

Draft  
Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, November 6, 2023, in person at 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees, Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Drew Riedl; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Attorney Natalie French.

Zoom: Susan Piliero, Citizen Observer and Lorraine Capogrossi, Planning Board Member

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

Roll Call: Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Drew Riedl, Ronny Hardaway.

Hardaway opened the public comment period.

Lorraine Capogrossi stated that she was here representing the Planning Board.

Susan Piliero stated that she was the citizen observer.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Hardaway entertained a motion to approve the minutes from October 12<sup>th</sup> & 16, 2023. All suggested minor changes have been incorporated.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of October 12<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

**Unpaid Taxes to Tompkins County**

Twenty-six properties have not paid their taxes totaling \$41,558.44 plus 8% penalties of \$3,324.67. There was one large tax bill which increased the delinquent amount. Dake explained that every

year the Village taxes that are unpaid get turned over to Tompkins County for collection. They are relieved on the Town & County Tax Bill, and the County reimburses the Village in the spring.

**Resolution #7002**-To Forward the Delinquent Village Taxes in the Amount of \$44,883.11 to Tompkins County

Ainslie moved this resolution. Trustee Riedl seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

All Trustees were asked to sign the Certificate of Trustees to relevy. Dake will send this to the Tompkins County Finance Office.

### **GTCMHIC Agreement**

The next item on the agenda was to authorize the mayor to Sign the Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement with the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC). The Town of Onondaga was removed and with this change a new document is needed. There were two sample resolutions presented: Resolution A, which will allow the Village's Chief Election Official (or Chief Officer) to sign this MCA and future MCAs or Resolution B, which allows for a signature for this year only. The Board decided to authorize Resolution A. Dake suggested that this be redone any time a new mayor is elected.

**Resolution #7003**-To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Document to Approve the 2023 and Future Amendments to the Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC)

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing as a member of the GTCMHIC must approve any changes to the GTCMHIC Municipal Cooperative Agreement (MCA) by resolution, and

WHEREAS, GTCMHIC must amend the MCA annually when any new members are approved at the Annual Board of Directors meeting, and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time other changes are made to the MCA as necessary and when changes are made, they are reported at the Annual Meeting with membership approval, now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, until rescinded by resolution our current presiding elected official is approved to sign, without further action, any GTCMHIC MCA updates that have been advanced at the GTCMHIC Board of Directors meetings and approved by the Department of Financial Services, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the GTCMHIC is directed to keep this resolution on file to accompany any current presiding elected official signatures to amended MCA changes.

Hardaway moved this resolution. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Dake asked the Mayor to sign the resolution that will be sent to GTCMHIC.

### **Honoring Veteran's**

Hardaway has received a request from J.R. Clairborne, director of Tompkins County Department of Veterans Services, asking the Village to proclaim the week of November 5-11, 2023, as Veteran's Week. He has also asked that the Village place a single, outfacing green lightbulb on our Village Hall to show support for Veterans' Day/Week.

**Resolution #7004**-To Proclaim the Week of November 5-11, 2023, as Honoring Veterans Week

WHEREAS, residents across the Village of Lansing have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all who have selflessly served their country and this community in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lansing seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price of freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Operation Greenlight is an effort to shine a light on the service of Veterans using the color green, which symbolizes hope, renewal, and wellbeing, while showing support for Veterans of all military conflicts, particularly those returning home in recent years, and raise awareness about the many challenges they – and their families – face; and

WHEREAS, in honoring the service and sacrifice of our Veterans our residents are called upon to switch at least one public-facing lightbulb to green to show visible support for our Veterans community during the first full week of November and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim November 5-11, 2023, as “Veterans Week” in the Village of Lansing in celebration of our community of Veterans, and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, in observance of Operation Green Light, the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees encourage its residents to display a green light in a public-facing entry or window of their place of business or residence during Veterans Week with the hopes that, through this simple act of changing one light to green, we can honor those whose immeasurable sacrifice helped preserve our freedom.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the great seal of the Village of Lansing, State of New York, on this **6th day of November 2023**.

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Ronny Hardaway, Mayor

Hardaway moved this resolution. Trustee Greenwald seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Bullmer is not supporting this. He feels there is enough for veterans right now and that the Board should stay away from politics and thinks like that. We have a large number of foreigners in this village, and they are probably not in favor of the American military. The wording of the resolution was changed so that it says Board of Trustees and not just Trustees and this would make Bullmer bound by the majority.

Hardaway asked if we had an outfacing bulb that we could change to green. Dake already asked Courtney to look into this and they believe they can put a film on the streetlight right by the Village mailbox to make it luminate green.

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Nay

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

**NYSERDA-Related Presentation**

The next item on the agenda was for the Trustees to consider having a NYSERDA-related presentation hosted by our Village as a campaign to inform residents and businesses about clean-energy heating and cooling alternatives. Hardaway stated that this is part of the Clean Energy Communities campaign for clean energy. It will also support the Climate Smart Communities goals also. Hardaway spoke with Dake and NYCOM to see if it would be a problem to hold it in our conference room, NYCOM said it would not, if the Village is up front in saying that the Village does not endorse this and that it is just someone coming in to give us more information. Dake suggested that the Board vote on whether they want to see this presentation. Greenwald asked if we get points regardless of how many people come. Hardaway stated that we do not get credit

unless five households sign up and install. Hardaway feels the important thing is to let people know there are options and that there are grants available for air force heat pumps.

Dake stated that the presentation has already been scheduled for November 15, 2023, here at the Village and the flyers state that we are hosting it. Dake asked if NYSEG would be there since they are also listed as one of the hosts. Hardaway did not think so but will check into it. Dake feels the flyer is very misleading. NYSEG is offering grants. Hardaway stated that the program will be available on zoom.

Riedl feels it will be good to get the information out there. Drew asked if the Village was providing light snacks. Hardaway stated that he wasn't sure who was, but the Village was not. Riedl wanted to make sure the Village was steering clear of that.

**Resolution #7005-Allow Clean Energy Campaign Representative and Environmental Support Services to use the Village Conference Room**

Hardaway moved this resolution. Riedl seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

**NYSERDA Grant**

Hardaway stated that the next item on the agenda was to discuss a letter of commitment to NYSERDA about the Clean Energy Community Grant award. Previously the Board discussed ideas of what to do with the money. This letter is all that is necessary to receive the grant. Hardaway had emailed the letter to the Board.

Drew thinks the efficiency issues should be done first. He wondered if Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) would be able to help us. Hardaway stated that Chris from CCE would be able to come in and help us, so we get the most credit possible.

Dake pointed out that at the last meeting when the Board talked about the options, they decided against EV charging stations at this point and also talked about doing something with the heating and cooling system in the old office. She suggested taking the EV charging stations out of the letter and putting in an upgrade to the heating and cooling system for the old office so this letter truly represents what the Board had talked about. After some discussion the Board decided to take the EV charger out and add building energy efficiency improvement. Greenwald pointed out that this letter is noncommittal.

Hardaway stated that he would not consider adding EV chargers to our campus until we have electric vehicles. Hardaway would however, like to consider using the money to have an EV provider company come in that would install EV charging stations in our parks and they would be responsible for the management of the equipment. Hardaway stated that that is what other municipalities throughout the state are doing. Dake questions whether they would charge the

village for this since they would be making money off it and giving us a percentage. Hardaway would like to use the \$,5000 to get the biggest bang for our buck.

Hardaway will revise the letter and email it to the Board. He will remove EV charging and add clean energy efficiency improvements to the Village property. French suggested that we say we are considering several projects including but not limiting to.

### **Mayor's Comments**

Hardaway asked everyone to vote tomorrow.

### **General Comments**

Greenwald reported on her meetings with the Town of Lansing Trail Committee. The goal of the trail committee is to connect the town to the village with trails and connecting the town center to the schools. Greenwald wants to ask property owners for possible easements. Scott did a list of all the people owning property where the proposed trails would go. She would like to send a letter to these residents letting them know that this is very preliminary and ask how they feel about it. In the letter she would also like to answer questions that she anticipates coming up. Greenwald would like to know now if there is any opposition to the trails. If the village is not granted permission from one or more property owners, then they would have to change the route.

The Board thought the letter was a good idea. If the letter does go out, it will be from the Village of Lansing letterhead and should include an email for them to respond to. There will be under 50 letters going out and Dake will do labels for Greenwald.

Greenwald stated that they are looking at installing an 8-foot-wide multi-use trail. French stated that she would be concerned that a multi-use trail would include motorized vehicles. It was suggested that multi-use be changed to pedestrian and also state that this is a long-term project. The Board felt that the three main questions that would be asked by residents would be regarding easements, liability, and maintenance. French will write up something regarding the easement and liability.

Hardaway feels that in an urban environment the trails are attractive but in a rural environment they are intrusive. Therefore, he thinks the town is going to have a harder time than we would. One needs to consider the terrain of a property when looking at where you want to put trails.

Greenwald had heard that in Dryden they used the easements from the utilities to put in their trails. French will look into what is granted for utility easements.

Riedl asked how you would handle non responsiveness. Greenwald would contact them again or go to their house. Dake suggested adding an email address to the letter so that people could get back to the village that way and then we would also have their email address for future correspondence. Hardaway suggested that once we are further along, we could have an informative meeting here.

The Town of Lansing is looking for a grant to do the trails. The State gives priority to projects that involve multiple municipalities. Greenwald stated that the Town has an assigned employee working on this. Greenwald will revise the letter and email it to everyone.

Ainslie reported that Youth Services has new employees. Depending on the final Tompkins County budget, all their programs will be funded. There is a big focus on mental health. Ainslie also sent out the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) Newsletter. They have hired a watershed manager. Liz Thomas is stepping down.

**Adjournment**

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer