

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, March 17, 2022, in person and also via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Carolyn Greenwald, Simon Moll, Randy Smith and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Code & Zoning Officer, Michael Scott; Working Supervisor, John Courtney; MEO, Chris Zavaski; Laborer, Nick Dean.

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:04pm. Hardaway stated that today we were testing out our new video recording system. When we go back to normal meetings, he would like to continue to record Village meetings and put them up on YouTube so that people can view them if they were unable to attend and it is easier for transcribing minutes.

Dake explained how appropriated cash surplus is figured. Smith stated that out of 3,500 municipalities in New York State, 75% had debt. The Village of Lansing is debt free. There was discussion about whether the Village could do the sewer expansion to the Town of Lansing without borrowing money. A final decision will be made after the project goes out to bid and we find out how much it will cost. The easements from DOT were also a concern.

Dake lead the Board through the budget changes that had been made since the last meeting. All salaries were increased by 5% and the Code & Zoning officer was given an addition \$1,000 because he has gone from a provisional to a permanent employee. Moll would like to discuss this in executive session. Courtney had previously expressed concern that the Clerk/Treasurer was getting an 11% increase but that only looks like that in the budget percentage change because since last year's budget, a resolution was passed to increase the number of hours the clerk/treasurer works.

A1440.4-Engineering-We removed \$25,000 for Votapka & St. Joseph Lane because that will be done out of this year's budget.

A1620.42-Village Office was increased by \$2,000 because prices increasing with global situation.

A1620.4 increased from \$12,400 to \$12,800 because of the increase in out fire/sprinkler alarm service. The last two years we have not been charged for monitoring.

Hardaway asked if we had already done the plaque for the past mayors. Dake stated that the only thing we have done so far is a plaque to dedicate the conference room. O'Rourke will bring the samples she has to the next in person meeting.

A1640.2-Removed a \$8,000 generator and added \$50,000 to pave the village parking lot

all the way back to the garage. Courtney stated that we are working a deal with Bolton Point for them to purchase us a generator.

A1920.4-\$4,744, Municipal Dues total was wrong I just fixed that

A5110.13-\$60,000-Originally it was Nolan's salary so this was changed to Nick's salary. Both MEO have 250 hours of overtime built into their line item.

A5110.4-Still \$110,000- Changed striping from \$30K to \$20K since Courtney plans to do \$50K of striping this year. Repairs/miscellaneous was increased from \$50K to \$60K since the price of fuel has increased significantly.

A5182.4-increased from \$46,000 to \$48,000 since streetlight electric costs are increasing and we are getting more streetlights

A7140.2-Dake questioned whether we wanted to add \$20,000 to build a pavilion in Ned Hickey Park. Courtney had told her that he was having trouble finding someone to do it so it was asked if we should wait until the 2023-24 budget. Courtney stated that we may be able to do it next spring with a collaborative effort with maybe another municipality. Moll asked if this is what we did for Northwood Park. Courtney stated that the Town of Lansing did most of the construction on the Hartill Park pavilion. The Village did the concrete and the blacktop around it. However, the employees from the Town that built the pavilion are no longer there. Courtney suggested \$10,000 for material and \$10,000 for a contractor.

Hardaway asked if there was any chance that A5410.21- \$280,000 for the Dart Drive sidewalk costs would increase. This item is a rebudget from this year. In 2021-22 we budget \$250,000 so this is an increase of \$30,000.

Moll had suggested changing some Board salaries, but nothing has been changed in the budget. That can also be discussed in executive session. Lisa Schleelein will be stepping down as Planning Board chair and hopes that Mike Baker will take over. Lisa will, however, remain as a Planning Board member. Also, Tony Ingraffea quit the Planning Board.

A8140.2-Removed \$8,000 for a laser since Courtney already bought it.

A9030.8, Social Security and A9030.81 Medicare both increased by 5%

General revenues is based on a tax rate of \$1.50/1,000 of assessed value. Dake would be comfortable lowering that to \$1.40 given the large increase in sales tax we are receiving. It would be a difference of around \$50,000. Greenwald thinks it is a scary year to give up property tax revenue. Moll would rather not lower it to have to raise it later plus we already have the lowest Village tax rate in the county. Hardaway's only reason for lowering it is to give people a break in this time of inflation. O'Rourke thinks we should leave it as is. Smith likes the idea of helping residents out but also thinks we should leave it. Smith pointed out that 70% of our residents rent and would not benefit from this. The Board will keep the tax

rate the same.

Water Fund

F8340.2-Increased from \$400,000 to \$580,000. TG Miller gave us a total project cost of \$915,000 for Warren/Brown Road project so that was adjusted by what we budgeted for this year.

F8340.4- Increased to \$30,000 because this year we are already at \$27,000. There have been lots of repairs.

F4089-\$186,993.80 was added to account for the ARPA funds. Dake spoke with the Comptrollers office today and they said we can budget for that money. This is what we received in 2021.

Sewer Fund

G1440.4-TG Miller gave us an estimate of \$192,000

G8120.22-The expansion to the Town of Lansing was estimated at \$4.8M by TG Miller. The Village would spend down most of it's reserve if we do the project. The Board decided that they would leave the project in the budget and go out to bid to see what the final cost would actually be. More negotiations need to be done. The original discussions started back in 2018 and at that time the project was only \$3.2M. Smith stated that the Town of Lansing gets 80% of the benefit from this project. We get very little. Hardaway stated that another possibility would be to get an intermunicipal grant for the project. Hardaway will pursue this.

Greenwald asked where you find the reserve amounts. Dake stated that it is on the Treasurer's Report that the Trustees get every month. Dake explained appropriated cash surplus.

Hardaway entertained a motion to pay the bills.

Resolution #6815- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 10 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$84,889.39 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No.10 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$7,557.95 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No.10 for the Trust & Agency Fund, in the amount of \$232.50 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 10 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$189,570.78 is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee Moll moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted, and Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Simon Moll-Aye

Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-abstain by absence

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Courtney stated that it doesn't seem like we had a lot of snow this year, but we had a lot of work on the roads. Salt consumption has been about the same as it has been the last few years. This past weekend they were in all day Saturday for the snowstorm and then on Sunday they had a water break on Warren Road.

Courtney stated that there was a meeting with Don Hartill, Mayor Hardaway and Steve Riddle from Bolton Point on the generator issue. Instead of a generator being connected to the DPW off the one Bolton Point just installed at the pump house, Bolton Point will be giving the Village \$9,000 basically for doing the lawn restoration and then consideration for the generator being used on the village property. The attorney will need to draw up a resolution to amend the original resolution. Courtney hopes to get that money this budget year and buy the generator out of that money. Originally, we agreed to do all this in consideration that Bolton Point would make us a connection to the facility, but they did not because of the extreme length of run up to the garage and they were only going to be able to give us 40amps. The Board agreed to go forward with getting an agreement drawn up. Hardaway wanted to make sure that this is just a use fee for their generator, and they are not purchasing the land it is located on.

Smith asked about the water leak up on Belwood Lane. Courtney does not think they will get to it until next week.

Courtney stated that we have received a lot of pipe for the Pyramid Drive storm sewer. There will be great changes to the retention areas so in the future we will see minimal flooding on the Shannon Park side. 2/3 of the cost of that project will be covered by the mall. Next, they will be moving on to Votapka and St. Joseph Lane. All the structures for that were delivered last Friday. The DPW crew will start that in a couple of weeks. There will be accommodations for a sidewalk, and it will have streetlights.

Smith asked for an update on Lansing Meadows. Courtney stated that they shut down for the winter because we wouldn't allow them to pour the sidewalk in the winter. They did connect the water and the building that houses that is at the end of the turnaround.

Greenwald is concerned because everyone on her road has standing water in their front yards. She will email her neighbors to see what they want to do. Courtney stated that they can go up their and ditch but in the past there has been residents that do not want that in their yard.

Zavaski stated that he has been getting everything serviced and ready for construction season. Dean stated that he is still learning the ropes and helping Zavaski get everything ready.

Scott reported that Holt Architects just dropped off the Cayuga Medical plans to go to special permit. This will be on the Planning Board agenda for March 29th. The Beer's will be coming also. Maguire is looking to do their Chevy renovation. This should include extending their sidewalk all the way down to the corner.

Scott stated that with Ingraffea quitting and Smith leaving in May, that will only leave Courtney on the Lighting Commission. Smith would like to get the Lighting Law adopted before May. Dake stated that it is on the agenda for Monday.

Scott stated that the health department shut down the Trip Hotel and the Village had sent the hotel six code violations. Scott is working with Homick to get all this taken care of. Hopefully in the beginning of April, Scott, Quadrozzi and Cynthia Mosher from the health department will do a walk through to make sure they have resolved all their violations. Courtney wanted to make sure that they installed an oil & grease separator if they planned to serve food again.

The Planning Board is working with the Beer's and the Cayuga Medical projects. They are also working on Moll's proposed Tree Conservation Law. Moll stated that he has made all the changes the Planning Board recommended. He will be looking it over one more time and then will send it to Scott. Scott will get that into a proposed law form and send it over to Natalie to review. Scott is also working on the solar law and will be getting that back to Greenwald soon.

The parking lot in front of the new Aldi's is all blocked off. Party City is also leaving the Cayuga Mall.

Dake stated that since Tony Ingraffea has resigned from the Planning Board, we need to appoint Patrick Gillespie as a Planning Board member. Moll asked if Ingraffea was planning on leaving. Greenwald stated that he had mentioned it in the past, but this was abrupt. Gillespie had been on the BZA and recently moved to the Planning Board Alternate position.

Resolution #6816- To Appoint Patrick Gillespie as a Planning Board Member

Trustee Smith moved to appoint Gillespie. Trustee Moll seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Resolution #6817- To Appoint Simon Moll to the Recreation Partnership Board for One Year

Trustee Hardaway moved to appoint Moll. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

O'Rourke asked if we were going to raise the rent on the Community Room. Currently, it is \$10 a day and the Trustees decided to raise it to \$25 but offer the groups that are currently renting it an option to continue using at the \$10 rate if they prepay for up to 36 months. Courtney stated that the Village does not pay for the gas heat in the Community Room, it is paid for by Bolton Point so they can keep the gas hook up. Courtney stated that it is only a \$30/month bill for that area.

Resolution #6818- To Increase the Community Room Rental Fee from \$10 to \$25 per day starting June 1, 2022 unless Already Prepaid for up to 36 Months.

Trustee Hardaway moved to increase the Community Room rental fee. Trustee Greenwald seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Dake stated that we also should raise the price of a tax search. It has been \$10 for over 25 years and most other municipalities charge \$20.

Resolution #6819- To Increase the Tax Search Fee from \$10 to \$20 starting June 1, 2022

Trustee Hardaway moved to increase the tax search fee. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

There were further discussions of increase the sewer rate. Courtney thinks the connection fee should be \$1,500 for every service connection. Hardaway entertained a motion to increase the fee. Dake stated that since the fee is part of the Codification that it needs to be done by local law. Dake will prepare the law, but first Courtney wants to check with the

engineers to see what other municipalities do. Hardaway asked if Courtney would have that for Monday. Courtney stated that he needs a lot more time for this. The Board is shooting for April 18th. Scott stated that if we are doing a local law to change fees in the Codification that he thinks we should also change the appeal charge which is only \$25. There is a lot of work that goes into a variance. The Board thinks that fee should be \$250.

Scott stated that the State burn ban started yesterday.

Hardaway stated that he attended the announcement with Cayuga Medical. They did a presentation on their moving into the Shops at Ithaca Mall. They purchased the old Bon Ton and Sears spaces. HOLT Architects are doing both phases.

Motion- To Go Into Executive Session to Discuss Individual Salaries

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

The Board went into executive session at 1:37pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 2:15pm.

Hardaway stated that the Board would like to adjust the salaries in the budget for the following people:

- Mike Scott, Code & Zoning Officer, add an additional \$5,000 and then increase by 5% which would increase his salary to \$68,355, which is an increase of \$8,255. That will be split between A3620.11 and A8010.1.
- John Courtney, Supt. Of Public Works, a 7.5% increase or \$\$6,170.70. A5110.1 will increase to \$88,446.70.
- Ronny Hardaway, Mayor, increase A1210.1, Mayor's salary, by \$2,000 from \$14, 000 to \$16,000

Hardaway stated that the Trustees will potentially look at all board members and tie their increase to whatever the staffs increase is each year. That will not be done this year but possibly during the 2023-24 Budget year. The budget amounts for the rest of the staff will remain at a 5% increase.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Smith moved for adjournment. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Simon Moll-Aye
Trustee Randy Smith-Aye

Trust Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 2:17pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer