

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, held at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Drew Riedl; Code/Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; MEO, Nick Dean.

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

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:08pm.

Scott handed out an example of what he is trying to accomplish with his stormwater project. He is going out to each inlet and outfall and taking pictures to document the placement and conditions of these areas. He is using the information previously provided by TG Miller and Brent Cross. This will all be on the computer for future inspections. From here forward we will have pictures each year of the areas so we can see how they have changed. Many areas need attention. Scott will ask private property owners for a stormwater agreement if they do not already have one. Scott would like to have all of the Village done in the next year. There are about 80-90 culverts in the Village retention areas. Hardaway wanted to look and see if the photos he has taken have longitude and latitude data. Scott will also be going over this information with Brent Cross. If there are stormwater areas that need attention, Scott will contact the owners or Courtney if it is the Village's responsibility.

Courtney stated that the toughest thing is figuring out what the original intent and design was for these stormwater areas. There are different designs for different areas. There is an intent for these storm retention areas, and he feels they work.

Scott is also looking to see if there are sewer manholes that take storm water that can be taken care of. This could also improve our I&I. Hardaway asked Scott to share what is going on with I&I and document the information. This will help when we ask for more sewer permits in the future.

Ainslie asked what kind of leverage we have to get people to comply. We have stormwater laws that require property owners to perform any maintenance that is needed.

Scott is going through the plan review for Menlo Micro for the first phase. The Lab of Ornithology is doing a minor renovation to their public area, and they hope to be completed by April. Cayuga Medical Center should be opening soon. The Planning Board verbally approved the final plat for the Beer project. He now has to go through all the estimates and escrows. He may not even break ground next year. Not heard anything more from 20 Bomax PDA. He is working on a traffic study and water usage.

Scott stated that the Planning Board is still trying to get Goetzmann in to try and finalize his request for an extension on Phase II. Scott will be meeting next Tuesday with Attorney French, Baker and

Schleelein to discuss options. Courtney stated that one of the main issues for the DPW is the DEC permit. We are the applicant and that needs to be closed 30 days after completion. We are not there, and we are two years into the project. Goetzmann still must move a sewer manhole before we can close the permit. Courtney thinks closing this out should be mandatory. Scott stated that we do have some escrows that we could use. There is no final COC on all the buildings, so we still have some leverage with Goetzmann. Violation of our Code has a penalty of \$250 a day for each unit. Hardaway wants us to decide on a final deadline. His temporary COC was extended until a decision is made on his proposal. The special permit for that project expires next December 2024.

Hardaway asked where we are with the car issue at 1503 East Shore Drive. Scott sent a certified letter but their 30 days to respond is not up yet. After that time, it can go to litigation. The issue is they have 3 unregistered and unlicensed vehicles on their property. You cannot have more than 1 unregistered car on your property. There is a bus, dump truck and car that are unregistered. Scott has not been able to contact them. They never answered the 2 previous letters Scott sent and they have now been sent a certified letter. Scott is following proper procedure for this issue.

Courtney stated that they are getting ready for winter. The sewer expansion project has been consuming their time. Cayuga Heights Road has been oiled and stoned. Vacri is finishing the connection in front of Hartill's property. They plan to be completed by next Wednesday. Rock is the problem. It will not be paved until after the project is completed this spring.

Courtney stated that he has been working with TG Miller on the Dart Drive sidewalk design. Since the project is going to be so destructive, he would like to do the water line at the same time the sidewalk is going in. The water line is not part of the budget, so Courtney wants to look into maybe doing Dart Drive water instead of the Graham Road Water Project. The project will go out to bid in January to do in the spring. This very expensive project will take all summer because we are incorporate water & sewer. The plan is for the sidewalk to be installed on the north side after the waterline is in. Streetlighting will also be installed, and Dart Drive will be narrowed by 3-4 feet, hopefully to slow down the vehicles on that road.

Dake pointed out that the Village had previously looked at Dart Drive and decided to widen the road for pedestrians but now we are undoing that. She asked if it is cost effective to now change to a sidewalk. Hardaway feels this is a raceway even though it is posted at 25mph. Hardaway didn't think Dart Drive was looked at accurately when we widened the road. Greenwald does not want to regress on any sidewalks. She wants sidewalks everywhere in the village. Bullmer finds that vehicles travel fast down this road despite the 25mph speed limit. Courtney stated that this will put the bicyclist back in the road. Greenwald feels this is unfortunate, but we need to make this sacrifice.

The Board discussed the speed limit on Dart Drive. The minimum in a village is 30 unless it is a school zone. Courtney stated that we did a traffic study on Dart Drive when we widened the road. The biggest offenders of speeding seemed to be the Dart Drive residents. To get enforcement we would need to contact the Sheriff. To reduce the speed on a road a municipality must petition Albany to have it reduced, or it is 55mph.

Courtney stated that they did not get around to small projects like pond cleaning but will do that

in the spring when the ponds are dry enough to work with. Courtney stated that his concentration next year will be to get the storm management ponds into compliance. TG Miller did inspections on the municipal owned ponds and there are areas that need to be repaired.

Courtney stated that the title company working on 2315 N. Triphammer Road is requesting a license agreement for right of way of a small portion of land which is owned by the village. This land was acquired in 2001 when we did the North Triphammer Road Reconstruction Project. We have requested a statement from the title company and are still waiting to hear from them. Courtney is concerned because this has never been an issue before. Greenwald does not want to impede the business. Attorney French has suggested that we do a license agreement. Ainslie confirmed that the license agreement would be revocable if property is sold. Riedl thought that if the attorney agrees and the bank pays the costs than he was ok with it. The Board will hold off making a decision until after we receive a letter from the title company.

Hardaway asked if there was any progress on the Uptown Road Bypass Project. Courtney stated that we are bidding the project out this spring. That bid would include large repairs to the sewer that we know are needed.

Courtney stated that he and the guys would be taking time off to hunt. They are currently getting equipment ready for snow. SDS sheets were all updated. The last time they were updated was during Covid. They did an inventory and made sure their SDS sheets were all there.

Dake reported that the accountant was here last week doing our annual review. There were no issues.

Dake went to the Town of Lansing to see how the Williamson Law Book (WLB) credit card program works. There are a lot of extra steps, but we can consider it. Dake spoke with WLB, and they are sending over a proposal. They do both credit card payments and e-checks. There is an additional fee to the water customers, but they pay that directly to the credit card company. I received an email from Cayuga Medical stating that as of December 1st they were no longer cutting checks and wanted our bank account information, which will not be given out. This would be a good solution for them.

Dake has completed the Enhanced Training with NYS Retirement. The village is now “Gold Certified”.

Dake reminded everyone to complete their mandatory training before the end of the month. Dake asked if there were any items for Monday’s meeting. Greenwald wanted to discuss sidewalks, but the board did that during this meeting.

Dake answered a few questions before the Board approved the vouchers.

Resolution #7006- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$121,998.51 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$60,555.76 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$16,795.97 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the Trust & Agency Fund, in the amount of \$1,960.00 is hereby approved for payment.

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye

Greenwald wanted to discuss sidewalks with Courtney there. She would like to discuss making the Village walkable and wants to map it out. She would like to start developing a long-term plan for sidewalks. Greenwald and Hardaway have been hearing from a resident on Rosina Drive who wants a sidewalk. Courtney stated that Rosina Drive is maintained by the Town of Lansing. It is not a village road, so it needs to go to the Town of Lansing. We have no vested interest in that road other than the people on the south side of the road pay village taxes. Greenwald feels we should do a sidewalk analysis since it has been about 20 years since it was last done. Courtney feels there is a need for sidewalks in heavily concentrated areas. This would remove people from the road, however, when we installed Uptown Road sidewalk people still walked in the road.

Dake stated that it sounds like the Village needs to update its Greenway Plan and then from that you would create a capital plan for sidewalks. Hardaway feels our plan should tie into businesses that are coming in. The next Greenway Committee meeting will be in December or January. The Village will then create a sidewalk capital plan much like we have for our roads.

Courtney feels the Board will get a good idea of the cost to install sidewalk when we install the Dart Drive sidewalk. Courtney does not see the Village putting in a trail from Brook Drive to the Town of Lansing unless someone is donating money to the Village for that. Doing so involves gaining access to the land for sidewalks which is not always easy.

Riedl confirmed with Courtney that one of the issues with putting a sidewalk in on some of these roads is the length of the ditch. Greenwald stated that she really wants to see a sidewalk installed on Cayuga Heights Road. Dake stated that that would be a very expensive sidewalk given the terrain. Courtney stated that you would have to look at the deed on each property to find out where the property owner's land goes to.

Hardaway thinks there are state and federal grants for problematic sidewalks. This could be a project for the "Safe Streets for All". Large projects will need grants. It would be beneficial to the Village to have projects that are bid ready.

Courtney stated that with the sewer project we did a hard-core survey so that will be useful if we want to get the Cayuga Heights Road sidewalk shovel ready. Courtney would prioritize that project if we want to have a project shovel ready for grants. Other things that we may want to submit for grants would be to connect trails to the Town of Lansing. Courtney stated that the problem is there is a lot of real estate to get to the Town of Lansing.

Greenwald stated that Attorney French updated the letter that the Board discussed sending to the property owners that could potentially have a trail through their property. Greenwald will forward the draft letter to Courtney and Dake so that they can provide feedback.

Dean stated that they are just getting the trucks ready for winter. Hardaway asked how we were doing with salt. Courtney stated that we need to order salt. We can make it through the first couple of storms.

Greenwald talked about her bad experience on the Commons. There were a lot of people smoking marijuana, three people asked her for money and it was just a scary scene. Greenwald wrote a letter to the City Common Council. Greenwald heard from the newly elected City of Ithaca Mayor. Greenwald was happy that the mayor expressed an interest in collaboration with the Village.

Ainslie stated that CWIO has hired an enthusiastic watershed manager. He will be doing grant writing. She also suggested that the board pay attention to the legislative actions being taken on behalf of Cargill with a potential sale. Environment review is a big issue. Dake pointed out how much Cargill does for the community, and it would be sad to see them leave. Courtney was concerned with what would happen if they closed. Salt would have to be trucked in from New Jersey and would leave quite a carbon footprint on the community. Legislation wants to place a \$10 billion dollar bond which will not be attractive to a buyer.

Bullmer stated that the Joint Youth Commission (JYC) is losing members with no replacements in sight. There are only 6-7 members and 2 are pulling out. The Town of Caroline is pulling out. We have another seat available in the Village of Lansing. Hardaway will send out an email to our listserv saying we have an open seat on the JYC. Ainslie stated that CWIO is also looking for volunteers to join. Bullmer will contact Rick and see if he will write a letter for membership requests.

Hardaway stated that they had 11 attendees at the Non-Pipelines Alternatives meeting last night which he will be putting on our YouTube channel. Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension, NYSEG and Earth Solutions were there to answer questions. NYSEG has enhanced incentives for Lansing residents to install heat pumps.

One of the municipalities in the SCLIWC wants to do away with billing postcards because they get lost in the mail. Bolton Point is looking into this. Dake stated that folding bills and inserting them into an envelope would be very labor intense. Hardaway stated that they want to have a meeting to discuss options. Dake suggested that they have the people that actually deal with the bills attend because the mayors are not part of the daily process. She had also suggested that the municipalities do some customer service. When she receives postcards back, she tries to contact the resident to get their bill to them or call since we have all that information on their accounts.

Tompkins County has signed an agreement with Cambridge Systematics to start collecting information for “Safe Streets for All” to see what we would like to see within the county. There will be a preliminary meeting at the end of November or beginning of December. Hardaway asked the Board to think of any projects we want to suggest. Anything that we put in there would help with future grant opportunities.

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Ainslie moved for adjournment. Trustee Riedl seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:46pm.

Motion- To Reopen the Meeting

Trustee Riedl moved to reopen the meeting. Mayor Hardaway seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

The meeting reopened at 1:46pm.

Resolution #7007- To Cancel the Monday, November 20, 2023, Board of Trustee Meeting Due to Lack of Agenda Items.

Trustee Greenwald moved to cancel the meeting. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee Riedl moved for adjournment. Trustee Bullmer seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer