

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, April 5, 2021, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Simon Moll and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Planning Board members Lisa Schleelein and Carolyn Greenwald; John Courtney and Chris Zavaski, DPW. There were 13 total people in attendance on Zoom.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:34pm and opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Moll made a motion to close 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	Trust Simon Moll-Aye

Motion - To Open the 2021-22 Budget Public Hearing

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trust Simon Moll-Aye

There were no comments from the public. Hartill commented that we are spending all this money and no one is even interested. The Village must be doing an outstanding job if no one is commenting.

Hartill went over the highlights of the 2021-22 Budget which were covered at the March 15th meeting. The sales tax revenue is the same as last year despite what was being forecast a year ago because of the COVID crisis. The tax rate will remain the same as last year. There is no need for a Tax Levy Override Law this year. The biggest planned project for this year will be the sewer extension to the Town of Lansing down Cayuga Heights Road and East Shore Drive. This will connect to our current sewer system that comes down through Shannon Park. This will be a combination of gravity and forced main.

Schleelein asked how the residents would get connected to the sewer system. Hartill stated that he would generate a letter in conjunction with Courtney and TG Miller Engineers as to how it would work. Houses that are connected to a septic system would bypass that septic system and run directly to the Village sewer system. For the residents on the west side of Cayuga Heights Road, the Village will provide a directional drilled connection under Cayuga Heights Road so those

residents can connect. Residents will not be forced to connect until their current system fails. Hartill added that we have limited sewer capacity in the Village of Cayuga Heights. One way to alleviate this is by maintaining the current 60,000 square foot minimum lot size. This is a way of limiting the number of new units that could connect to the sewer line. It also preserves the character of the current neighborhood.

There is now an agreement with the Ithaca Area Plant and Cayuga Heights Plant to have a database that is managed by the Ithaca Area Plant. This will give us sewer flow readings every 15 minutes. Hartill's general attitude is to maintain your infrastructure, maintain it well and it will serve you well. If you try to cheapskate, it is going to come back and bite you. Hartill hopes we will continue that approach to maintaining our infrastructure.

Hartill also stated that he would like to see the Village continue to maintain their parks. There is a parcel north of the Marian Hartill Park that he hopes can be developed into an exercise path similar to the one along the canal in the city. Hartill would like the Greenway Committee to seriously look into this.

Schleelein stated that with the recent winds we had a tree went down and she called the DPW staff. In a couple of hours, they had that taken care of. Again, today there was an accident at the corner of Cayuga Heights Road and Oakcrest Road where a lot of debris was left, and they also cleaned that up. It is nice to know that they are there to take care of dangerous and unsightly things and she thanked them publicly.

Hartill added that there was another tree down on a house in Shannon Park on the north side. The property line runs through the middle of the tree so the Village will be removing the other half of the tree.

Motion - To Close the 2021-22 Budget Public Hearing

Hardaway made a motion to close the budget public hearing. Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

Dake had previously reviewed the sewer numbers and found that the total consumption number used was for all water customers and not just sewer customers. G2120, G2374, G5031 and G8189.4 were adjusted and presented to the Board. The total Sewer Budget was lowered from \$4,338,200 to \$4,293,880.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from March 11 & 15, 2021.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of March 11 & 15, 2021

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

The following recommendation was sent to the Trustees from the Planning Board's Sidewalk Committee:

Memorandum

To: Village of Lansing Government
From: Sidewalk Committee
Date: March 2021
Re: Sidewalk Code Amendment and Recommendation to Develop Sidewalk Building Plan

It has been the intention of the Village of Lansing for decades to create a walkable village. In 1995, the Village of Lansing adopted a Walkway Policy which stated that, "It shall be the policy of the Village of Lansing to encourage and support the development of walkways in and between the areas of high and medium density residential development and the commercial core areas of the Village in order to provide safe and accessible pedestrian connections among these areas. Resolution No. 3137 (adopted 11/27/95). In 2000, the Village adopted a Walkway Implementation Plan to identify locations in need of sidewalks (adopted 10/02/00).

In accordance with the 1995 Walkway Policy and the 2000 Walkway Implementation Plan, the Sidewalk Committee has determined that the goals of this policy are best advanced through a code change that requires all special permit and subdivision approvals to include sidewalks. This will create accessible pedestrian connections between residential areas and the commercial core of the Village.

Despite two prior resolutions, over two decades have passed and the Village's stated goals of a walkable Village with safe means of pedestrian travel have not been met. It is the opinion of the Sidewalk Committee and the Planning Board that a code amendment is required to provide the goals with concrete means of achievement.

Simply put, developers looking to build in these zones will understand that it will be required to build and budget for the installation and maintenance of sidewalks (unless waived by the Planning Board).

Considerations for waiver could include (i) drainage issues that may arise from installation; (ii) lack of connectivity to other sidewalks; (iii) subject lot is located on a low pedestrian and or low vehicle traffic roadway; (iv) sidewalks are not in keeping with the characteristics of the neighborhood; (v) Board of Trustees or Planning Board determination that installation of sidewalks in the new location is impractical; (vi) sufficient sidewalks exist on the other side of the street; (vii) such new sidewalks would be overly difficult to maintain; and (ix) sidewalk slope would not be ADA compliant.

The Sidewalk Committee and the Planning Board firmly believe that the preferred policy is to have a code change that mandates sidewalks and allows for waivers rather than the current policy which results in the Planning Board asking for sidewalks from developers. A code requirement will make it much easier for the Planning Board to do its job of advancing the policies of the Village. The past 25 years have provided enough evidence that the 1995 Walkway Policy and the 2000 Walkway Implementation Plan alone are insufficient to meet the Village's stated goals.

This Code change is also consistent with the Village goals of providing safe routes to schools and workplaces, to decrease vehicular traffic, carbon emissions, greenhouse gases and pollution and to promote the Village goal of being a Climate Smart Community.

In addition to the Code change, the Sidewalks Committee believes it is appropriate for the Village to adopt a systematic plan for building sidewalks at a consistent rate in a manner similar to the road paving system currently employed. In other words, the Committee recommends that the Village adopt and implement a plan or strategy to

build a set length of sidewalk each year until the goals of a walkable village as envisioned in 1995 and 2000 are achieved.

Attachments:

Addendum A

Walkway Policy: Resolution No. 3137 (adopted 11/27/95).

Walkway Implementation Plan to identify locations in need of sidewalks (adopted 10/02/00).

2004 Planning Federation Recommendations On Sidewalks For Subdivisions.

Schleelein stated that Carolyn Greenwald and Monica Moll were the subcommittee for this. There is currently nothing in the Codification regarding sidewalks. Greenwald stated that they received input from many people. The goal is to make developers aware that our goal is to have sidewalks and a walkable community. The Planning Board will be able to waive the requirement to install a sidewalk. The Board agreed with the recommendation. Troy and Scott will work on where to add it to the Codification. It seems general enough that it will work for everyone. Schleelein would also like to see the Village build and link up sidewalks where there are not developers.

Hardaway would like to add that the Village will maintain the sidewalks. Greenwald would prefer to not put that in the statute, and you can out of the gracious of your heart maintain it. Troy warned that we can not use public funds to maintain private property so this needs to be looked at carefully. Hartill stated that at the very least we would have to have an easement. Troy advised the Board to put in there that maintenance is at the Village's decision. Schleelein would like to see the Village do maintenance of all sidewalks. Courtney stated that the Village is protected by the 24-hour prior written notice law for any defects in the sidewalk. Troy will look into this.

Resolution # 6721-To Adopt the 2021-22 Proposed Budget with the Proposed
Sewer Changes as the Official Budget for 2021-22

-General Fund \$2,686,365

-Water Fund \$1,506,200

-Sewer Fund \$4,293,880

Hardaway moved to adopt the Budget. Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

Mayor's Comments

Hartill stated that this last year has been an interesting one with Covid. He urged everyone to get the Covid vaccine and continue the mask wearing and social distancing. He stated that our DPW staff has done an outstanding job under very difficult circumstances this past year. We have an outstanding staff.

General Comments

Courtney stated that he has a meeting with NYSDOT tomorrow morning at 8:30am to discuss the sewer alignment from Water Wagon Road to Cayuga Heights Road.

Moll stated that he noticed a new light at the end of Dart Drive and Warren Road and asked if this was the same lights that would be going down Dart Drive. Courtney stated that it is not his intention to put lights on the existing poles because they are not spaced very well. The two lights Moll mentioned are part of our LED conversion program.

Motion- To Go into Executive Session for Personnel Issues

Hardaway motioned to go into executive session. Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

The Board went into executive session at 8:22pm.

Motion- To Come Out of Executive Session for Personnel Issues

O'Rourke motioned to come out of executive session. Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:39pm.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trust Simon Moll-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer