

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, July 16, 2020, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill, Trustees Ronny Hardaway, Patricia O'Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer, Michael Scott; Working Supervisor, John Courtney; MEO, Nolan Hatfield and Chris Zavaski; Simon Moll, BZA Member.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:06pm.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report

At the Village offices it is business as usual with a few Covid-19 modifications. Our offices remain closed to the general public but we do meet people that make appointments or knock on the door. We are following CDC Guidelines and doing contact tracing. Anyone that actually comes inside the office is logged in. When they leave the touched surfaces are sanitized.

We have had a few people that wanted to come in and get receipts, but most were fine with checking the box on the tax bill to have a receipt mailed to them. When tax receipts were mailed back a note was enclosed that thanked them for their payment and reminded them to complete their census. When payments were made from bank escrow accounts, the note from the Mayor was enclosed with their receipt and a reminder to go online and complete their census.

Tax payments were due by July 1st. There are 46 tax bills that were not paid totaling \$97,565.01. The two largest unpaid bills are Homik Inns for \$57,025.16 and Daniel Martin Motels for \$18,584.21. This is for the Clarion Hotel and Trip Hotel. Smith asked if this was normal for them to pay late. Dake confirmed that it was. Their tax bills are so high because there is delinquent water and sewer charges on there. If there are two quarters of delinquent water/sewer bills for a property then they are relieved on their tax bills. Tax reminders go out the beginning of August.

The quarterly water bills went out July 1st and are due by July 20th. People have been really good about using the drop box for payments.

On July 9, 2020. The Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water Commission (SCLIWC) approved a 3.5% increase to the water rate for 2021. The minimum bill will continue to be based on 5,000 gallons. This is an increase in SCLIWC water charges from \$5.41/1,000 to \$5.60/1,000 gallons. Currently, our water surcharge is 50% so the cost of water in the Village of Lansing will increase from \$8.11/1,000 gallons to \$8.40/1,000 gallons in April 2021. A minimum water bill will be \$42.00. Currently, our sewer rate is 25% of SCLIWC water rate so that will increase from \$1.35 to \$1.40/1,000 gallons.

Suzanne Phillips from Tompkins County Facilities is asking that the penalty be waived on their July water bills. For some unknown reason the bills did not reach the Tompkins County Finance office until July 14th. They only cut checks once a week and the next day to cut a check for the water bill is July 21st.

Resolution #6652- To Waive the Late Fees on the July Water Bills for Tompkins County

Trustee Smith moved to approve the minutes. Trustee 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

Dake had previously sent an email to the Trustees letting them know that the Recreation Partnership approved a 18.5% reduction in our 2020 contributions at their meeting on June 23rd which results in a savings of \$3,116.

Dake has been working on gathering information for the Annual Update Document (AUD) which is due by the end of July. Now that Abstract #14 is done she will be able to continue.

There are two additional transfers that are needed after the Abstract #14:

\$2,815.00 from Transportation, Sidewalks, Sidewalks -Dart Drive, A5410.21 to Transportation, Sidewalks, Sidewalks -Northwood, A5410.2

\$ 455.00 from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, F1990.4 to Home & Community Services, Transmission & Distribution, Contractual, F8340.4

Resolution #6653- To Authorize the Following Budget Transfers

\$2,815.00 from Transportation, Sidewalks, Sidewalks -Dart Drive, A5410.21 to Transportation, Sidewalks, Sidewalks - Northwood, A5410.2

\$ 455.00 from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, F1990.4 to Home & Community Services, Transmission & Distribution, Contractual, F8340.4

Trustee Smith moved to approve the budget transfers. Trustee 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

All Trustees have received copies of all the vouchers and Abstracts that need to be approved today.

Resolution #6654- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 14 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$35,149.01 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 2 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$109,672.53 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 14 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$35.50 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 2 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$131,977.12 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 14 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$14,490.98 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 2 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$186,989.87 is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee O'Rourke moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted, and Trustee 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

Motion- To Approve the Minutes of July 6, 2020

Trustee Hardaway moved to approve the minutes. Trustee 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

Hartill announced that the parks in the Village of Lansing are now open with signs very clearly stating that the equipment has not been sanitized. It is a way of trying to disperse the crowds that apparently have appeared in other parks. On Tuesday there were 10 new COVID-19 cases.

O'Rourke stated that she also noticed that the Ithaca Swim Club was open and pretty busy. Hartill stated that the Swim Club is a private club. Smith stated that it is monitored by the Health Department.

O'Rourke stated that the Shops at Ithaca Mall are now open. She wondered if they were abiding by Governor Cuomo's filtration guidelines for reopening. Scott stated that he had received all the documentation on that.

Hardaway stated that recent studies have shown that the primary way Covid-19 is spread is airborne. He feels that in the park the surfaces are not going to be the issue it is going to be the kids playing too close together and adults too close together. Masks and social distancing are still important. Hartill agreed that this is contrary to a lot of conversation that went on earlier. O'Rourke asked if we were supplying sanitizer in the parks. Moll stated that we are not. He visited another park in Geneva and they had sanitizer chained and locked to the fence. Courtney stated that he would be more concerned with kids trying to drink the sanitizer. The Mayor is inclined to not supply sanitizer in the park. O'Rourke agreed.

Courtney reported that they are still working at the park, getting the benches in. They poured five bench pads last Thursday. Someone wrote graffiti on two of the concrete pads. They were able to fix one and had to tear the other out. He will send Dake pictures of the completed job so that they can be sent to the County. They oil and stone where the rocks are in the park and that really cleans that area up because now there is a transition from the parking lot down into the park. In a couple of weeks, they will be doing the water line on Catherwood Drive. In the last couple of months, they had been busy installing sidewalk, storm sewer, streetlights and water line on Northwood Road. Courtney stated that they have been very busy with this and getting little odds and ends done around the Village.

Smith stated that when you cross the Route 13 bridge going north there is an old farm house with a long driveway and every time it rains heavily all the water washes down across the driveway and puts everything out in the street and somebody constantly needs to clean it up. Courtney stated that they noticed it the other day but he forgot about it. They fix what they can legally fix. It has been an issue for years.

Courtney told O'Rourke that Dake had sent him her concerns with the washout along Oakcrest Road. He has the Town of Lansing coming in to install some heavy rip rap there.

Zavaski added that he has finished up the first round of roadside mowing.

Hatfield stated that they have mowed the park and been working at the park.

Smith asked how Cayuga Landscape did on the flower gardens. For the most part Courtney was happy with it. They are still trying to decide what to do with the rain garden at the end of the office building. It is supposed to be wild but has lots of thistles and weeds. Cayuga Landscaping does guarantee their work.

Scott stated that he has been spending most of his time with Planning Board and BZA issues. Building permits are down by 24-25 compared to last year. There are a couple of projects going on at Brown Road. There are a few new houses going in. The Shops at Ithaca Mall are going to the Planning Board on July 28th for a subdivision. Scott has been working with Ken Farrow. This will probably take several meetings to resolve and numerous variances that will be needed for each subdivision because of the zero lot line. Once Scott gets all the information he will also share it with the Trustees.

Solar Village will not be building until next year. They have been in contact with Scott to see what they actually need to get for the Village.

The Beer's development is re-starting. Mr. Miller just came in and subdivided off a small parcel just North of Bush Lane from the larger parcel. The next step is the cluster subdivision.

Nissan's projected completion date is the end of August. The Planning Board is really going over this to make sure it is done right.

The group that built East Pointe Apartments is looking to buy the property behind M&T Bank. They are looking to build multifamily units. They are also looking into buying the lot that M&T Bank sits on and using that to access N. Triphammer Road. Their largest obstacle is going to be how they access N. Triphammer Road.

Scott is reviewing the Tompkins County Hazard Mitigation Plans to get up to date on that. He also has a meeting with Scott Doyle next week.

Scott is still making his rounds to the job sites and making sure they are social distancing. The Planning Board has asked Scott to look at the parking at the mall to see if they need all those parking spaces. We may be able to get rid of some of the spots and invite them to have some more green space around the shops. Scott is also working with Brian Quadrozzi, Village Fire Inspector, on updating the Village Code with the new New York Codes. Some of the references we list are a little bit off.

Scott reported on the Lighting Commission meeting that he, Smith and Courtney had this morning with Nissan. They approved what Nissan presented as long as they kept with the 50% reduction in lighting. They also reviewed the lamp posts for the East Pointe Apartments. They still need more information on that. What had happened was they changed the lamp that was originally approved and the new lamp was not dark sky compliant. Scott is holding their site plan permit until they get this worked out.

Smith pointed out that the last time the Lighting Guidelines were updated was 1999. Smith feels we need to go back and take a look at those and make sure that they are current for LED technology. Scott stated that Lisa Schleelein had also recommended that so it is on the list. Courtney was concerned with being able to enforce the lighting plan. Scott feels we can because we have enforced it on other projects.

Hardaway asked Scott what was going on with Bellisario properties at the corner of Dart Drive and Graham Road. Scott just finished a review of a duplex they want to put in there. Scott is awaiting some answers from the architect. Scott will soon be issuing a building permit for them to build on the other side of the pond. Moll asked if it was all one parcel. It is now but Scott thinks they plan to subdivide off and build another one after this one is completed.

Hartill asked if Scott had heard any more about the drug rehab enterprise. Scott has not heard anything. Courtney stated that he has heard that TG Miller was looking at a grease oil water separator for a kitchen there. Scott had not heard anything. Hartill stated that there are some other issues with that building. He is waiting to hear back from Bill Troy.

O'Rourke stated that she previously sent the Trustees her notes from the Planning Board meeting.

Dake asked if anyone had any agenda items for Monday. There were no agenda items for Monday July 20, 2020.

Resolution #6655- To Cancel the Board of Trustees Meeting for July 20, 2020 Due to Lack of Agenda Items

Trustee O'Rourke moved to cancel the meeting Trustee 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

Hardaway reported that the Joint Youth Commission met last Tuesday and they do not expect to increase the yearly amount that the Village pays. In addition to the four usual applications for program funding within the county, there is a new one for Youth Entrepreneurship Market. The Youth Commission is looking at potentially funding them for an initial amount of about \$10,000.

The TCCOG Energy Subcommittee held their seminar on July 8th. This was an opportunity for two companies, MEGA and Joule to explain their positions and models for administering the Community Choice Aggregation Programs from within municipalities. There is a second webinar planned that will feature New York municipalities that have experience with the Community Choice Aggregation and CCA Administrators. The date of the webinar is yet to be determined.

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force will hold a ZOOM meeting next Thursday from 6-8pm. Hardaway came into the office to collect the utility bill information from the 2013 and 2014 NYSEG bills for the CCE's Energy Program. This information will be used for the Village's Greenhouse Gas Inventory document.

Lastly, Hardaway stated that he had spoken with Dake this past week about using our listserv for announcing our monthly meetings. Currently, it is only used for newsletters. Hardaway would like to see it used a lot more. He would like to see more interaction with the public. He would like one email sent a month that lists the month's upcoming meetings to remind people that they are ongoing and point to our website for more information. It was pointed out that all meetings are currently posted on our website. Hardaway feels this is a pull type notification where people have to go look for it and he would like it to be a push type notification which lets them know something is coming up. He does not think that pull notifications are as effective. Hardaway wants to remind people that their government is still working and still meeting. Dake volunteered to do it for a few months to see if we get any more response then we do now. Hardaway stated that he would write it up and Dake could just edit before sending.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Hardaway moved for adjournment Trustee 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

The meeting adjourned at 12:57pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer