

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, May 17, 2021, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees, Carolyn Greenwald, Simon Moll, Patricia O'Rourke and Randy Smith; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Supt. Of Public Works, John Courtney. There were 11 total people in attendance on Zoom.

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Hardaway opened the public comment period. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

Hardaway entertained a motion to approve the minutes from May 3, 2021.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of May 3, 2021

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Abstain	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

Tax Warrant

This year the proposed Tax Warrant does not include any delinquent water or sewer charges per New York State due to Covid-19.

Resolution #6751- To Approve the 2021-22 Tax Warrant

WARRANT TO TREASURER TO COLLECT TAXES

To: Jodi L. Dake
Treasurer of the Village of Lansing

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to receive and collect from the several names in the assessment roll, hereunto annexed, the several sums named in the last column

thereof opposite their respective names, altogether a total of \$796,093.10 for the following purposes:

For the General Fund	795,468.63
For V Lansing 520	624.47

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to receive as much thereof as may voluntarily be paid to you from June first to and including July first of this year, without additional charge, and after expiration of the time mentioned to proceed forthwith to collect the residue of the sums not so paid in as aforesaid, with five per centum charge for the first month and an additional one per centum charge for each month and fraction thereof thereafter, and you are to file the tax roll and warrant in your office on or before the 15th day of November 2021, at which time the taxes will be returned to the County tax roll.

Trustee Smith moved to approve the tax warrant. Trustee Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

Dake asked Hardaway to stop in and sign the warrant.

New York Health Act

Carolyn Kenyon of 1000 Cayuga Heights Road asked the Board to consider a memorandum of support for the New York Health Act. Since the last meeting Kenyon has sent more information to the Trustees. In addition to that information, she stated that the New York Health Act has been around for about 25 years. Silvers has blocked it from coming to the floor for a couple of decades. It has been passed by the House of Representatives three times and she hopes it will be brought to the Senate floor in the next few days. Kenyon stated that it would be paid for through a progressive payroll tax paid at least 80% by employers and not more than 20% by employees. Non-payroll taxable income, such as capital gains interest and dividends would also pay for it. Federal funds now received for a Medicare, VA, Medicaid, Family Health and Child Health Plus would be combined with the State revenue in the New York Health Trust to cover the cost. Kenyon claims that 90% of New Yorkers will save money from what they are currently spending on private insurance.

Smith stated that personally he has to do a little more research on the pros and cons of this. He feels that there is always a red flag when government goes in to run something versus private industry. He feels this is too good to be true. Smith would like to figure out how they are going to raise the money to take care of all this and who is going to administrate it.

Kenyon stated that it would be administered by the Health Trust. She also stated that one of the concerns is that it is too closely tied to politics because it would be the Commissioner of the Health Department would administer and that is an appointed position. Kenyon feels that the goal of insurance companies is not equal access to quality healthcare, it is to make a profit.

Smith pointed out that New York State would have to hire a bunch of people to help run this. They would be State employees with state benefits. Smith wondered how large that would become. Kenyon thinks it would be less than the employees of all the different insurance companies. Smith stated that it sounds awesome, but he would like to understand the costs better.

Greenwald asked if the resolution that the Village passed previously was basically the same language as this. Kenyon thought it had more detail when in fact it was a one line resolution. Greenwald agreed that there is a better way, and this may or may not be the answer. Dake will send a copy of the previous resolution to the Trustees.

Attorney Troy asked what plans would be in place to stop doctors from leaving the State because they do not want to do this? Kenyon stated that there is an organization called Physicians for National Health Plan. These doctors are extremely unhappy now and that is not an expectation. Troy pointed out that there is probably several thousand Canadians every week coming down for treatment there. He has not done the head count and he knows that doctors are unhappy with having 10 or 15 minutes to speak to a patient. But when you double or triple the patient load and do not increase the number of doctors, in fact decrease the number of doctors, they will have five minutes with each patient. Greenwald stated that she has also heard it the other way where busloads of Americans were going to Canada to get their prescriptions.

O'Rourke stated that in England, where they have a national health program, many people were going to private insurance because it was very hard to get an appointment with a doctor. Also, the doctors were spending less time with their patients. Kenyon stated that this system is not what England has. The system would be similar to Ontario Canada's system. In England they have socialized or nationalized medicine. Doctors here would continue to work for privately owned hospitals as opposed to government owned hospitals like in England.

Moll stated that, like Greenwald, he would like to see the previous resolution passed by the Village. He has reservations about getting involved in something that does not directly affect the Village. However, Moll is completely onboard with this.

Hardaway thanked Kenyon for the information she provided. The Trustees next step will be to compare the original resolution with the proposed resolution. Then if we feel the need, we can propose another or discuss it at our June 7th meeting.

Environmental Management Council Report

John Dennis stated that the EMC was founded 1971 and meets once a month. EMC is a citizen's advisory board on local environmental issues that advises the legislature. Dennis has been representing the Village for over 10 years. Many committees have come and gone. Right now, there is an Outreach and Communication Committee, a Unique Natural Areas Committee and a newly formed Climate Adaptation Committee. They typically have someone come in to lecture on something. Harmful algal blooms are front and center. At their meeting a few days ago, they motioned to support a three-year moratorium on cryptocurrency projects in New York State. EMC is concerned about the possibility of a cryptocurrency data center at Cayuga Power. Cayuga Power applied for a grant to get a large solar array, but they did not get that grant.

Smith asked what the biggest issue facing EMC was right now. Dennis stated that he thinks it is climate change. They are concerned with algal blooms and flooding from large storm events.

Moll asked John Dennis to email the Trustees a short report every couple of months, so they know what is going on. Dennis agreed to send a short quarterly report to the Trustees.

Shops at Ithaca Mall Stormwater

Hardaway stated that the next topic was discussing the stormwater potential changes at the Shops at Ithaca Mall. The Village met with the owners of the Shops at Ithaca Mall to discuss how to solve the stormwater problem on their property. The rerouting project would be performed by the Village and would cost around \$15,000 of which the mall owner would pay 2/3 of the cost. Courtney would like an escrow to cover the full amount. Courtney stated that what the Village gains a more appropriate crosswalk and better stormwater flow. At this time there was nothing for the Trustees to do, he just wanted them to be aware of the situation.

Moll questioned what would happen if there was a severe rain event that caused damage before this escrow is established. Hardaway stated that the current Stormwater Management Agreement that the Village has would protect us. The Mall has agreed to turning that pipe, but we are not sure when.

Joint Youth Commission Update

Hardaway gave an update on the Joint Youth Commission (JYC). He had previously sent the Board a PowerPoint on this which he went through. The JYC was formed in 1991 by the town of Ithaca and the Village of Lansing. In 2014 the Town of Caroline joined. There are currently 10 members which meet about 10 times a year. The JYC serves middle and high school students in the Ithaca School District. There are two primary priorities, first time employment of youth and youth development and life skills. Due to Covid 19 the youth participants from the Village dropped to 19. Funding for these programs come from the Towns of Ithaca and Caroline and the Villages of Lansing and Cayuga Heights. The other funding stream is the State of New York and Tompkins County.

Greenwald stated that her three children went through this program and praised the benefits of these programs. Moll will be taking over for Hardaway on the JYC and Smith will be working with the Youth Services Board. Moll feels our biggest challenge is getting the word out about these programs.

Mayor's Comments

Hardaway stated that Tompkins County Health Department is offering a vaccine clinic for those 12-15 years of age for the Pfizer vaccine on May 22nd at the old Sears location at the mall. The State is getting ready to open up business capacity restrictions. The only restriction will be the 6-foot social distancing.

General Discussion

Greenwald asked Troy if he would look over the sidewalk plan before the next meeting. She thinks this will be the final version, but she wants the attorney to review it before presenting it to the Board.

Smith asked if there was any update on the garbage situation at the apartments on Graham Road. Nothing more is known. Hardaway stated that he drives by and visually monitors it. He thinks that we may need to ask them to add more garbage receptacles. Troy stated that he is dealing with a similar situation in Groton.

O'Rourke stated that she noticed that there are a lot of cars being parked at the old Chinese buffet located on the corner of N. Triphammer and Graham Road West. No one knew.

Executive Session

Hardaway entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues and possible property acquisition.

Motion- To Go into Executive Session for Personnel Issues

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

The Board went into executive session at 8:58pm.

Motion- To Come Out of Executive Session for Personnel Issues

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:09pm.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	Trustee Randy Smith-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye	

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer