

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, July 6, 2020, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Patricia O'Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; BZA Member, Simon Moll and 2 additional public.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:31pm and opened the public comment period. There were no public comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from June 15, 2020. Dake is proposing two changes to the minutes before they are approved:

Check #11695 to Cayuga Crushed Stone has been voided due to a duplicate payment therefore the total of Abstract #13 has been changed to \$71,859.12. Also, in the 2019-20 Budget Transfers if that transfer amount for sidewalks be changed from \$17,456++ to the actual amount of \$22,156. The Village finally received the Pro Lawns invoice for Northwood sidewalk.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of June 15, 2020 with an Updated Total for Abstract #13 and Adjustment in 2019-20 Budget Transfers

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Extension of Permits & Approvals

Hartill stated that the next item on the agenda was to consider an extension to building permits, Board of Zoning Appeals approvals and Planning Board approvals due to Covid-19. The Mayor proposed that the Trustees approve an extension of 120 days from the initial conception which is the maximum allowed.

Mike Scott, Code & Zoning Officer had previously requested that the Trustees pass a resolution extending permits for 120 days due to COVID-19. The Governor recently signed a bill authorizing local governments to extend building permits, zoning board approvals, and planning board approvals for a period of up to 120 days. Recently, Scott had a meeting with Eric Goetzman about a Lansing Meadows special permit that would terminate (as per the conditions) on July 31, 2020 if the project is not complete. Mr. Goetzman mentioned the recent Trustee decision to extend the term of a preliminary plat approval by the Planning Board and would like an extension of his special permit. Scott's recommendation is to pass a resolution that would cover all approvals/permits equally and within the nature of the Governor's order:

Extension of Building Permits and Planning and Zoning Approvals - S.8236-A (Gaughran) /A.10409-A (McDonald) – Authorizes local governments, during the COVID-19 state of emergency, to issue a single resolution extending the expiration date for all active building permits as well as planning and zoning approvals for a period of up to 120 days beyond the expiration date stated in the permit or approval.

Schleelein sent an email to the Trustees stating that at the June 26, 2020 Planning Board meeting, the consensus regarding the above, was that three (3) months/90 days seemed a fair and reasonable time to extend expiration dates.

Smith asked if Schleelein knew of the Governor's order. O'Rourke wondered if this would hurt us in any way. Troy did not think it would. Troy stated that he attended the last Planning Board meeting and the concern was with Lansing Meadows construction. The Planning Board unanimously voted to have the extension only be 90 days. Hartill feels that being hard-nosed is not a good path forward. Hardaway agreed. Hardaway feels that we do not know what the future holds with Covid-19. He thinks the Village should allow the full 120 days giving everyone the extra cushion. O'Rourke asked Troy why the Planning Board wanted only 90 days. Troy stated that he cannot read people's minds, but it seems that they are concerned with Lansing Meadows because there has not been a strong effort on their part to meet deadlines up to this point. O'Rourke stated that we all know it is taking a long time to get where we are now and who knows how long Covid-19 will be here. Troy suggested that the Village look at the broader picture. He feels the Trustees can not make a bad decision here. The following resolution was presented:

Resolution #6651- To Authorize the Extension of All Active Building Permits, Planning Board Approvals and Zoning Board Approvals for a Period of 120 Days Beyond the Expiration Date Stated in the Permit or Approval Which Applies to Approvals Issued Before March 7, 2020 as Stated in the Governors Bill

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Mayor's Comments

Hartill stated that there has been an email exchange with Scott, Troy and Hartill regarding a woman and daughter staying at Homewood Suites which the Mayor characterized as unpleasant at best. Her complaint is with mold among other things. Hartill received an email today from the Homewood Suites lawyer stating that they had asked her to leave. It is not clear, but it looks like this woman is looking for free rent. Troy stated that Scott started to take it personal and Troy reassured him that he had done nothing wrong, it comes with the territory and that he would deal with the situation. Hardaway asked if we visited the hotel to see if there was actually a mold problem. Troy stated that a mold specialist was going to be hired but it turns out that she would not cooperate. Also, mold is not named specifically in the Code. Troy stated that this lady also emailed the Health Department, Secretary of State and everyone else she could think of. Hardaway stated that these times bring out a lot of stress. It is a sad thing. O'Rourke asked how long these ladies had been staying at Homewood Suites. Hartill believes they have been there for a few months.

Mayor's Comments

Northwood sidewalk is complete. It will be reseeded when we get some rain. The Town of Lansing helped with the final grading. The sidewalk was done in parallel with the water main and stormwater. It was cheaper to do all three projects together instead of separately. The sidewalk is being well used as is the park.

The Highway Department is getting close to placement of the benches that had already been purchased. Hartill personally paid for the bench that is being dedicated to Marian Hartill. Park signage is also about to go up. It ends up that it will be easier and cheaper for the water main on Catherwood Road to go in the roadway.

We are getting closer to having all the easements in place for the Town of Lansing sewer main project. We have a tentative agreement with the Town of Lansing to receive \$900,000 that is being contributed for the project by two individuals. The new system will include gravity pump and a force main. The design is essentially complete. It will be ready to go out to bid after we receive all the easements. Hopefully, this will all be resolved in the next few weeks.

Sales tax is down by more than 20%. The Village is in a financial position where it does not have a huge impact on the Village. All the Village needs to do is prioritize projects. We have put off ordering a new loader which we had budgeted for. We will do all the scheduled paving but beyond that we will have discussions about what we do. Hartill stated that every two weeks he has been having a meeting with the department heads via Zoom which is working very well. It enables better communication between all of us. Hardaway stated that he would like to be invited to those meetings. We could probably accommodate that. Hartill stated that he wants to keep focus on problems and not have it be part of a political agenda. Hardaway stated that as Deputy Mayor he would like to be up on the discussions. The Mayor stated that he will think about it and talk with everyone to see if ok.

Mayor Hartill stated that in his personal life he has taken on the role as the new Director of CLASSE (Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-Based Science and Education). CHES (Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source) is part of CLASSE which also includes Cornell's participation in CMS which is part of the high energy program at CERN, the high energy theory group and astrophysics program. He has agreed to fill the director position for a one-year term until they can find an appropriate replacement. Cornell had a search and had two candidates. There was not an agreement and the search was suspended with COVID-19. The current director resigned July 1st so Hartill has agreed to help out in the interim. Hartill stated that this will not impact his duties as Mayor but wanted to let everyone know.

The Village has hired Cayuga Landscape to do the spring/summer clean up of our gardens. It is a little more expensive than we had initially thought but it is going well, and it allows our highway department to do other projects. It is more expensive than we would have paid for summer help but with Cayuga Landscape we don't have all the other costs.

Hartill asked Simon Moll if he would contact Courtney to talk about how the Village will go about reopening the parks. The two of them can work on a plan that satisfies all of New York State issues. Moll agreed to contact Courtney. Moll feels we need to get our parks reopened so that there are more outdoor places for people to go. O'Rourke asked who would be sanitizing the parks when they reopen. Hartill was unsure. We may have to hire someone to do that. Our staff needs to focus on infrastructure. It is apparent that air is the problem, not surfaces. Surfaces are a small part of it. It is more complicated than people think.

Cornell students will be back September 2nd. Harvard is going solely online. Cornell will have testing and contact tracing. Students will be monitored very carefully. Ithaca College will be staged over four weeks. They will start classes in October. Hartill expects to see a flare up when the students return.

General Discussion

O'Rourke stated that while walking up Cayuga Heights Road to Oakcrest she noticed that part of the road has been washed away. The Mayor will have Courtney look at it. We did have a short culvert there that was washed out about a year ago.

O'Rourke asked who was responsible for the road that goes around the mall by BJ's. Shops at Ithaca Mall is responsible for the roads there. O'Rourke stated that a big chunk of the road is washed away. Hartill stated that there has been some motion on getting Graham Road West but does not know if we will acquire the road this construction season. They have satisfied all the lighting constraints. Dake volunteered to email Gina Speno at the Mall tomorrow.

Hardaway had the following committee reports:

Climate Smart Community Task Force- They have made it through all the CSC pledge elements and are starting to assign tasks and set goals. The next meeting is July 23, 2020 then after that it will be the 3rd Thursday of each month with task activities in between.

TCCOG- has two upcoming webinars on July 8th and 23rd regarding Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). The July 8th webinar will offer presentations and Q&As with two CCA Administrators: Joule and MEGA. The July 23rd webinar will offer a discussion and Q&As with several NYS municipalities that have CCAs in place.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CLWIO)-They are discussing hiring a long-term watershed manager for Cayuga Lake. If the IO funds the manager, they would have to raise the CLWIO rates. The finance committee tailored a spreadsheet with different levels of dues. There are 44 municipalities within six counties that would pay based on percentages, population and assessed value. Currently the Village of Lansing is responsible for 3.3% of the Cayuga Lake IO dues. Our current dues are \$900 a year but could be increasing to as much as \$2,841 depending on the level. An increase in dues will not go into effect this year. The IO has to review and decide when to start. Nothing is final but it is proceeding. A manager would identify and coordinate watershed projects, coordinate managing, writing, and applying for grants to pay for those projects. CLWIO may actually get a grant to pay for a manager. Hartill asked if there was any serious discussion of enforcement. Hardaway replied yes, but without significant outcome. A lot of municipalities cannot afford to pay anything. They are trying to build off the successes of other watersheds by getting input from other municipalities.

Smith stated that there is a Lighting Commission meeting on Wednesday, July 8th at 9am. Courtney, Scott, Ingraffea and Smith will try to finalize the Nissan Lighting Plan and East Pointe Apartments. There seems to be a conflict with East Pointe with what they want to use verses what we approved for them to use. Smith will also be meeting with Lisa Schleelein and Lynn Leopold to look at the 1999 Lighting Document to see if it needs updated.

Troy reported that Scott is having some signage issues with Nissan. When the sign plan was finalized, Troy insisted that Phil Maguire sign each page of the document. We can now hold him to the agreement.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

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

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer