

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of the Board of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, August 5, 2024, in person at 2405 N. Triphammer Rd. and via Zoom Videoconferencing/Teleconferencing.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees: Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Kathleen Yen; Attorney Peter Grossman; Lisa Schleelein, Planning Board Representative.

Zoom: no one present

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

Roll Call: Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Kathleen Yen, Ronny Hardaway

Hardaway opened the public comment period. Schleelein, Planning Board liaison, wanted to speak about the decommissioning issue with the Solar Law. She and the Planning Board feel strongly about readdressing some form of decommissioning language to protect the Village. If something is no longer functional there needs to be a plan for removal. We need leverage in our Code to enforce. She understands the concern with costs, but we need to make it their responsibility. Some materials will be considered hazardous waste. The Planning Board would like to be able to work on this law and come up with something that will work for everyone. We need to make people responsible. Right now, as it is, the Village that would be responsible. Schleelein would like the Trustees to reconsider. The permit application also needs to be revised. The Planning Board is willing to put some more work into this.

There was no one else in attendance.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The next item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from July 15th and 18th. They can be approved together since everyone was here. All suggested changes that were emailed to Dake have been incorporated and were emailed to the Board on August 2nd. Yen had two additional connections that will be incorporated. (Date of CSC meeting is July 18, 2024. Discussion should be discussed.)

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from July 15 & 18, 2024

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Mayor's Comments

Hardaway asked the Board if they would like to discuss Schleelein's proposal to let the Planning Board do changes on the Solar Law. Greenwald feels if we have three votes then we should go forward. She would be in favor of it as it is. Yen asked if we have heard from Tompkins County regarding the 239 Review. The Village has not heard back yet. Greenwald stated that they will not have any comment on this issue. Hardaway stated that they may have something they want us to do but if we have a supermajority, we can go ahead and pass it. It happens occasionally but very rarely.

Greenwald stated that the cost of decommissioning is not the issue with her, it is the filing that is required and the administrated oversight. Bullmer stated that some of the materials are hazardous, and you have to get rid of them in a controlled way. To do this there will be costs involved. Bullmer feels it is a question of environmental consciousness and protection. There should be orderly discharge of nonfunctioning solar panels. Ainslie pointed out that at some point it is going to cost someone to get rid of the panels.

Schleelein pointed out an example of gas wells not being capped and the reason it was not done was a lack of the municipalities willingness to enforce it. When something is no longer functional why would we as taxpayers pay for this type of thing. If we have nothing in our code, then it cannot be enforced.

Greenwald stated that her biggest sticking point is that the Planning Board is unhappy. She loves that we work together and wants everyone to be in agreement. Schleelein stated that we want to make sure that people are responsible when it comes to the end of life for these solar panels. Currently, there is only a decommissioning requirement for Tier 3.

Schleelein did not feel she had the correct version and would like the Board to look at the process. She wants lines numbers, page numbers, versions and who made the changes all documented on the proposed law. The correct version was part of the agenda when the public hearing was set on July 15, 2024.

Yen feels a financial mechanism is important. The environmental impact and hazardous waste is also something to consider. The permit application in the appendix needs to be updated. Yen stated that she voted to have a public hearing because she feels it is important to get the communities input before there is a final law. She also wanted to hear what the county has to say. We do need a well-defined decommissioning plan with financial remedies.

Schleelein feels the real goal is to have people know they are responsible for decommissioning and have them acknowledge their responsibility so if there is a problem we have some kind of recourse.

The Planning Board will be reviewing this Solar Law again at their August 27th meeting.

Bullmer stated that he thinks this version accomplishes what everyone was looking for and also minimizes the administrative effort for the Village. Schleelein agreed but she also thinks we want to change the appendix to make it more comprehensive to indicate what is required. She has been working on that.

The decommission plan would transfer to a new owner if a property is sold. This is through the Tompkins County Clerk filing.

Bullmer feels that the politicians pushing solar right now all know what the issues will be with decommissioning but are not talking about it. The disadvantages are being pushed aside and the advantages are being overstated.

Hardaway stated that the Clean Energy Communities Grants have been submitted for Tier 2 Clean Heating and Cooling. Hardaway has not heard yet if the grant has been awarded. Today Hardaway filed a Tier I grant for the community solar program that we have with Solar Farms New York. Both of these grants are being reviewed. Hardaway stated that these awards would be put into a Clean Energy account within our budget lines. The \$10,000 award requires the Village to track how the money is spent. For the \$5,000 grant that is not required. We are just waiting to see if we receive the grants.

General Comments

Bullmer is working with Scott on a notice of violation. There is a noise issue in his neighborhood.

Ainslie reported that at the last Planning Board meeting, Goetzmann's permit was revoked. He is to finish Phase I. Goetzmann may be selling the Lansing Meadows property to another party.

Greenwald reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee has completed the survey form. The online version is complete. They will be adding it to the newsletter in the fall. An email distribution list is being created. They hope to have all that data collected by the end of December. The goal is a 2025 update.

Yen stated that there is a new resource hub starting at the YMCA. Yen also reported on the Town of Lansing meeting.

Executive Session

Motion- To Go into Executive Session to Discuss Medical, Financial and Employment History of a Particular Village Employee

Yen motioned to go into executive session. Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The Board went into executive session at 8:12PM.

Motion- To Come Out of Executive Session

Ainslie motioned to come out of executive session. Yen seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The Board came out of executive session at 8:52pm. There were no actions taken.

Adjournment

Motion- To Adjourn

Yen motioned to adjourn. Bullmer seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer