

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, held at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Trustees Susan Ainslie, Carolyn Greenwald, Kathleen Yen; Code/Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; MEO, Chris Zavaski and Nick Dean

Zoom: Wolfgang Bullmer

Deputy Mayor Greenwald called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:03pm. She formally thanked the DPW staff for their response during the fire last week.

Courtney stated that there have been two water breaks this month. One associated with the fire and the other was north of Tyler Road. Both were fixed pretty quickly. The main hold up was waiting on the emergency dig tickets, which marks the utilities.

The Dart/Graham Project is closing up. There are punch list items that need to be completed before the final retainage can be released. R.B. Robinson did a great job on the project. Everything has been paved and striped. Courtney feels that the traffic has slowed on the road with the narrowing of the road.

The Lansing Trail project has been completed for this year. The bridge was replaced with a culvert pipe. In the spring they will blacktop the trail.

Courtney stated that they have been buttoning up small things for the winter. There have been sewer inspections at the new Taco Bell location. A small piece of Bomax trail was blacktopped between East Point Apartment and Lansing Trails. The Blue Heron sidewalk lacks 10 feet to the Lansing fire department. Eventually we need to piece together that sidewalk.

Courtney added that the guys have been maintaining vehicles and cleaning up the yard around the garage area. They have also been taking time off.

Ainslie stated that Dake sent the Trustees the Town of Lansing newsletter. In the newsletter they thanked our DPW Department for their help during the fire. Courtney stated that they walked the fire to see if there was anything that could be done to reestablish some of the items that got burnt.

Greenwald also read in that newsletter that the Town is using Clearlane deicer and wondered if that was something we should consider using. Courtney stated that we have used that product for 10 years.

Ainslie asked for additional explanation of backflow. Courtney explained. Dake asked if there was a written procedure for these situations. Courtney stated that there are so many different situations that it would be hard to do. A lot of it is case by case and is just experience. Snow removal is the

same.

Scott stated that fire inspections are on schedule for getting all R2 multiunit properties completed this year. He is satisfied with the way it is going. Most communication is done through email. The properties that do not respond are usually the ones in the worst shape.

Scott is working on getting open building permits closed out. There was a Hazardous Mitigation meeting yesterday. The main discussion was on the causes of Brown outs and what can be done about them. The problems need to go into our hazardous mitigation plan. It was suggested that they go to the schools and educate the kids. Scott will send the presentation to the Trustees.

Greenwald suggested signing up for Siren which notifies you through your cell phone of emergencies. Dake asked Courtney if he had a contact through Siren to report emergencies in the Village of Lansing. Courtney thought Bolton Point did that. The Siren link is on the village website. Greenwald thought that having a village wide notification system would be a good goal for our Comprehensive Plan. We update the website with information, but people don't really go there. It was suggested that we have a liaison program for each development and/or develop an emergency contact magnet with important numbers listed on it.

Ainslie reported on the Planning Board meeting. They are looking at ways to update the Chart of Uses and resolve any inconsistencies. Scott has a special permit list and the Planning Board would also like a check list so they don't miss anything. The Tree Law is pretty much ready to come to the Trustees. The Planning Board is waiting on Dave Fernandez, Cayuga Landscape, to look at it and have him answer questions. Courtney stated that he spoke with Fernandez who feels a lot of things need to be fixed in our tree law. There is currently a tree law in our Codification. There is currently \$250 in the tree planting fund.

Dake stated that the accountants did our audit. The Treasurer's Report went to the Trustees. Yamila Fournier, Planning Board Alternate, will be taking a break for family health issues. Dake reminded everyone to get their required training completed. Dake asked if anyone had any questions for Jay Franklin before Monday's meeting? There were none.

Greenwald read about how the Town of Lansing invests their money and asked if we are earning interest on our village money. Dake explained how village money was invested. CD rates have been around 5%.

#### **2024-25 Unpaid Taxes to Tompkins County**

Twenty-one properties have not paid their taxes totaling \$159,804.84 plus 8% penalties of \$12,784.40. There was one large tax bill which increased the delinquent amount significantly, 87 Uptown, LLC. 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 #7106-To Forward the Delinquent Village Taxes in the Amount of \$172,589.24 to Tompkins County**

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

|                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye     | Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye     |
| Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye | Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye |

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

Dake asked if there were any questions before approving vouchers. Yen had asked questions earlier and had no additional questions.

**Resolution #7107- Abstract of Audited Vouchers**

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$441,978.26 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$213,899.75 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 6 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$5,863.19 is hereby approved for payment.

Greenwald moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted, and Ainsley seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye      | Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Abstain |
| Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye | Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye        |

Yen stated that Climate Smart Communities/Clean Energies Task Force will meet Nov 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. There has not been a meeting since her last report. Documents are all on the website. Yen thanked Dake for printing flyers for the business survey. Yen will follow up in person to different business to see if we can get more responses to the business survey.

Dubow was the Village attorney for a long time and has passed away. People have asked about planting a memorial tree in the village. Courtney stated that we have benches for sale if someone would like to purchase one to honor him. The cost for a bench and plaque would be around \$2,500. The last bench that was donated was installed in Ned Hickey Park.

Yen reported that Tompkins County Health sent out an alert about an increase in whooping cough and walking pneumonia.

Yen stated that the Village of Cayuga Heights has a tree management plan on their website.

Greenwald stated that on Tuesday there was a Greenway Committee meeting where they invited people that voiced an interest in joining on their survey. Thirteen people said they wanted to

participate on the Greenway Committee and six responded to her email. Four people would like to join the committee.

Another concern that was expressed on the survey was not being able to get gas north of Rt 13. It's partially because of the Dryden moratorium and also available transmission. NYSEG could not get enough pressure to the Lansing schools. This situation will not change. There are gas lines abandonments when people install heat pumps so Courtney did not understand why we still couldn't get gas. Courtney is unsure if people know that if they aren't happy with heat pumps and they have abandoned their gas line that they can't get gas back after the line is abandoned. Greenwald suggested that this should be told to those that come to the office to add a heat pump.

Greenwald asked if there was still a sewer moratorium. Courtney stated that there is currently a 500-unit limitation from the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH). The VCH had committed 550 connections for future development in the Village of Lansing.

Greenwald stated that another concern on the surveys was vacant commercial structures. Other municipalities have Zombie Property Laws which allows a penalty for unoccupied buildings. The Trustees have never really talked about having a Zombie Law. Greenwald will ask French about this on Monday night.

People have also expressed an interest in being notified when projects are going to be done. Increase communication will definitely be a Comprehensive Plan goal.

Greenwald stated that one complaint was regarding an electric box at Cayuga Heights Road and Hampton Lane. It has since been fixed. Courtney stated that that is the utilities, and we cannot do anything about that. Courtney went on to explain that the last person on the utility pole has to remove the pole. They are required by the Public Service Commission to remove the poles within 30 days of NYSEG notifying them.

There is an issue with bikers not getting a turn arrow at Graham Road. Courtney stated that the problem is the bikes are not triggering the turn arrow. To adapt would cost the Village a ton of money. We have asked them to get off their bike and press the ped light. Courtney stated that they wanted a small traffic loop, or a push button. We looked into it and it is not legal. Greenwald wondered if a grant could help with this. Bullmer added that you have this same issue at every junction.

Greenwald would like to see a bulk garbage pickup. This was mentioned on five surveys. Courtney suggested that Greenwald speak with the Village of Cayuga Heights since they currently do bulk pickup and hear their issues.

Yen asked if it was possible to install a path in Dankert Park from the parking lot to the pavilion. Courtney stated that it could be done. Courtney thought a path around the soccer field would be nice. These are items for discussion at budget time.

Greenwald stated that at the last Greenway Meeting when the new perspective members attended, one of them asked about trail surfaces. Courtney stated that there are maintenance issues with

crushed stone trails. He prefers blacktop trails.

Motion- To Adjourn

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:08pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer