

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, June 7, 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 13 total people in attendance on Zoom.

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Hardaway opened the public comment period. Deborah Dawson, Tompkins County Legislature, stated that Tompkins County received \$9.9 million which is the first of the ARP Federal stimulus monies. The County will be having a meeting on June 30th to try and develop a plan on how best to use that for the benefit of all county residents. The County will be sending out a survey which all county residents are invited to fill out. The County is interested in the residents' feedback, but it does not guarantee that they will listen to everyone's opinions.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Smith 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 13, 2021.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of May 3, 2021

O'Rourke made a motion to approve minutes. 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	

Possible Planning Intern

Tony Colavito was present to speak with the Trustees about volunteering to be a summer intern to help with planning about 10 hours a week. Tony studies the Master of Urban Planning at the University of Buffalo. He is interested in helping the Village plan a fitness station and running trails, creating a Village Center and is open to any other ideas the Trustees may have.

Tony Ingraffea and Donald Hartill entered the meeting. (7:37pm)

The following are potential projects that the Trustees came up with:

Greenwald-Draft a code regarding solar arrays for the Village. Currently, the NYS Planning Federation is hosting a series of lectures on energy smart solutions and Wednesday there is a presentation on large solar arrays and the following week there is one on small arrays. She would like him to attend these meetings, see what other local municipalities are doing and work with Greenwald to draft guidelines for solar installation, other than on roofs, that would work for the Village.

Hardaway-Help the Greenway Committee look at the area of land north of Marian Hartill Park to see how to utilize that Village parcel. It could be a running trail or a trail with fitness stations. Another idea was to help with a 3–5-year plan to work towards having a Village Center.

Moll-Would like to inventory the trails and sidewalks we currently have. The County has a Master Plan to connect trails across all municipalities. With this in mind, we could prioritize the sidewalks we need to build to help with this Plan. Another idea was to help the Planning Board come up with guidelines for trees and landscaping in parking lots. Currently, Monica Moll and Jim McCauley are working on that.

Tony stated that he would be most interested in the fitness stations but they all sound good. Tony will be available until the end of July. Greenwald, Moll and Hardaway will be emailing Tony with a brief email with these ideas. Tony will then scope it out and ask questions of them. Tony will be an unpaid intern receiving college credit.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The next item on the agenda was to consider the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Hardaway stated that this is the second final draft which includes the hydro source of the green grid within New York State prepared by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Resolution #6752- To Approve the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Prepared by Cornell Cooperative Extension

Hardaway moved this resolution. Moll seconded the motion.

Smith asked if the 35% hydropower was for the whole State? Hardaway stated that he believes it is for the statewide grid and our part is 35%. Smith questioned that because he was always led to believe that hydro power for upstate New York is 80-90% of our energy supply. Given this, he does not know if he believes the 34.6% listed in the inventory unless it includes downstate. Hardaway stated that it is the whole state.

A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Hardaway stated that after speaking with Courtney, the accepting of the bid for the 2021 Water System Improvement Project for Warren and Brown Roads is off the table. After talking with Dondi, three items from T Mina Supply East do not meet the specification. More time is needed to sort it all out. We have 60 days to review and accept. It will be on a future agenda.

Workers Compensation Renewal

The Comp Alliance quote for renewing our workers compensation has come in at \$16,030, which is a 4.2% reduction from last year. In 2019 and 2020 we had a two-year fixed rate. The question before the Trustees was to decide if they wanted to lock into a 1,2- or 3-year option. Bailey Insurance has recommended either a two- or three-year renewal with Comp Alliance. After some discussion, the Board decided on another two-year contract.

Resolution #6753- To Renew the Workers Compensation Contract with N.Y.S Municipal Workers' Compensation Alliance for Another Two Years for a Annual Funding Contribution of \$16,030.

Smith moved this resolution. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The funding contribution listed above does not include the Village's estimated NYS assessment. The Village is billed separately for that each August. The total amount due for this will include the reconciliation of our 7/1/20-6/30/21 estimated amount versus the actual assessment paid. This is based on our actual payroll and is remitted to the State on a quarterly basis. The 2021 assessment rate is 11.8%

New York Health Act

Previously, Carolyn Kenyon of 1000 Cayuga Heights Road asked the Board to consider a memorandum of support for the New York Health Act. Hardaway prepared a revised resolution that he emailed to the Trustees but did not send to the Clerk/Treasurer. Dr. Stallone and Dr. Elliott Rubinstein were both present to speak against the New York Health Act.

Dr. Rubinstein is a physician that has been practicing since 1969 and moved to the Village in 1978. He feels there are several factors that the Trustees should consider. One is the elimination of employer insurance, which most people love, want and to attract employees you need to give it to them. The Act would also eliminate or strongly curtail Medicare, which most people are happy with their Medicare Plus. More importantly, he feels this law would make physicians retire early, go to being concierge doctors or leave New York State. A few years ago we had an influx of doctors from Pennsylvania because of the harsh regulations and requirements that the government imposed upon us. Most importantly he believes that this act will decrease the access to patients, especially in the lower economic class. The rich will always have access one way or another. Whatever the government says it is going to cost, it's going to cost more. That is the way our government works.

Dr. Stallone was speaking on behalf of the health care operator community. Dr. Stallone's runs Cayuga Health System, a two-hospital system and also multi-specialty physician practices. They run with 40 private practices. The idea that a government run single payer system that is taxpayer funded with all of the rules being dictated and set by the government as the sole entity in control, is concerning at some level based on how we interface with the State government around healthcare today. His concern extrapolates from our ability to have any ability to meet our real costs, many of which are imposed by State regulation, by State payments. Dr. Stallone is concerned that health systems providers would struggle with real costs, labor costs and supplier costs to actually be solvent in the long run.

Dr. Stallone stated that he gave Randy a fact sheet between universal coverage, which he wholeheartedly agrees with. He feels every health system should be committed to universally covering every individual in our society with affordable coverage when they need it. He believes in State programs for people who are in a situation who need that, but in terms of taking the entire system and rolling it over to single payer, he thinks that is a confounding of objectives with some potentially dangerous consequences, notwithstanding the magnitude of the tax increase or the magnitude of the system. There are also the potential impacts on a mobile labor force. There is a number of economic questions that the economists cannot agree, but certainly this would be the highest stake legislation that he is aware of potentially in the history of the State. Dr. Stallone is in favor of avoiding unnecessary care, improving quality and access patient experience. He feels that in the interest of bettering the system, the New York Health Act might make it harder and not easier.

There are two areas that would need to be more carefully analyzed, rationing care or limiting the supply of care. This is what happens in Canada. Canadians often come into the US because routine care has been put off sometimes for more than a year. There are access challenges in a country that controls costs by a single payer system. It is also important for people to know that there is negative margins on government reimbursements. The commercial environment is used to subsidize government payments.

Greenwald stated that she would have liked to have seen someone from the single payer community here to refute some of these points. Greenwald stated that one million New Yorkers currently have no access to medical insurance now. Dr. Stallone pointed out if there was a debate, we would not really know who won because much of the points would be speculative.

Troy stated that he shared with Hardaway a 125-page document from the Rand Corporation who are the people that are proposing this. Troy suggested that the Trustees read this and see where they are coming from and the assumptions they are making. Troy stated that he had a couple of concern. Hardaway will share the Rand Study with the Trustees.

Hardaway thinks if this could be like the Greater Tompkins Health Consortium, which the Village is currently a member of, then this would be a good way to go. Dr. Stallone pointed out that this is an employee coalition that is run through Excellus. Excellus does the management. Cost, assess and quality is a rule by most major health economists known as the iron triangle. It is hard to change one without the other. If you get a grip on costs the question is what happens to access and quality. Hartill stated that there is no free lunch.

Greenwald asked Donald Hartill why the Board supported this five years ago. Hartill stated that it was not explored very far. Dake stated that it was a one-line resolution with no discussion.

Moll stated that he personally supports the Health Act but feels it is outside the scope of what the Trustees should be doing because it is an issue that does not directly affect the Village. Moll stated that he would abstain from voting on this. Greenwald thinks that maybe the broader picture sometimes can be as important. Moll thinks the residents should go out and voice their own opinion on these issues, not the Village Trustees.

Dr. Stallone stated that his purpose tonight was to make sure that the Trustees had a balanced exposure to another point of view. Hardaway stated that he appreciated the information. Hardaway has read through the Health Care Act and stated that the details are not there, but the aspirations are. A resolution was not passed but Hardaway feels that it is good that we have these discussions.

Employee Resolutions

Hardaway stated that the following two resolutions were reviewed by the attorney and were the resolutions discussed in the last executive session.

Resolution #6754- Due to the Unusual Number of Compensated Absence and Paid To Be Absent (PTBA) Hours Accumulated in Connection with COVID-19, The Board Agrees to Allow Salaried Employees a One Time Payout of Their Compensated Absence Time and/or PTBA Time Up to a Maximum of 160 Hours In a Special Pay on June 11, 2021. A 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment from A1990.4, General Government Support, Special Items, Contingency Account is also Authorized to Cover the Transactions.

Smith moved this resolution. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Resolution #6755-To Increase the Number of Hours the Clerk/Treasurer Works From 34 to 36 Hours per Week with Additional Compensation of Those Two Hours Equal to the Clerk/Treasurers Current Hourly Rate Starting with the Payroll Period Commencing May 29, 2021.

The Increase in Hours Worked by the Clerk/Treasurer From 34 Hours to 36 Hours Will Also Be Incorporated into the Employee Handbook.

The Following 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment Is Authorized:

Transfer from A1990.4, General Government Support, Special Items, Contingency Account to A1410.1, General Government Support, Clerk, Personal Services in the Amount of \$4,698.18.

Moll moved this resolution. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Mayor's Comments

Hardaway stated that there will be water main work on Dart Drive/Graham Road on Wednesday. There will be no through traffic on that street until it is completed in 2-3 weeks. Hardaway will let the residents know through the Dart Drive listserv that they need to plan alternate routes.

Hardaway stated that the CDC has updated the Covid guidelines and children are no longer required to wear masks outside. The mall clinic will also be closing soon. Hardaway would like the Trustees to start thinking about hybrid meetings for the Village. Hardaway had spoken with Mike Tomei and he has agreed to provide some consulting. He could help us develop an RFQ Greenwald suggested we have Mike Baker involved.

Hardaway stated that Mayor Harthill's celebration was going to be Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 1pm at the Marian Hartill Park. Hardaway will place a formal announcement on the Village website.

General Discussion

Moll stated that he has been working on the tree replacement conservation law. Troy gave Moll some good feedback that he is incorporating.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer