

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, February 7, 2022, via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees, Carolyn Greenwald, Simon Moll, Randy Smith, and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney, Natalie French; Code & Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Planning Board Member, Lisa Schleelein; and 3 members of the public.

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:32pm. Hardaway opened the public comment period. Lisa Schleelein wanted to plug for sidewalks now that the Village has a sidewalk law. She would like to see a long-term plan to connect sidewalks. There has been plans on the books for a long time and she feels like the Village has made some significant progress. She would like the Village to continue to include sidewalks in the budget.

Greenwald stated that in 2000 the Trustees passed a walkway plan that had a list of current sidewalks and what the Village wanted to see built in the future. Greenwald has been talking with Courtney about this and it is good to know that in the last 20 years they have made progress on the plan. There are still a few bits and pieces, including Dart Drive, that still need to be completed from that plan. Greenwald would like to start planning for the next 20 years. Greenwald will keep the Trustees up to date as she gets more information from Courtney.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

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

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of January 13, 2022

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

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

Encroachment License Agreement

The Village attorneys have prepared an Encroachment License Agreement for 46.1-5-4.3 which is the old Pizza Hut building. The issue is with the sewer easement. As stated in #8 of the agreement, they will be responsible for all of the costs and expenses incurred by the Village relating to this matter. After this amount is paid, they will file the agreement with the Tompkins County Clerk's

office. Attorney French added that she and Peter Grossman were happy with the agreement because their attorney took all of the additions and requests they provided.

Resolution #6806-To Authorize the Mayor to Sign an Encroachment License Agreement for 46.1-5-4.3

Greenwald made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Abstain
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Waive Penalties

Dake stated that the manager of East Pointe Apartments emailed her asking the Village to waive the late fees for October 2021. The October payment was dated the 21st so there was a late fee in the amount of \$2,752.08. She claimed that it was due to the USPS lack of timely delivery of the bill. The manager has since signed up for the ebill option and she stated that this will not be a problem in the future. Lansing West Apartments has also requested that the Village waive their October late fees in the amount of \$3,531.47 because they were also one day late. The Board agreed to remove the penalties as a onetime courtesy.

O'Rourke asked if the people are told this is a onetime courtesy. Dake stated that when people call to request the removal of their late fee, they are told that the Board of Trustees are the only ones that can waive their late fee. Dake also tell them that the Board will be looking at how many times they are late, and the circumstances and after considering this, they may give a one-time courtesy of waiving the late fee.

Moll stated that the City of Ithaca does not have a policy like this, and they are brutal. Moll stated that he was late one time and it cost him thousands of dollars. Moll despised that policy and wanted to be sympathetic and offer the one-time courtesy.

Resolution #6807-To Waive the October Late Fee for Accounts M7111 and M1673 as a One Time Courtesy Since Both Were Only One Day Late as Follows:
Account M7111 (Water Penalty \$1556.73 and sewer penalty \$1195.35)
Account M1673 (Water Penalty \$1997.60 and sewer penalty \$1533.87)

Moll made a motion to waive the late fee. Greenwald 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

Laborer to MEO

Nick Dean passed his road test to get his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) on January 19th. Dean was hired as a laborer in December and the plan was to move him to Motor Equipment Operator (MEO) after he passed his test. The rate we had planned to hire a MEO was \$21.50/hour in December. Smith thought that Dean was on a six-month probationary period. Dean is still on a six-month probationary period. Given that we are changing his title he will get a raise that goes along with the starting pay of an MEO.

Resolution #6808-To Promote Nicholas Dean from Laborer to Motor Equipment Operator Beginning February 7, 2022, at a Rate of \$21.50/hour

Smith made a motion to promote Dean to MEO. 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

Appoint Alternate Planning Board Member

Schleelein stated that there were two candidates for the Planning Board Alternate position. Patrick Gillespie has been involved with the Village for about 19 years. His background on the BZA is a real plus. He is already familiar with the job and more familiar with the code. He knows what he is getting into. The Planning Board feels he has a strong skill set. Both candidates were from the Lansing Trails area.

Resolution #6809-To Appoint Patrick Gillespie as Planning Board Alternate Through 4/30/22

Smith made a motion to appoint Gillespie. 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

Proposed Lighting Law

After further review by the staff and the Planning Board, the Exterior Lighting Law was presented to the Trustees. A Short EAF will need to be completed after the public hearing before the law can be passed. Hardaway pointed out two grammatical errors. Scott stated that once the Public Hearing is set, a copy of the proposed law will be sent to Tompkins County Planning for a GML-239 Review. Moll asked Scott who was in charge of enforcing this. The Code Officer is in charge of making sure people comply. Scott stated that a lot of times it is a mistake, and he will give 30 days to comply. After that he sends a certified letter just like any other code violation. Fees are covered elsewhere in the code.

Motion-To Set a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law A (2022)- Amendment of the Village of Lansing Code/Zoning Law to Add a Section on Exterior Lighting for March 7, 2022, at 7:35pm.

O'Rourke made a motion to set a public hearing. Smith 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

Smith stated that it has taken a long time to get this finalized. Smith feels it is a good example of why things are not done because of a quick reaction to something that happened in our neighborhood. Smith feels this is a good example of government and why it should take so long. Hardaway stated that the commission did a great job of getting consensus. Schleelein stated that this has been in the works for about 10 years. We have also learned by experience of where there are things that need to be addressed. It has been a collaborative effort. Thank you to the Lighting Committee.

Updated Greenway Plan Discussion

Hardaway previously sent the Trustees a copy of the updated Greenway Plan that the Greenway Committee has been working on. The Greenway Committee set a goal of reviewing this document every year to see if it needed updating. The Committee felt there were enough changes that they wanted to update it, so they spent most of last year updating the document. It was basically replacing paragraphs with new descriptions or inserting new information. There was also some updating of definitions and the maps.

Greenwald asked what the Committee's primary goals were for the next 12 months. Hardaway stated that work on Ned Hickey Park and supporting the Climate Smart Communities Task Force with our natural resources inventory were the two main goals. That is also one of the actions for Climate Smart Communities. The majority of that document is done by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Greenwald asked what Natural Resources Inventory meant. Hardaway stated that it basically looks at what type of green spaces and water resources that are in this area that you want to take note of, track, monitor and maintain the natural beauty. This is a component that is important to the Climate Smart Communities Task Force and also a primary consideration of the Greenway Plan. It is also a subcategory within our Comprehensive Plan. The Greenway Committee members are Monica Moll, Ronny Hardaway, Larry Bieri, Lynn Leopold and Gerry Monaghan. They are the primary members that went through this and made the changes.

Smith stated that there is a lot of discussion about where the mall is heading. There may be an opportunity to get some greenway there by the major stream around the mall. Hardaway recalled that it was discussed by Monaghan when they were working on the first version of this document. It is private property so it would be up to the mall to add green space, or we would have to purchase the land.

Schleelein thinks that when we work with mall, we are hoping that this could be suggested as parcels get purchased. It is going to take time. Hardaway stated that the mall has spent a lot of time and money to subdivide the mall property.

Schleelein asked what the plans are for Ned Hickey Park. Hardaway stated that they received input from the Lansing Trails residents, and they would like to see a pavilion, a bench or two. One person wanted to plant a tree with plaque to dedicate the tree. We would like a small trail through the park to connect it up with something on the eastern end. But at least we want some landscaping around it with shrubs, trees and so forth. There are no major playgrounds planned yet. They first want to create a gathering space for residents in that area. Hardaway hopes that this will be in the 2022-23 Budget. (A pavilion and bench are already in the 2021-22 Budget)

Schleelein was interested because the Planning Board is now dealing with the Millcroft Subdivision, and they would like to make sure that is all connected. Schleelein will keep the Greenway Committee apprised of what goes on with that. All the trails should be planned so they are interconnected.

Hardaway asked if the Trustees were comfortable voting on this revised Greenway Plan. Dake stated that she had a lot of corrections that need to be done before the Trustees approve this Plan. There are a lot of duplications, goals that are being stated that have already been done and wording issues. Dake pointed out that we also need to update our online information. The current plan online says it is a draft and does show the previously adopted Plan. Dake offered to go through the changes or meet with Hardaway or the Committee to discuss them. Hardaway suggested that she forward an email with her suggestions. Dake pointed out that it would be easier to just have a discussion instead of a long email. Hardaway stated it would be easier for him to have a list to check off so nothing is missed. Dake feels there is a lot of discussion that needs to happen, and she would be happy to meet with the Committee. There was no vote taken. Hardaway will review the changes and have a new version for the Trustees before a future meeting. Moll stated that he also had a few grammatical changes he will email to Hardaway.

Budget

Hardaway stated that this is the start of the 2022-23 Budget process. He also pointed out that Dake had previously sent out a schedule to the Trustees. If anyone has specific questions, they should contact Dake. Hardaway has assigned the Trustees to the following areas:

Water & Sewer- O'Rourke & Smith
DPW Projects: Moll & Hardaway
Staff- Greenwald & Moll
Recreation-Greenwald & Hardaway

Greenwald asked what her duties would be. Hardaway stated that she and Moll would meet with the staff either all together or individually. Dake stated that in the past the managers would get together to discuss this subject and give the Trustees a proposal but ultimately it is the Trustees decision. Usually, what happens is there is a straight per centage increase across the board. The increase in the past has been cost of living increase or a little more.

Smith stated that he has been involved with staff the last 2 years. One of the things that came out of the process was for things to be reviewed in the compensation package. Smith feels the Trustees slow rolled this. Smith did extensive research on benefits offered by other municipalities in Tompkins County which he previously sent to the Board. Smith will forward the information to the Trustees again. Moll and Greenwald will meet with the managers.

Smith stated that he would not be at the February 17th noon meeting. Greenwald will be out of town February 18-28th. Dake will be out of the office February 21st - March 4th but will have her computer to do some budget work while gone.

Dake stated that the plan is to have a budget public hearing the first meeting in April, which means the last meeting in March we need to make a final proposed budget. If everyone gives their information to Dake she will put it into one document to go over at the meeting. Hardaway told Greenwald to not worry if she gets confused during the process, just ask questions. After we get through the process you will realize that we are very fortunate to have Jodi. Dake stated that if anyone has questions, she would be happy to help. Dake suggested that the Trustees look back at the minutes from last year and they will see the spreadsheet that is used.

Greenwald asked what her duties were in connection with recreation. Hardaway stated that it has to do with parks and green spaces, and she may even look into sidewalks.

Mayors Comments

Hardaway stated that he did not have anything else to discuss.

General Discussion

O'Rourke stated that she has the plaque to dedicate the conference room and wanted the Trustees to think about when the Village should do the formal dedication. The presentation would be best if it could be in person so maybe in the spring. Also, O'Rourke has been working on the Wall of Honor. She was two suggestions. O'Rourke will work with Dake on this.

Smith stated that he will not be running again next year along with Simon. He does not want to stay in Lansing in the winters anymore. Since his term is up, he has decided not to run again.

Smith stated that the YMCA is going through a CEO search to replace Frank Towner. The search committee, which Smith is a member of, will be interviewing three candidates next week.

Moll will be attending the Planning Board meeting on February 14th. The proposed Tree Law will be discussed at that meeting. Schleelein stated that Moll had a lot to do with creating this proposed law, so she is happy to have Moll attend the meeting.

Moll stated that he has a new contact for Solar Farms. Solar Farms is working on a new contact tracking mechanism. So far, the Village has had 12 sign ups and 7 are in the village. Lastly, Moll stated that the Joint Youth Commission meets this month, and the Recreation Partnership starts up the end of February.

Greenwald asked if the other candidate that applied for the Planning Board Alternate position would be interested in doing it in a couple of months when Monica Moll leaves the Planning Board. Schleelein stated that that was part of the discussion when they were interviewing, and Susan Ainsley would be interested. There will be two Trustee openings, a Planning Board alternate and two Board of Zoning Appeals positions.

Greenwald stated that she has been talking to Courtney about the 2000 Walkway Plan. We have completed most of that. Greenwald feels we should have another sidewalk plan for the next 20 years. Dake suggested talking to Courtney because there may be reasons why some of these sidewalks are not connected or completed. Schleelein pointed out that they have sidewalk ideas but there may be other issues such as ditches or water so installing a sidewalk is not always quite that easy. If it is something people want, then we need to have a plan for the future to work towards.

Greenwald asked where we were with Dart Drive. Hardaway stated that the sidewalk on Dart Drive is budgeted. We got sidetracked with NYSEG's request to use a strip of our right-of-way for a replacement gas line. We have rejected that idea. Hardaway thinks Dart Drive sidewalk, water line and streetlights will start in the Spring.

Smith asked about East Shore Drive. Hardaway stated that we are waiting on DEC's final word before we can even start the bidding project. This big project will be contracted out.

Greenwald threw out some ideas for reconfiguring the intersection at East Shore Drive and Cayuga Heights Road. Attorney French will look into it. Dake stated that at the last staff meeting Courtney wanted to have an opportunity to talk to Seacord himself since he has dealt with him in the past on this issue. Dake suggested that they first talk to Courtney.

Motion- To Adjourn

Smith motioned to adjourn. Moll 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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer