

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, April 19, 2021, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway, Simon Moll, Patricia O'Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Planning Board member Lisa Schleelein; Terry Carroll, Brian Toy and Rachel Zevin from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. There were 13 total people in attendance on Zoom.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:35pm and opened the public comment period. Schleelein stated that she was the Planning Board liaison. There were no other comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Smith made a motion to close the public comment period. 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
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye	

Hartill entertained a motion to approve the minutes from April 5 & 15, 2021. Smith was not in attendance at those two meetings.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of April 5 & 15, 2021

Moll made a motion to approve minutes. 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
Trustee Randy Smith-Abstain	

Review "Village of Lansing, NY Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory"

Hardaway previously emailed the Trustees a Greenhouse Gas Inventory document from Terry Carroll of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. The CSC Task Force and CCE have worked on this document since 2020. It is a foundational document to understand the Village's current greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to help the Village set goals to reduce future GHG emissions. Mayor Hartill also shared a couple of articles that could also be part of the discussion. The first article stated that the U.S. energy consumption fell by a record 7% in 2020. The second article was a diagram depicting the US Energy flows in 2018 by Engineering 360.

Hartill had several items to comment on. Hartill pointed out that the original version of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory omitted waterpower as part of our electric generation. In fact, upstate

New York, is almost carbon neutral and about half of our electricity comes from hydro and the other half comes from nuclear power, which does not emit greenhouse gases. Hartill stated that the other part is that the two years that were compared have many things that have changed quite a bit in the Village from one time period to another. The Village added the new village hall, which has very good installation and very efficient heating and cooling. We also added the garage to the pool. In 2013, we had a number of contractors doing a lot of our road maintenance and the other year that we are comparing to we had taken over a significant fraction of that. So in the counting, we are not accounting for the fuel that's used by the contractors. Another factor that was not considered was the amount of snow fall in both those years. If you have an inch of snow it takes about as much fuel as to it does to take off six or eight inches of snow. That is a major component of our fuel consumption. We need to make sure that we are comparing apples to apples.

Hardaway stated that the information that the Mayor provided can be included in a future revision of this document. This will not be a static document. The reason for this document is basically to give us a baseline of where we are and where we have been up to 2019 to help us create a Climate Action Plan down the road. This plan will be used to help the Village set goals for the Village. The next step would be for the Climate Smart Communities Task Force to work towards those goals.

Terry Carroll and Brian Toy worked on the original document and could answer the technical details and calculations. Rachel will be taking over for Toy and was also present at the meeting.

Hardaway explained that they chose to compare 2013 and 2019 because the new administration building was built in 2013. The staff actually moved into the new administration building in January 2014.

Moll stated that he likes the simplicity of the document. Moll feels this is more of a snapshot of where the Village is at. The general idea is a lot of the greenhouse gas emissions are coming from the vehicle fleet. We can now come to our own conclusions as to how to move forward in the future. We can see that converting our streetlights to LED has clearly paid off in both the decrease in energy consumption and saving money.

Hartill stated that we have already picked the low-hanging fruit. We have a new office building that is very well insulated. Currently, there is no technology that we can replace our trucks with. It is unlikely that we will have any technology within the next 10 years that is as reliable as the diesel trucks. Hartill would rather keep the roads safe instead of save fuel. We could and probably well install solar panels. The only building we have that is suitable for that is the garage. That is sort of the limit of what the Village can do.

Hardaway agreed that we would never trade safety over greenhouse gas emissions. In the future when replacing vehicles or heating and cooling units, the Village will continue to look for the best options that emits less greenhouse gases. Given the current State and Federal actions, we may be able to take advantage of some grants to offset not only the high-priced vehicles but also for installing charging stations. Hartill pointed out that the Village has one of the first charging stations in Tompkins County located at BJ's. Somehow these charging stations do not show up on the map when you are searching for a charging station.

Smith stated that he saw in the newspaper that NYSEG is asking for an additional rate increase since they will have to support infrastructure for charging stations in the future. This is in addition to the rate increase that they are asking for right now. Hartill stated that the Tompkins County wall plug is about 100 megawatts. To accommodate going converting every fossil fuel vehicle to electric would require about 200 megawatts. Right now, the grid is not even close to being able to handle twice the power. Basically, to do this they would have to replace or supplement a large fraction of the grid which is provided by a private company.

O'Rourke thanked Carroll and Toy. She also felt the document was easy to read and straight forward. O'Rourke asked what the next step was. Moll stated that this is just a benchmark for where we are. In the future we just keep an eye on what options are out there. Hardaway added that the next step is for the Trustees to approve the Greenhouse Gas Inventory so that it could be submitted to NYSERDA's program, CSC program. We would also start on our Climate Action Plan after we make adjustments to our Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Carroll believes they can have the changes for the May 3rd meeting so the Trustees could reconsider it then. They are already working on updating the hydro portion.

Hardaway stated that they were unable to get numbers from the Cayuga Heights Wastewater Treatment Plant, but that can always be added in the future. This is not a static document. Hartill stated that that also varies depending on climate in many ways. A good fraction of that is I&I that comes into the sewer system. That really depends on how much it rains, whether we had ice, all sorts of things. Maintaining infrastructure is the key.

Mayor's Comments

Hartill stated that there is progress with getting easements for the sewer expansion project. They are considering a redesign that would involve gravity verses forced mains. This would save significantly on energy costs and maintenance issues that forced mains have. TG Miller is taking a close look at this to see if it makes sense.

Hartill asked Attorney Troy if they should go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Troy thinks that it is necessary.

Motion- To Go into Executive Session for Personnel Issues

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

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

The Board went into executive session at 8:12pm.

Motion- To Come Out of Executive Session for Personnel Issues

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27pm.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer