

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, July 18, 2022, in person at 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Carolyn Greenwald, Patricia O'Rourke, Susan Ainslie and Jeff Dobbin; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Natalie French; 5 members of the public.

The following attended via ZOOM: Planning Board Member, Lisa Schleelein.

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

Roll Call: Jeff Dobbin, Patricia O'Rourke, Susan Ainslie, Carolyn Greenwald, Ronny Hardaway.

Hardaway opened the public comment period. Kip Cerasaro of 150 Graham Road was present along with his wife, Angela Grant, and their children to voice their concerns with the apartment complex on Graham Road (University Heights Apartments owned by Mike Pichel). It is a growing concern of everyone that lives in the Village, especially those on Graham Road and surrounding streets. Cerasaro talked about his experiences as a homeowner living next door and how it has been impacting their day to day lives. He asked questions about what could be done, what has been done and how to proceed to improve the quality of life for everyone involved. He acknowledged the support of Hardaway & Dawson in terms of connecting him to DSS and the Sheriff's Department. They are frustrated with the appearance and perceived lack of action with this apartment complex. It has been many years in the making. The crime has gone up, the daily visits of law enforcement has gone up and the type of crime has changed. Cerasaro would like some kind of action. If it is bad policy, lets change it. He wants to hold everyone accountable. The poor people living there are facing potential violations. The online reviews state that people are living with mold, needles, shopping carts, shootings, lack of maintenance and a very unhealthy environment. Cerasaro wants to bring this to everyone's attention and demanded action at the local, county or state level.

Cerasaro stated that he was verbally harassment in his own back yard. People walking by are making threats in front of his family. Cerasaro is demanding action by the landlord or law enforcement. Catch and release is not working. Other neighbors are also concerned.

Angela Grant added that the kids cannot ride their bikes in the church parking lot like they used to because of broken glass and used needles. People are stashing stolen items on their property and the church properties. Kids can not even play in their own neighborhood.

Hardaway thanked the family for coming in. The Village follows code and sights property owners for problems within their property. If we cite them and they resolve the problem to the minimum, then the clock starts all over again. There is only so much we can do as a Village. The system is broken and it needs to fixed at the State level. Hardaway feels State Officials care more about NYC then the rest of NY. The Village does not have the authority to move people off private property and we need to rely on the Sheriff or State Police. There is only so much they can do within the

law. Once a person is arrested, if there is no reason to keep them in jail because they do not appear to be a threat to anyone then they can post bail and leave. We are catching and releasing which is not working. We will continue to work on these issues. Hardaway would like to be able to contact Cerasaro and his neighbors in the future, their input helps clarify the situation.

257-8199 joined the meeting. Identity unknown.

Cerasaro stated that his frustration comes from not knowing how to change the bad policy and where do we go from here. We cannot just accept policy as it is. Let's fight and get something done.

Greenwald asked if Code Officer Scott had been out to look into any issues at 134 Graham Road. Hardaway stated that Scott went to investigate a complaint about a trespasser encamped within the laundry room last Thursday. A citation was given to the owner to fix window and kick the trespasser out. Scott will be invited to the next Trustees meeting to give an update.

O'Rourke asked if we could get State representatives to come and see the situation. Greenwald would like to ask the landlord to come to a meeting to discuss the issues that are a community concern. Attorney French stated that we can ask but there is no way to make the owner come. When the property owner fails to remedy then the Village will have more options such as financial penalty. Greenwald would like to meet with the property owner to have a friendly conversation on the issues. Talking to the property owner in person would be the most effective way.

Steven Felker of 67 Bush Lane stated that he was present for the same subject matter. Felker has been the senior pastor at Christ Chapel for over 20 years. He stated that for over 20 years there have been issue of the dumpster overflowing and the debris going into the hedgerow owned by the church. There are dead rats in the parking lot. Felker thinks the code officer can do more. In the last 2 years conditions have really degraded. Felker is also a volunteer fireman and has put out a meth lab fire in those apartments. Getting after the owner and public shaming of the owner may also be in order. Pichel knows the problems and issues and is doing very little about it. Felker stated that installing security cameras is not the way the church wants to spend its money. Felker is routinely picking up needles out in the yard of the church. He calls in the Sherriff once or twice a week to deal with issues such as stolen items or needles. Over the scanner at the fire house you continuously hear of criminal mischief at Aldi's, Tops, the new VA Clinic, Dick's or Target. DSS is importing them to the Village. If Econolodge is being used for extended stay, there may be some zoning options to take that option away. The people that are moving those people into these places are doing so without assuming responsibility. Our neighborhood is going downhill. Felker suggested pressing DSS about the services they aren't doing. This is completely unacceptable. Felker stated that he is ready to help any way he can.

Greenwald asked if our only enforcement position is Chapter 125-36. French stated that Chapter 75 is the Building & Fire Code that is enforced by Scott. It is NYS Building and Fire Code that is enacted within the Village. French stated that Scott contacted her recently to look into revamping this section.

Felker stated that the Sherriff told him that if an encampment is not cleaned up they can call DEC to pursue an illegal dumping charge which may get more action. Felker asked Hardaway to relay this information to Scott.

Greenwald ask for this topic to be placed on the August 1st agenda. At that time Code Officer Mike Scott can give an update on citations and code writing.

O'Rourke asked if the Health Department could be contacted about the garbage. Felker stated that he did contact them, and they say they have no teeth.

Ainslie has a concern with children and their safety. Felker stated that currently he has two trash nests on his property that need to be cleaned up. The sheriff suggested putting up no trespassing signs but Felker wants 99% of the people to be able to enjoy the church property.

Hardaway thanked both gentlemen and promised to keep them informed as things progress. Hardaway would like to come walk the property to see for himself.

Hardaway entertain a motion to close the Public Comment Period.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye	Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	

The next item on the agenda is to approve the minutes from June 6th and 16th. Dobbin and O'Rourke were not present at the meeting on the 16th so two separate motions were needed.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from June 6, 2022

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Abstain	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye	Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from June 16, 2022

Hardaway made a motion to approve the minutes. Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Abstain
Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Abstain

Proposed Local Law E(2022)

Proposed Local Law E is being proposed to clean up Chapter 105 of the Codification. Dake has gone through this chapter and updated the location that said Lansing but should be Ithaca, corrected the office hours, added the fee for copies over 11"x17" and added the mayor as the appeal officer. After this French reviewed and added some additional language that was necessary to clarify.

Motion-To Set a Public Hearing for Proposed Local Law E (2022)- Amendment to Village of Lansing Code for Monday, August 1, 2022, at 7:35

Trustee Hardaway moved to set the public hearing. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye

2021-22 Budget Transfers & Encumbrances

After analyzing the financial reports and consulting with department heads, Dake has put together a list of year end transfers and encumbrances that are needed.

Resolution #6870-To Approve the Following Budget Transfers and Encumbrances for 2021-22

Be it RESOLVED to transfer

2021-22 BUDGET TRANSFERS- GENERAL FUND

\$19,000.00	from Transportation, Permanent Improvements, Capital Outlay, A5112.2, to General Government Support, Central Garage, Contractual, A1640.2 (fence encumbrance)
\$ 640.00	from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, A1990.4, to General Government Support, Central Garage, Contractual, A1640.4
\$.02	from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, A1990.4, to Public Safety, Code Enforcement Officer, Personal Service, A3620.11
\$ 6,268.00	from Transportation, Snow Removal, Contractual, A5142.4, to Transportation, Street Maintenance, Personal Services, A5110.12
\$ 1,411.00	from Transportation, Street Maintenance, Personal Services, A5110.13 to Transportation, Street Maintenance, Contractual, A5110.4
\$.02	from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, A1990.4, to Home & Community Services, Zoning Personal Services, A8010.1
\$ 375.00	from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, A1990.4, to Home & Community Services, Zoning Personal Services BZA Members, A8010.12

\$ 475.00 from General Government Support, Law, Contractual, A1420.4, to Home & Community, Zoning, Legal Expenses, A8010.42

\$ 1,067.00 from Home & Community, Planning, Legal Expense, A8020.41 to Home & Community, Planning, Contractual, A8020.44

\$163,131.00 from Transportation, Permanent Improvements A5112.2, to Home & Community Services, Storm Sewer, Equipment/Projects, A8140.2 (St. Joe/Votapka storm project includes encumbrance)

\$ 404.00 from Transportation, Permanent Improvements A5112.2, to Home & Community Services, Storm Sewers, MS4, A8140.4

\$ 105.00 from Employee Benefits, NYS Retirement-Employers Share, A9010.8 to Employee Benefits, Social Security, A9030.8

\$ 25.00 from Employee Benefits, NYS Retirement-Employers Share, A9010.8 to Employee Benefits, Medicare, A9030.81

2021-22 BUDGET TRANSFERS- WATER FUND

\$10,000.00 from General Government Support, Special Items, Contingent Account, F1990.4 to Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Purchases, F8320.44

\$ 4,141.00 from Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Engineering, F8320.45, to Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Purchases, F8320.44

\$ 2,030.00 from Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Equipment, F8340.2, to Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Purchases, F8320.44

\$17,058.00 from Home & Community Services, Source of Supply, Power & Pumping, Equipment, F8340.2, to Home & Community Services, Transmission & Distribution, Contractual, F8340.4

2021-22 BUDGET TRANSFERS- SEWER FUND

\$ 41,874.00 from Home & Community Services, Sanitary Sewers-Contractual I&I, G8120.4 to Home & Community Services, Other Sanitation, Intergovernmental Charges, G8189.4

ENCUMBRANCES

\$ 700.00 A1620.44-Window Cleaning Scheduled not done until July due to staffing issues

\$194,211.17 A5112.2-Permanent Improvements-Highgate Paving-Seneca Stone

\$ 11,880.34 A7140.2-Playground Equipment-Benches-Abstract #2 arrived 7/13/22

\$ 54,000 A8140.2-Remaining Hanson \$9,041.91/wire/topsoil, Abstract 1&2 for St. Joseph/ Votapka

\$3,792.00 A8510.4-Beautification-Spring Garden clean up (Due to Covid & staff issues done late)

\$19,000 A1640.2-Fence at Garage

\$325,000.00 F8340.2- Warren/Brown Road Water Contract (includes water project change order of \$40K)

Trustee Hardaway moved to approve the budget transfers and encumbrances. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye	Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	

Verizon Gross Receipts Tax Audit Recovery Settlement Agreement

French has negotiated an agreement with Verizon. French requested changes and they agreed to them. A onetime payment of \$2,500 will be made to make up for past errors thru December 2021.

Resolution #6871-To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Verizon Gross Receipts Tax Audit Recovery Settlement Agreement

Trustee Hardaway moved to authorize this agreement. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye	Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	

Change Order for Water Capital Project

The change order is not available yet and was taken off he agenda.

Waive Waiting Period for Ithaca Coffee Company

Dake stated that the Ithaca Coffee Company's intent to apply for a change in their liquor license. They currently have a Tavern license - serving beer and wine only. They would like to expand their license to include liquor. Julie Crowley is requesting that the Trustees waive the 30-day waiting period for the Ithaca Coffee Company. The Trustees just did this with another business in the Village.

Resolution #6872- To Waive the 30-day Waiting Period for the Ithaca Coffee Company per New York State Liquor Authority

Trustee Hardaway moved to waive the waiting period. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye	Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye	

Mayors Comments

Hardaway went back to the public comment discussion. We can do our best to resolve this. Hardaway wishes he knew how. There are many laws that regulate what you can and cannot do. Hardaway thinks it needs to happen at the State Level. We are all constrained by State and Federal Laws. We will do anything we can do to solve this issue. Hardaway is concerned with the

homelessness and crime escalating everywhere. Hardaway will get the process started through Legislator Deborah Dawson and the State side. Hardaway will try to meet with the Sheriff and the Tompkins County Legislature. Hardaway will check with Scott on getting the DEC involved.

Greenwald would be willing to look at the Code and seeing if there is something that can be done there. Dake stated that NYCOM is a good resource. Hardaway also suggested getting information from Southern Tier Building Officials. Attorney French stated that Dryden is facing the same issues.

Schleelein stated that we do have to look at our Code. She feels that there should be some way to add pressure. We have not looked at our Code in 15 years, so we need to do this. Hardaway would like to get this done quickly.

Dobbin knows Michel Pichel very well. He will ask him to come to a night meeting. Dobbin is not sure if he will do it. This will be a collaborative meeting to get his input on this problem. Hardaway stated that Pichel can watch the public comment portion of this meeting on YouTube to get a feel of how his neighbors are feeling.

General Discussion

O'Rourke feels we need to also keep our homeless situation under control.

Adjournment

Motion- To Adjourn

Ainslie motioned to adjourn. Dobbin seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye

Trustee Jeff Dobbin-Aye

Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer