

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, April 20, 2020 via Zoom Videoconference/Teleconference due to COVID-19.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, John O’Neill, Patricia O’Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Roy Hogben, Simon Moll and Dan Veaner

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:35pm and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

O’Neill made a motion to close the public comment period. O’Rourke 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	

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from April 6, 2020

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of April 6, 2020

O’Neill made a motion to approve minutes. O’Rourke 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-Abstain	

*At this point we could not hear Hardaway but could see he mouthed “Aye”. He signed off and signed back on to see if he could get his audio to work.

The next item on the agenda was a public hearing for Proposed Local Law 2 (2020) To Allow the Override of the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-C.

Motion - To Open the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 2 (2020)

O’Rourke made a motion to open the public hearing on Proposed Local Law 2. O’Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

There were no comments from the public on the proposed local law.

Motion - To Close the Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law 2 (2020)

Smith made a motion to close the public hearing. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

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

Hartill entertained a motion to adopt Local law 2.

Resolution # 6639 -To Adopt Local Law 2 (2020) 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 20, 2020, 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. 2

of the year 2020, 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 Smith made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Hardaway is back up but cannot hear him. Audio started working during budget public hearing.

The following is a copy of the law approved:

**VILLAGE OF LANSING
LOCAL LAW 2 OF THE YEAR 2020**

**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 2020 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 2020 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.

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

Motion - To Open the 2020-21 Budget Public Hearing

O'Rourke made a motion to open the budget public hearing. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye**

Trustee John O'Neill-Aye

**Hardaway added his votes during the review of the draft version of these minutes. Zoom software had muted his microphone and it required online investigation to determine how to unmute the microphone.

Veaner asked if the Village was still planning on keeping the tax rate level. Hartill stated that the tax rate is the same as last year. There clearly will be challenges. We will see a decrease in our sales tax revenue next year which is one of our largest revenues. One of the biggest sales tax producers is motor fuel which is way down. We will have to make some prioritized decisions as to what we will actually proceed with this coming year. We are in good shape with our roadways. We could delay roadwork and sidewalk installation without too much trouble. The City has a \$10M shortfall on their \$70M budget. The County is in a similar situation. The Village is very conservative in our spending and we have adequate reserves so we should be in good shape.

Veaner stated that in the past the Mayor had talked about getting the tax rate to a sustainable level and wondered if the Village tax rate is now at a sustainable level. Hartill stated that we are now at a sustainable level and asked Dake to explain. Dake explained that the way we do our budget is we look at what needs to get done and then back into our tax rate. We have to pass the Tax levy override because the Village is over the limit even though the tax rate is the same. This is due to an increase in the Villages assessed value. Hartill stated that

there has been some development in the Village which increased the assessed value along with some property values increasing.

Veaner asked if the Village was planning for people that cannot pay their taxes because they have lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Hartill stated that unpaid taxes are turned over to the Tompkins County which makes the Village whole. Given that, Hartill is going to push to be very conservative on our construction projects. Troy added that Tompkins County levies the unpaid Village taxes on the County Tax bill and they enforce it. Technically, the County is not out either. Hartill stated that if taxes are not paid then the property gets sold at auction by the County in the end. Hartill characterized this as we are in uncertain times

Motion - To Close the Budget Public Hearing

Hardaway made a motion to close the public hearing. O'Rourke 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	

Resolution#6640- To Adopt the 2020-2021 Propose Budget as the Official Budget for the Village of Lansing

Hardaway made a motion to adopt the proposed budget for 2020-21. 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	

Mayor Hartill stated that we did not have our meeting on Thursday, so we need to pay the bills.

Resolution #6641- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$27,516.39 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$140,984.69 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 11 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$156,317.00 is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee Smith moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted, and Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

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

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Mayor's Comments

Hartill stated that we are in rather uncertain times. There are a reported 123 positive COVID-19 cases in Tompkins County. There have been 2 deaths, which were transports from New York City. Currently, there are 6 people hospitalized in Tompkins County. There are several nursing homes in the region that have major COVID-19 problems which has triggered reporting requirements to CDC. There is some hope things are slowing down. Hartill feels we are about a week behind New York City. The number of cases in Rochester and Syracuse are still rising. These are tough times. Lots of people are suffering. The unemployment rate is thru the roof. Hopefully, the summer will be more pleasant. Cuomo has opened marinas and golf courses back up.

Hartill explained that in his daytime/part time job at Cornell they are gearing up for an x-ray study of enzymes that are the same enzymes that are used by COVID-19 to get into cells. If Cornell goes forward with this we will have a scientific opportunity to have an impact on a possible cure.

General Discussion

O'Rourke, who was participating from New Zealand, stated that they were finally able to get flights back to the US in the beginning of May. Smith stated that when she returns, she will have to quarantine for 14 days at home. O'Rourke is looking forward to being back in her own home.

Smith stated that it has been reported that we will see a \$4-11 million deficient. Cornell figures that the County is losing \$4 million per week. Cornell and Ithaca college are teaching classes via Zoom. Hardaway asked the Mayor if the lab students were still at Cornell. Hartill stated that they are using virtual labs thru the semester.

Smith stated that this situation has shown us that there is a massive need for computers and power. We need data centers to house computers. The Town of Lansing at one time was talking about using the coal plant as a data center. There is a massive shortage of computing power in the US. His company has seen huge upticks in military, semiconductor industry, medical industries. Data centers are going to need to be created to handle all this band width. Smith thinks more people will work at home after this instead of going to offices and taking up real estate.

Hardaway stated that he attended the Air Services Board Meeting this afternoon. They are trying to craft elevator speeches for when they approach politicians for potential funding. One of the questions they pondered was whether people would now lose interest in being in big populated cities because people could be shut out of their job and income. People

may seek out of the way places to live. With our high technology here in Ithaca they may move here.

Smith asked if Dake had to transcribe this whole meeting. Dake stated that everything had to be transcribed verbatim and suggested that they adjourn the meeting and then they could continue socializing.

Hardaway stated that Jonathan Wood, the County attorney recommended that municipalities make the recordings available to the public online, only do minutes and then if someone does request a transcription then you transcribe. Otherwise you are paying money for a transcription that is never used. Dake stated that she attended a NYCOM webinar on the subject and legally, all Zoom meetings must be transcribed in addition to minutes being done. The Village is required to keep the video for four months and the transcription and minutes forever. Hartill agreed. Hardaway stated that is true but there is no requirement for when the transcription must be done.

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway motioned to adjourn. Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer

Dan Veaner suggested trying temi.com to transcribe the minutes. He has been really pleased with them, they save him a lot of time and only charge \$.25 per minute.