

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, December 4, 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: Zellman Warhaft, Citizen Observer

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. There were no comments.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye	Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	

Hardaway entertained a motion to approve the minutes from November 6th & 16th, 2023.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes of November 6th & 16th, 2023

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye	Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	

Sewer Law Update

Since Bolton Point and Cayuga Heights have both increased their rates, it is necessary to amend our sewer law. Bolton Point has increased the water rate starting January 2024 from \$6.03 to \$6.33 /1,000 gallons of water consumption. Since the Village sewer rate is based on 25% of that rate, the Village portion of the sewer rate will need to be increased from \$1.51 to \$1.58/1,000 gallons of water consumption. Also, Cayuga Heights has increased their rate from \$6.00 to \$6.96/1,000 gallons of water consumption. (VCH Local Law 6-2023) This makes the total sewer rate \$8.54/1,000 gallons of water consumption. The minimum is still based on 5,000 gallons or \$42.70.

This increase will start January 1, 2024, so village residents will see the increase with their April 2024 bill.

Resolution #7008- To Set a Public Hearing for December 18, 2023 at 7:35pm on Proposed Local Law C (2023)-To Amend the Village of Lansing Code-Sewer Rents

Ainslie made a motion to set a public hearing for proposed Local Law C. 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

Letter of Commitment to NYSERDA

Hardaway stated that the next item was to consider the revised letter of commitment to approve the Clean Energy Community (CEC) Grant award that we had drafted a couple of meetings ago. Since we are committing the Village to spend the \$5,000 grant, Hardaway felt the Board should approve it. Thanks to the input from Attorney French and Dake we have a broad spectrum of items we can do.

Resolution #7009- To Approve the Letter of Commitment for the Clean Energy Community Grant Award

Bullmer made a motion to approve this resolution. 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

Hardaway will submit the letter and application to the Clean Energies Community website. This is a noncompetitive action grant. In a few weeks we should receive the \$5,000 from CEC and NYSERDA.

Riedl stated that he is formally announcing that he will not be running again due to personal reasons. Riedl wanted to give the Village enough time to find a good candidate to replace him. Riedl stated that he will continue to work hard for the Village through the end of April. Hardaway stated that we appreciate all the work Riedl has put in this past year. Hardaway stated that we are sad to see Riedl leave but families are important, and you need to set your priorities straight.

Mayor's Comments

Hardaway stated that Brian Quadrozzi will be resigning his position as fire inspector for a similar reason, to spend more time with his family. Scott and Quadrozzi are meeting so that Scott knows how he does inspections. Quadrozzi is very organized, and Scott is evaluating the duties to see if he can take on the responsibility of doing the fire inspection. Hardaway is concerned that this

might be too much for Scott. Greenwald was concerned because Scott already has a full-time job. Dake explained that there are times when you are slow, and this would be when Scott would schedule fire inspections. If we find that he is unable to complete these duties, then we would need to hire another fire inspector. Scott would not be taking on another position, his title is Zoning/Code/Fire Enforcement Officer. The main concern is that they do not want to see Scott get overwhelmed. Hardaway stated that when we do hire another person, he would like to find someone that could help Scott in other ways also. Dake stated that we have certain titles that we can hire under so we would have to make sure that the duties fit under one of those titles. If we do need to hire someone to help Scott, we will have flexibility and more time to interview and pick the right candidate. Quadrozzi currently works 4 to 8 hours a week. Hardaway stated that it is an important role, but it is not a very demanding position in terms of time commitment. The Board will continue to evaluate the situation.

Hardaway had sent the Trustees an email about having a clean energy banner out in front of the Village office. The Village Codification Section 115-5 F. does not allow banners in the Village of Lansing. Scott has had to remove numerous banners in the village and if the Village went ahead and put one up it would set a precedent. French stated that this is very typical language for villages. Riedl feels this is really good information to get out to the residents. Greenwald suggested doing yard signs. Hardaway feels those are so small that people would not be able to read them. Hardaway suggested putting a pop up on our website. Bullmer opinion is that the whole banner message needs to be revised. The way it is now, Bullmer feels that it does not serve the purpose. When you mention a goal, you should first mention what that goal is, timing of the goal, how you are going to get there and the precision of your goal. Greenwald asked Bullmer if he could email that to Guillermo Metz (CCE). Hardaway suggested that Bullmer email it to him tonight or tomorrow because the signs are ready to go to press. The banner is for the non-pipeline areas in the Town and Village of Lansing.

General Comments

Bullmer stated that he has an issue with the excess salt the DPW is using. Bullmer has briefly spoken with Courtney but not in detail. Bullmer now has examples to present after last Tuesdays snow. If we are environmentally conscious, we need to make some adjustments.

Ainslie gave an update on the last Planning Board meeting. The Beers property needs some engineering issues worked out but otherwise it is a go. Lansing Meadows has a few conditions and deadlines to meet. Goetzmann will then be granted a one-year extension if the conditions are met. The Solar Law will be coming to the Trustees in January. See Planning Board video for more details.

Hardaway asked Dake about a transfer in the Trust & Agency (T&A) Fund for the Beer escrow that appeared in the November financials that she sent the Trustees earlier today. Dake explained that any time a Beer escrow expense is paid it is done so out of the T&A Fund checking account and then the money is transferred from the Beer Escrow savings account to the T&A checking account to cover that expense.

Riedl stated that the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) bill is being held up by the State government because they need to approve the administrator. Once the City and Town of Ithaca

works everything out then we can consider pursuing this for the Village. We are fortunate in that we will be able to share best practices and lessons learned.

Greenwald stated that she shared the trails letter we had gone over with French with the Town of Lansing Trails Committee. The Town has a research assistant and Greenwald suggested to the group that they research the property value issue and put together a document on how a trail going through ones property will affect property values. There was also discussion about the liability section. Previously the Town indemnified one of their trails and there was no increase in the Town's insurance costs. Greenwald is going to wait to send our letter until she finds out if this would also be the case in this situation.

Adjournment

Motion- To Adjourn

Ainslie motioned to adjourn. Greenwald 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 8:04pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer