water line to go in on Northwood Road. It rained today but Northwood Road should be paved tomorrow. We spend a lot of money on roadways instead of deferring maintenance.

We are making progress on coming to an agreement to take over Graham Road West from The Shops at Ithaca Mall.

Hartill stated that the gas moratorium in Lansing has cost the Village 240 good jobs which is concerning. There seems to be a little progress with our electrical situation. There is sensitivity to the old infrastructure and trying to do something about it. NYSEG wanted to increase the transmission rate by 25%. Most of this increase was for the removal of trees, however, Hartill feels there are other things that are more pressing to be done. We are dependent on electricity.

Waste water disposal is working to manage Inflow & Infiltration (I&I). NYSDEC has been specific in stating that there will be no plant expansion until I&I is fixed.

### **General Discussion**

O'Neill is worried about the Beer project. It is currently going through the Planning Board. Troy stated that they have not seen the Beers in a while. At first it was a great rush and now they are not around. The Planning Board was presented with a proposed plat that was pretty reasonable. O'Neill stated that Schleelein said everything is good for the Beers project but he disagrees. Hardaway thinks Schleelein meant that the ball is in their park. Hartill stated that the Board of Trustees has to give final approval to the plat. Hartill stated that the Beers have basically asked us to design their project and we do not do that.

Hardaway congratulated Dake on her son Kyle winning the Wrestling World Championships in Kazakhstan.

Hardaway had sent the Trustees a proposed change for the home page and asked if everyone agreed with the change. The Board agreed that it should be changed. Dake pointed out that it was like the old webpage and much easier to get information at a glance. Hardaway agreed that the slider did not work as well.

Hardaway would like to put up voter signs on Village property to remind residents to vote. Hartill stated that there are many political signs in the Village already. O'Neill suggested the signs be green. Hardaway would be using last year's signs which are blue. The next time signs are ordered they can be green. The signs would just be to encourage Village residents to vote. Many people don't realize they can also vote in the Town election. The signs will be placed in the parks, between the road and sidewalk on Northwood Road, on the straight away on Uptown Road and in front of the Village Office. Hardaway will put up the signs this week.

Hardaway stated that he and his wife Deborah Dawson attended a presentation by St. Johns and the Econo Lodge owners at the Econo Lodge on N. Triphammer Road. Schleelein and Scott were also in attendance from the Village. They gave a short tour of facility and described what they would like to do. St. John's which is a not for profit agency wants to buy the Econo Lodge and provide a place for the homeless. They would be working with the Ithaca Neighborhood housing services. They would also need to work with Mike Scott to see if they will need a variance. One concern was that the



property would be coming off the tax roll. The property is assessed at \$3.6 million. This year the Village taxes on that property were \$5,406.20.

St. John's wants to convert the hotel to a permanent homeless shelter. Tompkins County has an obligation to supply code blue rooms to the homeless if the temperature outside is under 30 degrees. They have already been renting a majority of the rooms from the Econo Lodge for this purpose for the last three years. The current owners of the Econo Lodge are retiring and want out of the hotel business.

The Board questioned how this all worked. Hardaway explained that as part of this program the people do not stay in the rooms all day. They get transported downtown. They have to be out looking for jobs to be in the program which requires them to go downtown and then come back. It was questioned as to how they get from up in the Village to downtown. They have a 15-passenger van that transports them and they also buy TCAT passes or hire an Uber van.

The maximum number of people that could stay in the Econo Lodge is 150. The homeless numbers in Ithaca have doubled yearly. At the meeting Schleelein and Hardaway recommended that they communicate their plans to the Village residents. Mike Scott will look into this to see if this can be done according to Village Code.

There is a concern with safety. Currently, the hotel has one overnight safety person that works closely with law enforcement. Since this has taken place we have had robberies and an issue was a person that boarded himself in at the hotel. If St. John's took over, there would be six or seven people that would be there and live there. Hardaway feels it is a good model.

Mayor Hartill feels this has to be monitored very very carefully. The number of homeless is a real problem. Hardaway stated that there are many other hotels in Ithaca that also supply rooms.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer