

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, December 2, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O’Neill and Patricia O’Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Community Party Representative, Julie Baker.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:32 pm and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye
Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill-Aye	

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from November 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Since everyone was present for both meetings they were approved together.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Hardaway made a motion to approve minutes. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O’Rourke-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee John O’Neill-Aye	

**Consider Climate Smart Community Resolution**

The Board had asked Bill Troy to create a resolution to establish a Climate Smart Communities Taskforce Committee, coordinator and chair, however, when trying to create a resolution Troy found that there are still many questions that needed to be answered first by the Trustees.

Hartill stated that we need to discuss how big the task force will be. Hartill feels it should not exceed 10 members. Hardaway thought 7 would be a healthy number. Hardaway thinks that they may bring in advisors also. It depends how much work we get into and if we must start from scratch if Cornell cannot help us. It was decided that the resolution would allow up to 7 members on the committee.

Smith thinks this could be very consuming and he hopes we don't let this take us over. When he goes through the information it scares him that we will spend a lot of time doing this stuff and we cannot let this happen. Smith and Hardaway will get together and go through the material to see which items the Village has already met and pick some items that looks like there are grants available for.

Hardaway stated that if we were a larger community it would be different. If it becomes that consuming, we may decide to postpone or not do at all. We will adopt what others have already done, if possible. Hardaway disagrees in that it is not something that you do once and forget about it. We may need to revisit to make sure technology has not changed or our surroundings have not changed. It may become a sustaining issue. We need to decide how often we need to come back and look at what we did. The early steps are longer scopes but after that it is smaller slices of information. Hardaway stated that the coordinator would be establishing the meetings and the task force decides what we do.

Smith stated that in our village there are approximately 3,500 people, Borg Warner and other major employers that are impacted by what we do here.

Hardaway stated that the Village would make recommendations to businesses and not impose requirements on them unless we change the Code. As far as residents are concerned, we are opening up avenues for them to explore how they can better utilize clean-energy alternatives. Tompkins County has decided that they cannot make people go green. The County can only focus on what they can do. Lead by example.

Smith stated that he saw an article that NYS Budget has a \$6 billion shortfall. It will be interesting to see where those cuts will be made and what impact this will have on programs like this.

Hardaway thinks that NYS will look at how much each program will help them become more energy efficient and at the same time be helping the environment.

O'Neill likes the 10 points which were previously approved in the resolution and that is all he is for. He doesn't like this taskforce. He feels it is too much

Hardaway stated that there is nothing that we are forced to do. It is all voluntary. At least for now.

Smith thinks NYS is trying to figure out where each municipality is now and then in a few years they will evaluate to see if we have improved.

Hardaway stated that it is much bigger at the county level.

O'Neill doesn't like the top down approach.

Troy wants to make this resolution as complete as possible. The following items will be included in the resolution:

- Committee will have 7 members appointed by Trustees.
- Establish taskforce/committee and appoint coordinator who does all reporting and is also the chair.
- Guidelines are the 10 bullets.
- The committee will make recommendations to the Trustees.
- Only the Trustees can decide what actions to take

Hartill would like Smith and Hardaway to start by making a list of where we are and where we want to focus.

### **Schedule/Cancel Meetings**

On December 9, 2019 a class from Cornell University will be doing a presentation with respect to Shops at Ithaca Mall. It was asked if the Board would like to cancel their meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> and have a joint meeting with the Planning Board on December 9<sup>th</sup> to hear the presentations.

Hardaway stated that the Cornell course is led by Mitch Glass, who will also be attending the meeting. Glass will do an introduction and then three teams will present with slides. They will talk about where they were, different stages and critical components of making this a Village Center.

Smith wondered if there was any chance the Cornell class talked to the Mall owners. Smith is curious to know what the owners think.

Hardaway stated that some of the items they will be touching on is how to set up trails and painting of roads, how to guide traffic around the mall and pop up shops. He found the student's presentations were very interesting and that is why he thinks it is beneficial for both Boards to hear the presentations.

Resolution #6623 -To Cancel the December 16, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting and Schedule a Joint Meeting with the Planning Board on December 9, 2019 at 7pm

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway –Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

### **Status of Cell Phone and Computer Use Policy**

Hartill has been thinking about the cell phone and computer usage policy and feels they needs a little more input when the rest of the staff is present. Hartill feels that the language for the policy should be consistent with how we currently use the devices. We

have to realize in our modern electronic world we use our devices in many different ways. We have to be sensible in how they are being used. No international calling.

O'Neill suggested no internet shopping. Dake stated that she orders office supplies online so that would be a problem Hartill added that the highway department also orders items online for the Village.

Hartill stated that creating a policy is not simple to do and hard to enforce. Hartill will send a copy of his proposed policy which the Board can use as a starting point for discussions with the staff at the Thursday staff meeting.

### **Mayor's Comments**

Hartill stated that we had a little snow in the last couple of days. On Sunday there was about ¼ inch of ice on the roads. DPW has done an excellent job keeping our roads clear. All area colleges were shut down Monday because of the icy conditions.

### **General Discussion**

Geoff Wright from New York Group Administrators (NYGA) came to visit Dake last week to discuss the village's life insurance policy. NYGA has been sold so we can no longer get our life insurance plan through them. Village employees had \$50,000 in term life insurance before we became part of New York State Retirement (NYSR). With NYSR all employees have a death benefit of 3 times their salary. Dake asked the Board if they wanted to continue providing \$50,000 term life insurance to the employees. Term insurance does not go with the employee when they leave the Village or retire. The current cost of life insurance is \$75.74/month and the proposal from Brighter Under the Sun is \$65/month. This price is guaranteed for 3 years.

Hardaway asked if \$50,000 was sufficient. Wright had explained to Dake that most corporations do not offer more than \$50,000 because after that it is a taxable benefit and would need to be reported on W-2 as income.

Hartill stated that term life insurance is cheap. Since the proposal is cheaper and provides the same coverage as what the employees currently have, he feels we should go with it.

Resolution#6624- To Accept the Proposal for Life Insurance from Sun Life Financial for Coverage Starting January 1, 2020 for \$65/month

Trustee Hardaway moved that the resolution be adopted, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway –Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Motion- To Adjourn

Smith motioned to adjourn. O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer